ARCHITECTURE IN THE
HAND CRAFTED STYLE

11·11·98

RECEIVED
[redacted] 1 2 1998
US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
CCFWO, ARCATA, CA

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ARCATA, CALIFORNIA

DEAR FOLKS,

MY NAME IS JIM GROELING. I HAVE LIVED ON THE BANKS OF THE LOWER MATTOLE RIVER FOR 24 YEARS. THE RIVER RUNS ONE HALF OF A MILE THROUGH MY PROPERTY.

I HAVE OBSERVED THE RIVER FLOWS CONTINUOUSLY FOR THESE YEARS. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU SOME OF MY OBSERVATIONS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS.

1. IN WALKING THE RIVER BAR THE SILT CONTINENT HAS RISEN SO MUCH IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. IN THE SPRING YOU CAN SINK UP TO YOUR THIGH IN QUICK SAND SILT DEPOSITS.
   NEVER BEFORE HAVE I SEEN THESE PURE SILT DEPOSITS.
2. A LAYER OF SILT COVERS THE ENTIRE RIVER BAR. WHERE ONCE YOU WOULD SEE CLEAN SAND AND GRAVEL THERE IS NONE. EVEN ON THE BEACH AROUND THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER THERE IS NO CLEAN SAND.

JG-1

JIM GROELING
& ASSOCIATES
BOX 168 PETROLIA CA 95558 • 707 629-3320

3. I LOST APPROXIMATELY 2,000 ALDER TREES IN THE HIGH WATER OF JANUARY 1998. THESE TREES MEASURED FROM 5 FT. TO 40 FT. JG-1 CON.

I HAVE SEEN TREES COME AND GO IN MY YEARS HERE. LIVING ON THE LOWER PART OF A DAMAGED RIVER SYSTEM THINGS ARE IN CONSTANT FLUX. BUT NEVER BEFORE HAS THERE BEEN A YEAR WHERE NOT ONE SPROUT HAS REAPPEARED THE FOLLOWING SUMMER. THIS IS DUE TO A LAYER OF SILT SO THICK THAT NOTHING CAN GROW THROUGH IT.

4. I'M NOT TRYING TO BLAME PACIFIC LUMBER COMPANY FOR ALL OF THIS SILT, THAT WOULD BE INCORRECT. BUT I HAVE FOLLOWED THE PATH OF IT TO THE MOUTH OF THE NORTH FORK OF THE MATTOLE, WHERE YOUR '98 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL SHOW A 50± ACRE MUD FLAT PUSHING INTO THE MAIN FLOW OF THE RIVER. THIS FLAT HAS DRAMATICALLY INCREASED IN SIZE THESE PAST TWO YEARS. UP THE NORTH FORK PACIFIC LUMBER IS CURRENTLY LOGGING ON THERE 18,000 ACRES, MUCH OF WHICH IS ON STEEP AND UNSTABLE GROUND.

JIM GROELING
& ASSOCIATES
BOX 168 PETROLIA CA 95558 • 707 629-3320

ARCHITECTURE IN THE
HAND CRAFTED STYLE

5. LAST FALL AND WINTER THE RIVER RAN THICK AND DIRTY CONTINUOUSLY. AT ANY SIGN ~~[illegible]~~ OF CLEARING 15 MINUTES OF RAIN WOULD BRING IT TO COMPLETELY THICK AND MUDDY.

THERE WERE ZERO DAYS OF CLEAR CLEAN FLOWS.

WHERE 44 YEARS AGO THIS RIVER WAS CONSIDERED THE FINEST STEELHEAD FISHING IN THE WORLD THERE WAS NOT ONE DAY OF FISHABLE WATER IN THE LOWER SECTION OF THE RIVER LAST YEAR.

JG-1

CAN WE IMAGINE BEING A TWENTY POUND FISH, SWIMING BACK TO OUR HOMELAND, WHERE THE FIRST TWENTY MILES YOU CAN'T SEE SIX INCHES IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Jim Groeling

JIM GROELING
& ASSOCIATES
BOX 168 PETROLIA CA 95558 • 707 629-3320