

November 3, 1964

FILE: 490

Mr. John C. Becker  
Chief Road Design Engineer  
Alaska Department of Highways  
Box 1841  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Becker:

This letter is in reference to Highway Project S-0966(6),  
Mendenhall Loop Road.

A review of the preliminary plans for the project showed that culverts were planned for the Lake Creek and Little Auke Creek crossings in place of the existing bridges, and that disposal of waste into a boggy area of Auke Lake in the vicinity of Station 175 was being considered.

The Department of Fish and Game has been concerned about loss of prime spawning habitat in the short coastal streams through installation of culverts rather than bridges. In addition, biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Auke Bay Laboratory have been conducting intensive research on the salmon runs and ecology of the Auke Lake watershed. Knowing that the proposed highway plans, as they related to the Auke Lake watershed, would be of interest and concern to the Laboratory biologists, I discussed the proposed plans with them.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is opposed to the use of culverts for the crossing of Lake Creek because the 92' long culverts will eliminate a significant proportion of the best stream spawning area from production. The Department also concurs with the findings and recommendations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as contained in their letter to you dated October 26, 1964. With regard to the use of Auke Lake

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as a waste disposal area, full consideration should be given to the aesthetic values of the lake. Such values would undoubtedly suffer if muck excavated from the road right-of-way should be placed in the lake.

Your consideration of the recommendation expressed in both this letter and the letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service will be appreciated. At your request, I will be pleased to discuss in further detail the impact of the road construction upon the fishery resource of the Auke Lake watershed, and measures necessary to minimize harmful effects on the resource.

Sincerely yours,

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

E. J. Huizer, Water Rights Coordinator  
Division of Commercial Fisheries

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cc: George Harry, Auke Bay Laboratory  
Stephen Smedley, ADF&G, Juneau  
Roger Wadman, ADF&G, Juneau