

Region II, P. O. Box 19176
1001 Jedemith Drive
Sacramento, California 95819

*Letts Lake
Colusa*

August 23, 1971

Forest Supervisor
Mendocino National Forest
Willows, California

Dear Sir:

Letts Lake has become overrun with golden shiners, a trash fish introduced illegally by live bait fishermen. The survival of planted fingerling trout and the condition of planted catchable trout has severely declined.

In order to improve conditions for trout, we propose to drain and chemically treat the lake this fall. During the drawdown it might also be possible to eradicate pond weed if your agency is interested in doing so.

We will use a registered chemical, a form of liquid rotenone, which is relatively safe and nontoxic to birds, mammals and humans. The treated water will remain toxic until fall rains dilute it. If this occurs while the lake is accessible we will replant it this year with subcatchable-sized trout. If planting cannot be done until next spring, we will plant catchable-sized fish as soon as the lake can be reached. We believe this arrangement will cause minor loss of angling opportunity.

To the best of our knowledge, there are no rare or endangered species of fish in Letts Lake. Liquid rotenone has virtually no effect on vegetation at concentrations which we employ to control fish, hence environmental impact of this proposed treatment will be inconsequential to nontarget plants and animals. Invertebrates such as crustaceans and insects will be temporarily decimated, but these will repopulate the lake within one year through natural means.

We have tentatively scheduled draining to begin after Labor Day weekend. If we do not hear from you before September, we assume that you have no objection to the proposed treatment.

Sincerely,

Chester M. Hart
Regional Manager
Region II
ERG:JHR:ejs

cc: U. S. Forest Service, San Francisco
Colusa County Board of Supervisors
Colusa County Public Works Department