

Opinion: Take out LT Golf Course, protect trout in river

By Huey Johnson

In the 1960s, while I was with the Department of Fish and Game, it was my sad task to study the trout of Lake Tahoe. Few remember that an atrocity against Tahoe occurred there, an atrocity comparable to the slaughter of the once great buffalo herds of the Great Plains: the completion of the nation's first Federal Bureau of Reclamation dam.

Derby Dam blocked the Truckee River and killed the huge run of trout that had, for thousands of years, come from Pyramid Lake upriver to Tahoe. That first year, the new dam blocked tons of huge trout trying to spawn while the dam's beneficiaries – desert hay farmers – pitchforked wagonloads of fish, which they used as fertilizer.

Back then, lovely Lake Tahoe had such a large trout population that it supported a commercial fishery. Dams like Derby disrupted that.

Read the whole story

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