



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Klamath
National
Forest

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WR-36
29449

File Code: 2670
Route To:

Date: 3/09/2000

Faxed copy
was received on 3/8/00
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Subject: Application to appropriate water by permit #29449

To: Yoko Mooring - State of California: State Water Resources Control Board

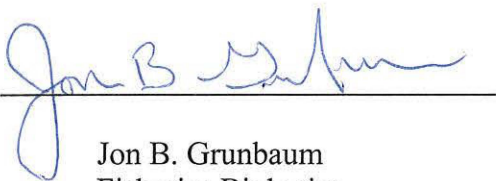
Dear Yoko Mooring:

It has come to my attention that an application (#29449) has been filed to appropriate water from Stanshaw Creek. This application concerns me because the US Forest Service is considering constructing a fish passage facility within the square concrete box culvert under State Highway 96 that is believed to be restricting anadromous fish passage into Stanshaw Creek. The need for construction of fish passage facilities under Highway 96 was identified as an opportunity to restore anadromous fish passage into Stanshaw Creek. This opportunity was identified in the completed *Ishi Pishi / Ukonom Ecosystem Analysis (Klamath National Forest, 1998)*. Reductions of flow in Stanshaw Creek could make construction of fish passage structure under Highway 96 pointless because streamflows could become too low if much water is withdrawn.

Although anadromous fish are not documented in Stanshaw Creek on the Klamath National Forest GIS database, there are many anecdotal accounts that anadromous fish once used to access Stanshaw Creek before construction of the current Highway 96. Indeed, fish habitat surveys conducted in Stanshaw Creek have shown that at least several miles of suitable anadromous fish habitat exists in the Stanshaw Creek watershed.

With the listing of coho salmon as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act and the possible future listing of steelhead, I would recommend that you delay any decision on application #29449 until more research on anadromous fish use of Stanshaw Creek is conducted. The overall strategy of restoring anadromous fish in the Klamath Basin and elsewhere depends greatly on restoring anadromous fish access to their historical habitats.

Thanks for your consideration. If you have any questions or need more information on this subject please feel to call me (530) 492-2243 or (530) 627-3291.



Jon B. Grunbaum
Fisheries Biologist



accept
ym 5/9/00