

February 18, 1987

Norman deVall, Supervisor  
County of Mendocino Courthouse  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Norm:

In response to your recent fishery concerns in the Garcia River drainage, on January 21, 1987 Dick Moore, Associate Water Quality Biologist; Theodore Wooster, Environmental Services Supervisor; and Weldon Jones, Mendocino County District Fishery Biologist, walked through Hutton Gulch. This stream was utilized by the Save Our Salmon organization for raising steelhead or coho salmon. In his written report, Dick Moore summarized the situation as follows:

"Ted Wooster, Weldon Jones, and Dick Moore inspected a logging site located upstream of a former Save Our Salmon fish rearing facility near Point Arena. The stream, tributary to the Garcia River, is recovering from damage that occurred around the turn of the century and in the 1960's. No damage was observed from logging after the Forest Practice Rule changed in 1973; however, there is debris in the stream from the former logging. Arrangements should be made to have this debris removed."

We have also reviewed the findings in the enclosed January 22, 1987 memo from State Forester II, James Purcell, to Richard Ernest, Chief, Region I, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. We concur with his findings and conclusions.

The unfortunate part of this situation is that unless the old cull logs and other debris are removed by someone, this tributary will continue to remain in its "trashed" condition for decades to come and would continue to be a source of downstream sedimentation. We do not foresee any additional problems for this stream from the proposed timber harvest by Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (LP) under THP 1-86-562 MEN.

We plan on communicating further with LP to see what help they can give to clearing some of the existing debris from the stream.

In addition to reviewing the situation on Hutton Gulch, we took the opportunity to examine one pool/riffle area on the main stem Garcia, approximately 2 1/2 miles upstream of the

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Eureka Hill Road. Using electro-fishing gear, we observed six adult salmon, of which we were able to identify two as coho and two as steelhead. Other fish shocked were juvenile suckers, sticklebacks and steelhead trout.

Because of the intense interest in the Garcia River system and the allegations that have been made that "three fourths of the Garcia River is killed to fish spawning right now," we intend to do follow-up fish surveys this summer.

The Department is also involved in stream clearance programs in the north fork of the Garcia. Again these fish passage problems are from old logging shows (mid 1950's) and the only access to the area is by helicopter or by foot.

Norm, thank you for your interest in this matter. Be assured that LP, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and our Department are working together to insure that the Garcia system is managed to maximize both fish and timber.

Sincerely,



Brian Hunter  
Regional Manager  
Region 3

cc: Bill Townsend

WOOSTER/ces

Bc: Wendy Jones (R3),  
Jim Purcell; Dept of Forestry,  
Chris Rowney; LP