September 8, 1987

Norman de Vall, Supervisor
County of Mendocino
Courthouse
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Norm:

This is a follow-up to my February 18, 1987 letter regarding fishery concerns in the Garcia River drainage. In that letter I indicated we would "do follow-up fish surveys this summer" to determine the validity of the statement that "three fourths of the Garcia River is killed to fish spawning right now."

During the period August 17 through August 20, a team of Department biologists (Ted Wooster, Wendy Jones, Jim Steele, & Dick Moore) electrofished nine stations in the drainage (Figure 1). Five of these sites were set-up as permanent 30 meter sampling stations that can be used as references in the future. Four additional sites were randomly sampled to provide species composition and a minimal estimate of fish per linear feet of stream.

In addition, gravel samples were processed for each station to determine the quality of the spawning gravels. Excellent populations of juvenile steelhead were found throughout the drainage sampled. We also found juvenile coho salmon on the South Fork Garcia, downstream of Flemming Creek.

Steelhead ranged from an estimated 11,934 per mile on Rolling Brook to 602 steelhead per mile on the Garcia River, upstream of Signal Creek (Table 1).

Our field review of the condition of Garcia drainage lands owned by Louisiana Pacific and the Long View Fibre Company indicated to us that there is not now significant problems for aquatic life resulting from current logging. Buffer strips, water bars, culverts, new bridges, etc., were found to be doing the job of protecting the biological integrity of the streams.

We believe the good populations of steelhead we found reflect a drainage that has, and still is, healed itself significantly from the fifties and sixties when instream values received little protection.

During our fish surveys, we were assisted by several professional foresters (Jim Purcell, Tom Osipowich, Tom Schulz, Dave Frykman, Lee Susan, Russ Schievely, Larry Hurley), and a fishery biologist (Tom Daughtery) from Louisiana Pacific.

We found everyone to be keenly interested in our electrofishing techniques, what resources we found and what more they could do to maintain these resources during future logging operations.

We believe this field trip was an eye opener for everyone involved, and the next "follow-up trip" we schedule, we will definitely invite you.

I would appreciate your contacting Dick Moore, Ted Wooster or Wendy Jones, if you hear or see any logging operation you believe will result in fishery damages. We would also like to hear from you when you hear or see logging operations you believe are doing a model job of protecting fishery resources. I firmly believe the answer to most of our "problems" in the woods now, is better communication along with follow-up monitoring. We intend to do both.

Sincerely,

COPY ORIGINAL SIGNED BY BRIAN HUNTER

Brian Hunter
Regional Manager
Region 3

TW/sab

cc: Len Theiss
Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
Santa Rosa

bc: Jim Steele
Wendy Jones
Dick Moore
Chris Rowney, Louisiana Pacific
Jerry Melo, Georgia Pacific

TABLE 1

Fish recovered during electrofishing on Garcia River System (includes only fish captured; fish per mile is an expanded estimate)

Station 1 - Fleming Creek, Tributary to South Fork Garcia — 8/17/87

Flow: 0.53 cubic feet per second
Fish: 84 steelhead per 30 meters
4,536 steelhead per mile estimate

Station 2 - South Fork Garcia, downstream of Fleming Creek — 8/17/87

Fish: 82 steelhead per 30 meters
4,428 steelhead per mile estimate
12 coho salmon per 30 meters
648 coho per mile estimate

additional species - lamprey & sculpin

Station 3 - Rolling Brook, tributary to main stem Garcia — 8/18/87

Fish: 221 steelhead per 30 meters
11,934 steelhead per mile estimate

additional species - sculpin

Station 4 - main stem upstream of Rolling Brook — 8/18/87

Fish: 24 steelhead per 30 meters
1296 steelhead per mile minimum estimate

additional species - lampry & sculpin

Station 5 - Signal Creek, tributary to main stem Garcia River — 8/19/87

Fish: 116 steelhead per 30 meters
6,264 steelhead per mile estimate

additional species - sculpin

Station 6 - Garcia River, main stem, upstream of Signal Creek — 8/19/87

Fish: 27 steelhead per 200 feet
602 steelhead per mile minimum estimate

additional species - sculpin

Table 1, Cont.

Station 7 - Inman Creek, tributary to stem of Garcia River — 8/20/87

Fish: 87 steelhead per 30 meters
4,698 steelhead per mile estimate

additional species - sculpin & lamprey

Station 8 - Garcia River, main stem upstream of Inman Creek — 8/20/87

Fish: 59 steelhead per 170 feet
1829 steelhead per mile minimum estimate

additional species - sculpin, sucker, lamprey

Station 9 - Garcia River, main stem, 1/4 mile upstream from East End Creek — 8/20/87

Fish: 82 steelhead per 59 feet
7,298 steelhead per mile minimum estimate