

OVERLAND 1-0688

PAN AMERICAN TIMBER SERVICES  
230 PARNASSUS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO 17 CALIFORNIA  
JULY 16, 1962

CABLE ADDRESS:  
PANTIM

Mr. Roger Dakin  
121 2nd Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Roger:

Enclosed you will find a preliminary report on our examinations and discussions on the Mill Creek area. My apologies for the long silence in this regard, but everyone connected with this project seems too well tied up in other things to lend his time to it.

My plans now call for me to leave for Japan next week, and to return early in August. At that time I hope we can resume work on the project, and achieve some results. I have talked with Bill Evans, of Fish and Game, about this a couple of times in the past two weeks, and he too is interested in seeing it reactivated.

Meanwhile there is one thing I can do if you wish, and that is to line up the owners of the properties on Mill Creek, and get their reactions to forming a joint venture on the rehabilitation. One reason I have stalled on this is that you had mentioned earlier that you might do this yourself. Please let me know if you would like this done, and either I or one of my other partners will check the records at the court house in Ukiah before our next meeting.

I shall be in touch with you as soon as I get back from Japan, and hope that we can see this job revived and into an active phase at that time.

Sincerely,

  
Peter Arnold

For PAN AMERICAN TIMBER SERVICES

PA/a

encl.

c: Mr. Willis Evans

*Bill: With magnificent aplomb I have plagiarized almost everything you had written up in composing The enclosed. Due to your work it looks quite impressive, I think!*  
*PER*

PRELIMINARY REPORT  
MILL CREEK WATERSHED REHABILITATION SURVEY

Mill Creek, a tributary to Forsythe Creek in the Russian River drainage in Mendocino County, originates in a spring below Leonard Lake. The stream flows through a canyon which shows the evidence of varying degrees of land use over the past 75 or 80 years - from untouched old growth redwood stands at its source, to selectively logged areas of the early 1900's which are now well reestablished as full canopy forests, to recent logging within the past decade on an almost clearcut basis over a considerable portion of the drainage. The effects of this latter day logging are shown in the stream bottom - log jams from old slash and fallen residual trees, silting of the stream bed from hillside erosion, and a slowing of streamflow to the point of a heavy establishment of cattails along the length of the exposed areas. From its source in old growth timber it rapidly enters heavy cutover of the early 1950's, through which it passes for about one mile, then entering a second-growth old-growth forest which has not been cut for at least fifty years, and shows a well stabilized stream condition. After flowing through the uncut area for about a mile and a half, the stream again enters recent cutover about two years old. It falls rapidly through this area, and the combination of steep ground and very destructive logging has had a very serious effect on the residual forest, soil condition®, and the watercourse itself. Something over two miles of this type of land was involved in that logging. From the end of that logging the stream again enters a small area of uncut second growth, and then goes into the oak-grass type, eventually entering Forsythe Creek some ten miles from its source.

Land ownership in Mill Creek is divided among a number of individuals or groups. At this time not all the owners are known, and the records at the county court house must be checked to get their names and addresses. Mr. R. Y. Dakin, who owns the

land on which the source and the upper reaches of Mill Creek are located, came into possession of the cutover area below the source after it had been logged heavily, with subsequent extensive damage to the watershed in general. Mr. Dakin is interested in initiating and carrying out a rehabilitation program for the watershed on his property, and the area in general. To this latter end, contact will be made with the other owners to poll their interest in participating in such a program on a cooperative basis.

Concurrently, field examinations of Mill Creek have been carried out by members of the Fisheries branch of the Department of Fish and Game, by members of the Soil Conservation Service, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a private consultant, to determine the present conditions existing on Mill Creek, and what might be done to improve those conditions to bring the stream back as much as possible to its original status before logging.

Preliminary findings indicate that at one time the stream was a spawning ground along its entire length for salmon and steelhead, but the many log jams have barred access to these fish, and the heavy siltation and the infestation of cattails have created an impossible environment for spawning. In addition, there are problems connected with accelerated erosion and watershed protection, as well as evident need for a general cleanup of the more recently logged sections.

As a result of a field trip made in February, 1962, Mr. Willis Evans and Mr. Jerry Holman of the Department of Fish and Game, Mr. George Wilson and Mr. Chester Turner of the Soil Conservation Service, and Peter Arnold a forest consultant for Mr. Dakin, made the following recommendations for work to be done in the Mill Creek drainage:

1. Soil Stabilization

- a. Place water breaks in skid trails. About 2 to 3 miles of trails need this treatment.

- b. Brush structures to control or prevent gully erosion on side hills - perhaps a dozen locations.
- c. Log and rock revetment work in the stream channel to scour out stabilize bed - the number of spots to be determined.
- d. Seeding of exposed areas with annual grasses - 3 to 4 acres.
- e. Road cut soil stabilization by seeding grasses or other cover - 2 locations.
- f. Silt catchment log jams in smaller canyons tributary to Mill Creek which have been logged recently, the number of spots to be determined.
- g. Proper road drainage for two miles.

2. Land Area Rehabilitation

- a. General slash cleanup, as has already been practiced to some degree - estimated at one month with dozer mud burning crew.
- b. Levelling of ground areas on flats in canyon bottom - 2 days with cat.
- c. Planting trees on reconstructed, flats - tentatively estimated at 4 to 6 man-days.

3. Stream Rehabilitation

- a. Removal of log jams - one month with cat and 2 man crew.
- b. Plant streamside vegetation, alder and willow - 2 man days.
- c. Placement of logs to create new pools - concurrent with removing jams.
- d. Removal of bedrock barriers downstream to assure access for salmon and steelhead.

4. Improvement of Mud Lake

- a. Raise culvert and road area 4 to 5 feet - 4 or 5 days cat with blade.
- b. Eradication of cattails - by preceding action plus 3 days of chemical spray non-toxic to fish or other wildlife.

No definitive estimates of time or dollar costs to accomplish this work have been made to date. These are to be developed at a later meeting in which the members of the field group, plus Mr. Roger Dakin will participate. The date of this meeting is yet to be set.

Methods of executing and financing the recommended work were discussed by the group during the field examination. Although no definitive conclusions were reached as to the best way, it was agreed that two basic approaches could be considered:

- a. All the work to be done by the owners of the properties, largely at their own expense, but with the possible aid of ACP (Agricultural Conservation Program) funds of the Soil Conservation Service, or
- b. Public participation by groups such as sportsman's organizations in Mendocino County, the Boy Scouts, 4H club, or the Junior Loggings congress.

In the first instance, individual owners could receive matching funds to the extent of \$1,500 from the ACP program, or an association of owners could receive up to \$10,000, assuming the county ACP committee would release funds for this type of work, There was some skepticism expressed over this possibility since the ACP committee is composed largely of ranchers who would not look on this project as a strictly agricultural undertaking.

In the second instance, the participation of public groups would probably be easily available; however such participation would probably carry with it the implication of public access thereafter to any of the land on which such groups would work. For some property owners this would not be tolerated, most likely. The Soil Conservation Service has expressed some reservations over supplying full assistance unless the public derives some benefit from the project. Therefore it seems likely that not too much reliance will be placed on this second approach.

The next steps to be taken in this project appear to be the following:

1. Clarify the work to be done in terms of time and dollar cost by operation. The original group plans to do this at a meeting in the near future, if all members can manage to coordinate their times.
2. Determine the names and addresses of all owners on the Mill Creek drainage.
3. Approach these owners to determine their reaction to the idea of a joint program for the watershed rehabilitation.
4. Establish the priority and timing of the work projects to be done.
5. Make application to the ACP program for watching funds to sound out their reaction of the members to such a request.

It now appears that it will be impossible for all parties interested in this project to get together before the middle of August. Meanwhile steps 1 and 2 will be carried out.