

Memorandum

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Date : October 9, 1981

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject : Timber Harvest Plan 1-81-234M - Jack Smith Creek, Mendocino County

This plan is of particular concern for several reasons. Jack Smith Creek, a steelhead trout spawning and nursery stream, flows through the plan area. These fish have historically utilized this stream and continue to use the stream today. The stream is in the process of recovering from damage due to past logging. The plan utilizes an existing skid road system with more than 24 stream crossings and several landings near these streams. Also a spotted owl nest has been observed on or near the property.

During the inspection steelhead trout were observed upstream in Jack Smith Creek at least to Point 12 on the CDF map. Stream gradients indicate these fish have access to Point 17 on the CDF map. The reason no fish were observed between Point 12 and Point 17 is believed to be due to past timber harvesting activities. Considerable woody material is present in the stream and streambanks upstream of Section 5. The streambed appears to have been raised above the former level. Gravel areas have intermittent flow on the surface, with considerable flow through the gravel. This reduces fish habitat. This gravel over-burden is very noticeable upstream of Section 5. In areas 19 and 20 redwood trees near the stream have evidently died following past logging. The gravel over-burden is believed to exceed an average depth in excess of one foot in this area.

The stream protection zone canopy was evaluated to determine potential adverse effects of the proposed timber harvest. The canopy from area 1 downstream was estimated at 80% with an excess of 50% canopy remaining following harvest. The canopy upstream of Point 10 was estimated at 10 to 20% with less in the southern stream areas near Areas 19 and 20. Through Section 5 large residual trees are scarce, the canopy consisting mostly of hardwoods.

Due to the adverse effects believed attributable to past timber harvest, consideration was given to limiting stream protection zone activities to sanitation-salvage, as provided for in Section 913.3(f). It is believed this will not improve the fish habitat in this case. Removing the few, large trees from the SPZ at this time will most likely delay re-entry into this area, thus decreasing disturbance from SPZ skid trail use.

Skid trail use within the SPZ will present a major potential for adverse effects on fish habitat. These are discussed in the CDF report and were discussed onsite. In addition to the recommendations in the CDF report it is believed the operator will need to employ additional site specific erosion control methods to comply with Section 916.7. Consideration should include placing limbs and other debris on the approaches to skid crossings, mulching such areas; water barring such areas at closer intervals; and assuring grass seeding that is effective during the first season following harvest. It appears reasonable to limit all temporary facilities to one summer season use.

In coordination with Tim Motl, Masonite and Mark Gray, adjacent property owner, Jack Booth, Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist flagged a spotted owl nest tree for retention.

Re commendations

1. Implement CDF recommendations 1 through 11, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, and 25.

Richard L. Moore
Timber Harvest Review Team
Region 3

RLM/ks