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City of Goleta Parks and Recreation Commission
130 Cremona Drive
Goleta, CA 93117

RE: Fishing at Lake Los Carneros

Dear members of the Parks and Recreation Commission,

I would like respond to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS)'s letter regarding fishing and the stocking of trout at Lake Los Carneros. Fishing at Lake Los Carneros has been an activity the citizens of Goleta have enjoyed for decades. Lake Los Carneros is the one and only public place to freshwater fish in the Goleta area.

The local fishing organizations are as concerned as the SBAS over trash and maintaining wildlife habitat at the lake and look forward to working together to mitigate public impact while keeping the lake available for all to enjoy.

Providing more access, signage and education are ways to help manage wildlife habitat.

The local fishing organizations also believe being proactive prior to planting any fish would minimize the issues which occurred this year. Several ideas for mitigating trash and habitat damage which are in line with the 1999 Updated Management Plan are as follows.

Disposal of Trash:

Signage - Including an on-line litter reporting system for citizens to report litter that is not accessible from shore.

Promote Leave No Trace and Carry In – Carry Out awareness.

Provide fishing line recycling stations and additional trash cans if needed.

Clean up days organized by one or more of the local fishing clubs or fishing related businesses. These clean up days could be scheduled to line up with events such as the Dam Dinner.

Providing Access:

Providing more access and signage are two ways to help manage wildlife habitat and at the same time improve the area for recreational activities, educational activities and social events. A large part of the 1999 Updated Management Plan focuses on providing "Lake Access for Fishing". Chapter 6.0 - "Maintenance Activities and Management Recommendations" (pages 28 through 40).

Brush removal days organized by one or more of the local fishing clubs or fishing related businesses.

Disposal of Trash & Providing Access:

Non-motorized water craft - City of Goleta Code of Ordinances: (§ 12.18.010 - § 12.18.020). Fishing from a float tube or other type of fishing float (1999 Updated Management Plan - page 44) allows the angler to clean up trash that is not accessible from shore. It also provides access and casting room for activities such as fly fishing and bass fishing. Certain types of sport fishing such as fly fishing and bass fishing require targets to cast at and space for casting. The dam along with most of the shoreline is not ideal for these activities. In the case of fly casting, it is not possible to fly cast from the dam.

Stocking:

If the issues presented by the SBAS can be mitigated I believe the local fishing community would like Lake Los Carneros to be stocked with trout as was originally planned and would like to see it become an annual tradition. The trout are genetically modified so that they cannot reproduce and it is something that is done in many other cities in California and across the country.

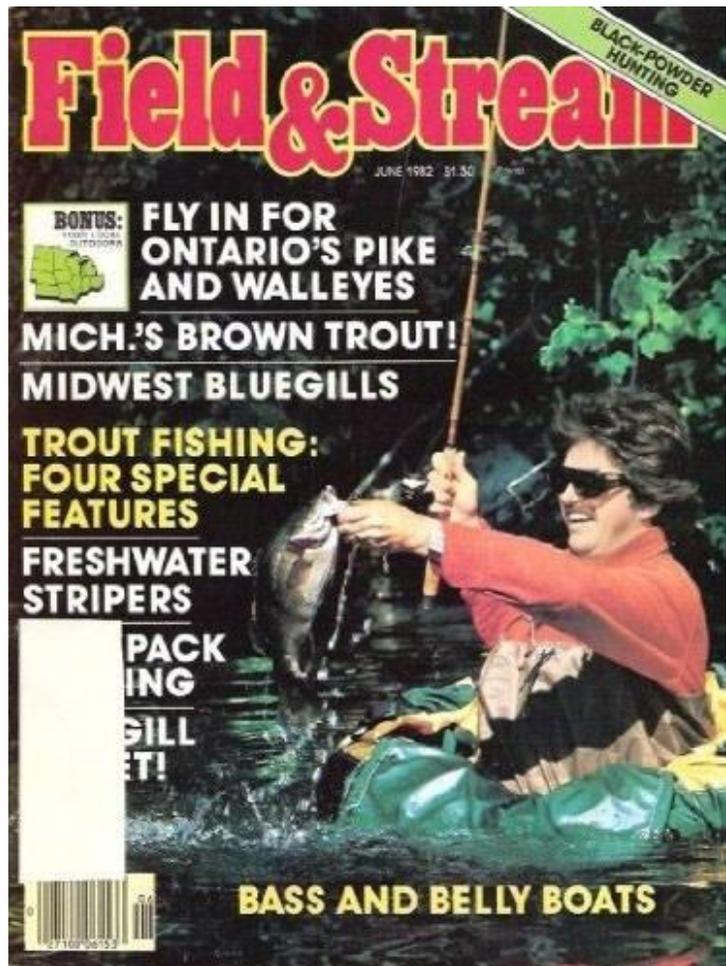
Catching fish that were intentionally stocked in a lake to be food is less consumptive than purchasing food at a store where it has to be processed, packaged, and stored. There is no packaging, nature takes care of the storage, and the angler processes the food.

I am primarily a catch and release bass angler and generally not interested in trout. If stocking bass and bluegill as suggested in the 1999 Updated Management Plan is an option that is what I would personally prefer.

Personal note:

I started bass fishing at Lake Los Carneros in the fall of 1983. There were people who fished the lake from the typical, usually yellow, inflatable rafts and the occasional canoe. Every so often I would see someone fishing from some kind of little one man raft. Sometime in 1984 I stumbled on an article in Field and Stream magazine about "Belly Boats".

After reading the article I knew this would be the best, stealthiest, and lowest impact way to bass fish at Lake Los Carneros. I started saving my money and in the summer of 1985 I bought my first float tube.



Float tubing at the lake became more popular in late 90s after several years of good rain starting with the "March Miracle" rains of 1991. The popularity of float tubing (and using other types of human powered "fishing floats") has continued to grow.

Bass fishing is an activity like golf, pool, darts, etc. - simply put... target practice. It's about analyzing the conditions of the day, finding a target, casting and hitting that target. If I do it well I am sometimes rewarded. This is not possible from shore as the "targets" are spread all over the lake and can only be accessed from the water.



June 13, 1999 - My wife and I on a float tubing date for my birthday

Freshwater fishing does not require the washing of your equipment after each trip like saltwater fishing does. Lake Los Carneros is a perfect place for a short hike and a few casts before or after work, and exactly what "live, work, play" means to me. Lake Los Carneros is the one and only public place to freshwater fish in the Goleta area.

I believe kids need a reason to care. They're kids. They want to be kids. They want to run, play, explore. They want to mess with frogs, bugs, lizards, fish. They want to get wet, dirty, muddy. They need to discover things for themselves. Having a place like Lake Los Carneros just around the corner while growing up was that spot.

Trash at Lake Los Carneros is an issue I have been concerned about since I started fishing at Lake Los Carneros in 1983. I am hopeful this can be an opportunity for all concerned parties to collaborate and improve things for the entire community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Pete Wolf in blue ink.

Pete Wolf