

Tom Wodetski  
Mendocino Environment Center  
P.O. Box 557  
Mendocino, California 94560

Dear Tom:

Charlie Fullerton and I have discussed your recent letters to us, and will make this single response serve as a reply to both.

Underway right now is the most intensive stream clearance and habitat improvement program that we've ever attempted. As of today there are 110 individuals from California Conservation Corps and Mendocino County CETA programs out in the woods. This labor force is regularly supplemented by inmate crews from the Department of Forestry.

Our stream restoration program is limited by our budget. Unfortunately, we can't improve all the streams in a couple of years, so we established the following considerations:

1. The Department of Fish and Game's inventory of problem areas and the potential improvement available at each.
2. Location of crews.
3. Access and landowner cooperation.

At the present time not much is going on in the immediate area of Mendocino. The Department has surveyed Salmon Creek. Stream blockages there are not complete, and silver salmon have been observed spawning above them. The watershed is primarily in private ownership, and access is not readily available.

At one time, Salmon Creek was an immediate target, but the Department has determined that more can be accomplished elsewhere, at least for the time being. Furthermore, there are local interests in the Salmon Creek area who are attempting to establish a clearance project there under the Forest Improvement Program.

Tom Wodetski

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The Garcia is getting the attention that the Albion got last year, and most of our effort is occurring on South Fork Eel River tributaries. However, that does not mean that work is completed in your area or that we won't be back. Attached is a list of clearance work accomplished on the Central North-coast in the last couple of years.

The only threat to the program is a loss of funding and this decision is in the hands of Congress (CETA) and the Legislature. You may wish to let them know of your support for stream restoration work.

I'm glad that the radio show received some favorable comment. We appreciate your help and interest.

Sincerely,

Huey D. Johnson  
Secretary for Resources

Attachment

cc: Department of Fish and Game

PTJ;jw

bc: Region 3  
Robinson, AFB-Region 2

File: D,DD,CO,RF,Chron,AFB

The following projects were worked on during 1979 and 1980:

1. Albion River, tributary to the Pacific Ocean: Two major jams were removed from the main river. Log jams were also removed on the South Fork making available an additional seven miles of habitat. A CEMR crew headquartered in Albion completed the fish habitat projects on the Albion River. Also of note was the good public response to clearance work on the lower Albion River from recreationists (canoeing, bird watching, etc.).
2. Brush Creek, tributary to the Pacific Ocean: The CEMR crew from Pt. Arena removed two major jams and made available three miles of excellent steelhead and silver salmon habitat. During the summer of 1980 they are expected to complete clearance projects that will open the entire Brush Creek drainage (12 miles).
3. Dutch Charlie Creek, tributary to the South Fork of the Eel River: Two log jams were removed during the summer of 1979 by a CEMR crew headquartered in Laytonville. The projects opened an additional 0.5 mile of good king salmon spawning habitat.
4. Eagle Creek, tributary to Dutch Charlie Creek: The Laytonville-headquartered CEMR crew removed six barriers (four of which were complete barriers) making available 0.6 mile of king salmon and steelhead habitat.
5. Redwood Creek, tributary to the South Fork of the Eel River: The Laytonville-headquartered CEMR crew, during the summer of 1979, removed four log jams which made available 3.5 miles of habitat.
6. Anderson Creek, tributary to Indian Creek, thence South Fork of the Eel River: A CEMR crew headquartered in Whitethorn, during the summer and early fall of 1979, made passable a log jam that was a complete barrier to king salmon and steelhead. The project was designed to facilitate passage but not to release a significant amount of gravel impounded above the barrier. This project succeeded in passing king salmon and steelhead during the winter of 1979-1980. Three hundred king salmon were observed utilizing the 4.0 miles of habitat made available. This project will be continued during the summer of 1980 and modified to release gradual amounts of gravel annually.
7. Butler Creek, tributary to Hollow Tree Creek, thence the South Fork of the Eel River: The CEMR crew headquartered in Laytonville during the late summer of 1979 started removing two of ten log jams. The two jams removed in 1979 made passable 1.0 mile of habitat for king salmon and steelhead. Two hundred pairs of king salmon were observed using the habitat made available during the winter of 1979-1980. Work is continuing during the summer of 1980 to open a total of 2.5 miles of habitat. Observations during spring and early summer of 1980 indicate large numbers of juvenile king salmon.
8. Little North Fork of Big River, tributary to Big River, thence the Pacific Ocean: The Department of Forestry's inmate crew headquartered at Chamberlain Creek is removing a log jam and the project will be completed on June 30, 1980. This project will make available 3.5 miles of habitat for silver salmon and steelhead.

9. Baechtel Creek, tributary to Outlet Creek, thence the South Fork of the Eel River: A CEMR crew headquartered in Willits completed clearance work and made available 2.0 miles of steelhead and king salmon habitat.
10. Martin Creek, tributary to Big River: The CEMR crew headquartered in Willits is presently removing two log jams which will make available 3.0 miles of silver salmon and steelhead habitat.
11. Dry Creek, tributary to the Napa River, Napa County: A California Conservation Corps crew headquartered in Yountville will start a barrier removal project on June 23, 1980. This project will make available 4.0 miles of steelhead spawning and nursery habitat.