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DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES

⊠ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ⊠

512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-1188, 919-733-3391
Charles R. Fullwood, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Reed
North Carolina Division of Water Resources

FROM: Stephanie Goudreau
Habitat Conservation Program *AG*

DATE: January 18, 1994

SUBJECT: Instream flow study at Pisgah Fish Hatchery, Davidson
River and Grogan Creek, Transylvania County.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is requesting assistance from the North Carolina Division of Water Resources (DWR) to conduct an Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) study in the Davidson River and Grogan Creek at the Pisgah Fish Hatchery. The hatchery is operated by the WRC and located on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land.

The USFS is in the process of renewing our special use permit for operation of the hatchery. Our existing permit requires us to provide a minimum flow of 5 cubic feet per second in the Davidson River downstream of the intake. No minimum flow requirement currently exists for Grogan Creek.

In response to at least one concerned citizen, the USFS has requested that we follow our existing protocol to determine adequate minimum flows for the bypassed reaches of these streams. As you know, we do not currently have a protocol for recommending minimum flows at existing aquaculture facilities; however, we have agreed to conduct an IFIM study based on the presence of high quality trout habitat and fishery, apparent public concern, and need to facilitate the renewal process.

Some urgency is associated with starting the IFIM study as soon as possible. The WRC has been issued a 404 permit by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove approximately 800 cubic yards of accumulated sediment at the hatchery intake on the Davidson River in order to eliminate the transport of sand into the hatchery water supply. Sediment removal was planned for this month but is being delayed because this work has been included in the analysis by the USFS for renewal of the special use permit.

This work is best done when trout biomass in the hatchery is low and when cold water temperatures will minimize stress to hatchery trout.

The WRC can provide various personnel to help with data collection, and USFS personnel indicate they are also willing to assist. Our tentative plans for conducting IFIM studies in both streams are as follows:

- 1) February - select transects
collect data at middle flow
- 2) Spring - collect data at high flow
- 3) Summer - collect data at low flow

We thank you for your assistance in the past and hope that you will be able to provide additional assistance with this study. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 704/652-4257.

cc: Mr. Fred Harris, Chief
Mr. Mallory Martin, Production Coordinator
Mr. Micky Clemmons, District 9 Fisheries Biologist
Ms. Janice Nicholls, USFWS, Asheville