New Growth Forestry

December 15, 1988

California Department of Forestry
135 Ridgeway Avenue
P.O.Box 670
Santa Rosa, California 95402

Re: THP 1-88-743MEN

Dear Sirs:

On December 12, 1988, I walked Schooner Gulch from its confluence with Shinglemill Gulch to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean to update my previous inspections made during April and May of 1987. The 1987 inspections were the bases used for comments and observations expressed in my letter dated November 17, 1988, to you concerning this plan.

Conditions observed on December 12, 1988 were significantly worse, particularly in regard to the presence of sand and silt sedimentation, than last seen during the 1987 inspections. The fish population observed was at an alarmingly depressed level. Approximately a dozen young of the steelhead from the 1988 hatch were observed. Only one steelhead in the one-plus year old category was seen.

Erosive soil conditions affecting the salmonid habitat of Schooner Gulch (the subject of Department of Fish and Game concerns - see comments of R.L. Moore, 1982, THP 1-82-457MEN) appear to have advanced to the state of detrimentally affecting the remnant steelhead population still present in Schooner Gulch.

The disruption of the gravel transport process in Schooner Gulch as a result of debris jams as shown at Locations "A" through "H" on the attached map has built up gravel impoundments 3 to 6 feet deep at most of the sites and generally stopped the movement and associated cleaning process of the gravels in the section of Schooner Gulch below Shinglemill Gulch. Fine sediments moving down from upstream have settled out into the stationary gravels

and the pools in this section of Schooner Gulch to such a degree that the ability of the creek to provide the spawning and rearing habitat necessary for a run of steelhead has reached a critical level.

I have enclosed two identical sets of photographs for your files with relevant descriptions typed on the reverse sides. These photographs show the condition in April of 1987 at five of the debris jams. The accumulations of debris and gravels at all eight sites have not increased to any great degree as of December 12, 1988. The gravels which are clearly evident in the 1987 photographs now have a heavy buildup of fine sediments in and on them.

Until these debris jams are removed and the gravel transport process of Schooner Gulch resumes, there will likely be *a* worsening problem from fine sediment deposition. Currently, there is no funding allocated by the Department of Fish and Game for the restoration proposal New Growth Forestry has submitted to the DF&G for removing these jams. While the jams remain in place, any increase to the existing sedimentation that may come from ongoing and future logging will add to an already serious problem. It is reasonable to expect that there will be at least a short-term addition of sediment from ground disruptions associated with tractor logging operations currently in process and proposed in this plan.

With the amount of harvesting currently in process in Schooner Gulch on THPs 1-87-585MEN and 1-88-032MEN and the debris jams known in Schooner Gulch to the DF&G, I was surprised to learn while attending the CDF second review team meeting for this THP on December 14, 1988, that Schooner Gulch along the south side of the THP was not inspected during the pre-harvest inspection held on December 12, 1988.

While the focusing of the pre-harvest inspection attention on the North Fork of Schooner Gulch will serve to better recognize its problems and limited potential as a minor part of the overall Schooner Gulch Fishery, it did nothing to assess the relationship of this THP and its possible effects on the seriously troubled fishery in (Main) Schooner Gulch. If a run of steelhead is to be retained in Schooner Gulch, it will require that the Main Fork from the State Park on the coast up to its confluence with Shinglemill Gulch, and possibly beyond, be returned to a functional, healthy and productive condition. The cumulative historic fishery damage that is so major on the

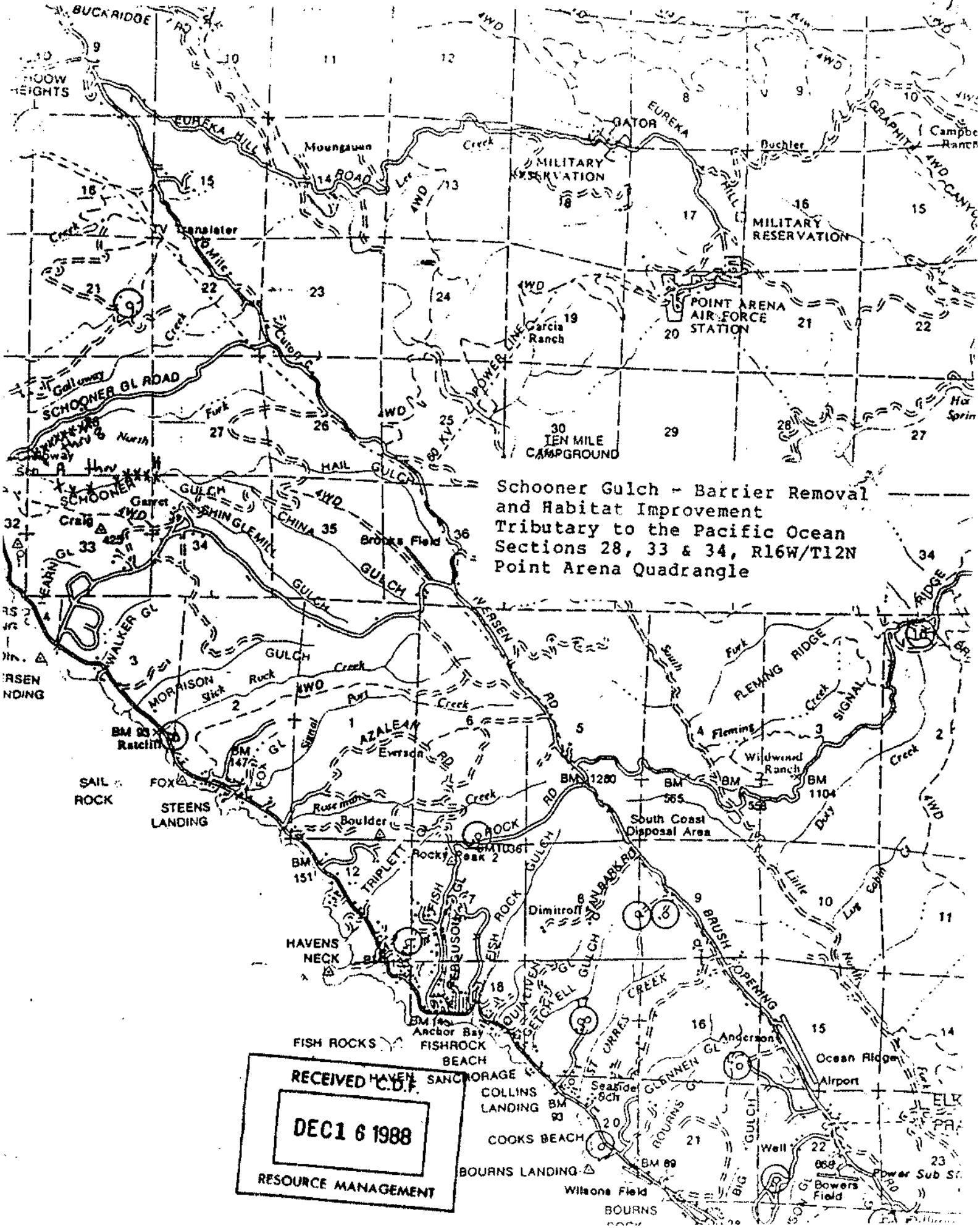
North Fork THP area and the lower Main Fork State Park property will keep these areas from being productive parts of the steelhead fishery for many years to come, if ever again.

The recent fishery damage and increase to it in Main Schooner Gulch is the critical factor affecting the future of a steelhead run in Schooner Gulch. With the THP adjoining a portion of the most impacted area of Main Schooner Gulch, a complete pre-harvest inspection should have at least recognized an active problem. Why has this situation not been acknowledged and addressed during the THP review process?

Sincerely,

ALAN MOHR

AM:sg
enclosures


Schooner Gulch - Barrier Removal
and Habitat Improvement
Tributary to the Pacific Ocean
Sections 28, 33 & 34, R16W/T12N
Point Arena Quadrangle
RECEIVED C.D.F.
DEC 16 1988
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
SCHOONER GL ROAD
EUREKA HILL ROAD
POINT ARENA AIR FORCE STATION
MILITARY RESERVATION
TEN MILE CAMPGROUND
SCHOONER GULCH
HAIL GULCH
SHINGLE MILL GULCH
CHINA GULCH
WALKER GL
MORRISON CREEK
AZALEA RD
EVERSEN RD
FLEMING RIDGE
SIGNAL RIDGE
TRIPLETT GULCH
FISH ROCK GULCH
BRUSH OPENING
SOUTH COAST DISPOSAL AREA
STEENS LANDING
HAVENS NECK
FISHROCK BEACH
COLLINS LANDING
COOKS BEACH
BOURNS LANDING
Ocean Ridge Airport
Wildwood Ranch
Garcia Ranch
Brooks Field
Wilsons Field
Bowers Field

Statement made that there is a "natural change in the gravels and the packing in Schooner Gulch. Shingle Mill downstream — Alan Mahr

#585

Sarah Flower - concerned about mule.