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March 2, 1982

Mr. Norm de Vall, Chairman
Board of Supervisors, Mendocino County
Courthouse
Ukiah, CA 95482

Subject: Brush Creek

Dear Norm:

Brush Creek is a small coastal stream which empties into the Pacific Ocean in the vicinity of Manchester Beach State Park. The stream is approximately 12 miles long, its headwaters are located at an elevation of approximately 1300 feet, and it has a gradient drop of approximately 100 feet per mile. The creek averages approximately six feet wide, and ranges in depth from one inch to three feet. Pools make up less than 30 percent of its area. However, to the reach from Highway 1 to its mouth, approximately 2½ miles, the ratio of pools to riffles is about fifty-fifty. Summer flows range from ¾ cubic feet per second at the headwaters to approximately three cubic feet per second at the Highway 1 bridge. Summertime water temperatures in the lower reaches are generally less than 62°F, which is a little on the high side, but adequate for raising the young.

A survey conducted in 1968 located 16 log jams spread throughout the stream course. In 1979 and 1980, stream clearance work was begun by CEMR and as of this date, log jams one through six have been removed or are in the process of being removed. These log jams were located in the lower nine miles of the stream,

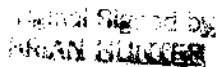
Brush Creek has two major tributaries: Spanish Creek and Mill Creek. Both creeks enter in the lower one-third. Each tributary is approximately two miles in length.

Brush Creek is known to support both coho (silver) salmon and steelhead. We estimate the adult runs to be in the neighborhood of 100 coho and more than 200 steelhead. Summer surveys in 1968 revealed young-of-the-year fish to have a density of 40 per 100 feet of stream. Similar surveys conducted in 1981 produced counts in excess of 300 young-of-the-year per 100 feet of stream.

Because of this, it is our opinion that Brush Creek is a valuable contributor to the anadromous resources of the State of California. Furthermore, it's apparent from our field surveys that the lower reaches of this stream are of

primary importance for nursery and rearing ground, and should receive the full protection due such resources.

Sincerely,



Brian Hunter
Regional Manager
Region 3

CC:Anadromous Fisheries - Sacramento
Wendy Jones, Fisheries R3

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