

August 26, 2011

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El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
Ray Nutting, Chairman  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, Ca. 95667

COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS  
FOR THEIR INFORMATION

DATE

9-2-11

*Agenda Clerk*

Re: Upper Truckee National Wild and Scenic River  
Involving Alpine and El Dorado Counties.

Dear Mr. Nutting:

The Upper Truckee National Wild and Scenic River designation is a means to obtaining an enormous amounts of money from Washington, for planting Lahontan cutthroat trout in the Upper Truckee River. The designation is all encompassing in many ways.

The information provided, indicates "protection of approximately 32 miles of Upper Truckee River and tributaries". The designation includes a quarter mile wide area on each side of tributaries, lakes and river. With many snow melt tributaries feeding the headwaters of the Upper Truckee River, in Meiss Meadow in Alpine Co., this could overlap multi fold and the snow melt tributaries do not support fish habitat.

The brochure stated: "Public lands within an average of one quarter mile on each side of the river are managed to protect the river's free flowing character and outstanding values". For the past thirty plus years the Upper Truckee river has been infested with the Montana flat tail beaver, which can grow to some forty pounds. They have altered the river from Lake Tahoe to Meiss Meadow in many ways. With the destructive work the beaver have done, the river is no longer free flowing. For the past several years Calif. Fish and Game have attempted to remove the dams in Meiss Meadow in an effort to discourage the beaver. May I suggest "don't waste our tax payer dollars with this effort". No one wants to do this job, right and complete, in dealing with the problem. I doubt the Calif. Trout organization is prepared to do it. If this plan is approved, the work will done by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (Forest Service) and their policy has always been, not to do anything about eliminating the beaver. Many years ago they relocate but now know that is not an option or solution.

At this time, the defined location of this designation is Meiss Meadow water shed head waters to the southern portion of Upper Lake Valley, (also know as Christmas Valley) I believe the long range plan of Calif. Trout is to eventually include the entire Upper Truckee River, all the way to Lake Tahoe. With the reason being, "their work with the

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Lahontan Cutthroat trout can not be “completed and done properly” unless the entire river is under this designation.” The river through Upper Lake Valley to the Lake will involve many private land owners which will lead to more rules, regulations and restrictions. Issues they do not need.

I urge the board to seriously scrutinize this plan for the Upper Truckee River. Is this designation really needed, are tax dollars spent wisely and productively? How does this river compare to the other rivers in this designation? I believe the Upper Truckee is much smaller than any of the 20 plus rivers. The lakes involved with this designation, still need to have the brook trout poisoned and with the large population of locals and Tahoe visitors, who hike to the lakes each day, they may not be impressed with the operation.

Restrictions can be applied. If the board elects to approve, I would recommend to restrict, any further attempt to add this designation to the remainder of the Upper Truckee river, in the future.

In closing, I strongly urge the Board to vote NO on the purposed designation.

Yours truly,



Shirley Taylor  
Former owner of The Celio Ranch of Upper Lake Valley  
422 Chambers Lane  
Woodfords, Ca. 96120

CC: Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Markleeville, Ca.