

June 14, 1961

Operations Supervisor
U. S. Bureau of Land Management
Mendenhall Building
Juneau, Alaska

Case #J-011927

Attn: Mr. John Moon, Lands and Minerals Officer

Dear Sirs:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game would like to enter an objection to the proposed withdrawal by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the outlet of Auke Lake at approximate Lat. $58^{\circ}23'N$, Long. $134^{\circ}38'W$ (Case No. J-011927).

This Department has been concerned with Auke Lake and its outlet area since 1954 when we first requested information on the means of acquiring land for experimental purposes and as a hatchery site (see enclosure). In July 1959 the Department initiated an investigation to determine the lake and stream's current sport fishing use and the condition of the existing fish stocks. While our evaluations are not yet complete, we recognize the value to the area of providing an attractive recreational fishery and have included in our planning active management measures.

Our plans for Auke Lake also include increasing the hatchery facilities using the outlet for a water supply. It is the only location locally filling our requirements for anticipated trout, salmon and char rearing. The lake provides a warming basin for the water and its location near and above the hatchery site will permit installation of a pipeline into the lake and attendant control of the water temperatures. The location provides a very desirable logistics situation; it is close to the center of supply and near an improved highway. The International Airport is nearby for large airplane transportation, and both small airplanes and boats can be loaded in Auke Bay at the creek mouth. Since most of the fish stocking from the station entails airplane or boat transportation, this feature is quite important.

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The Department is working closely with the Division of Lands, Department of Natural Resources in the planning. The lake and outlet area will make an important contribution to Juneau's recreational facilities. It comprises the only area of this type readily available to the local people and visitors. Ultimate development is anticipated to include a park with the Department's experimental facilities and physical plant an integral part of the overall picture. In addition to filling requirements for hatching and rearing of salmonoids, the physical plant will provide an attraction for visitors. The park will give access to both Auke Lake and Auke Bay for fishing, boating and other recreational pursuits.

The Department is cognizant of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries' requirements for a laboratory water supply and has been informed of experimental plans for the system. It is our belief their requirements can be incorporated into our overall planning and the greatest value derived for all concerned.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

E. S. Marvich, Acting Deputy Commissioner

ESM:AHM:ja
encl: Ltr dtd 1/30/54 to BLM

cc: Cramer