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To add to Tim's statements... I have been floating and fishing that section of river for the past 20 years and have NEVER seen the turbidity so bad passing in through Peaslee creek. The major concern we have is that plies of cow manure, as well as run off from hundreds of cows that are up past their ankles in nothing but mud and manure, are being fenced in by the land owner on a very steep hill which runs off directly into Peaslee creek.

The amount of silt that has entered the river, has filled in the hole directly downstream of the mouth of Peaslee creek literally 3-5 feet in the past two seasons (mostly this season). While the turbidity from Peaslee creek was a problem last year, the high rains we have experienced this season, coupled with the low river flow, (also down considerably from this time last year) have literally covered all riffles downstream of the mouth of the creek with a fine silt. When I exit the my boat to drag it over the shallow bars downstream of the mouth of Peaslee, the river below where I am walking turns brown with the loose silt that is escaping from the riffle.

The number of fish we are catching now, as oppose to the first couple of weeks of January (Before the biggest storms) have fallen from and average of 10-15 fish per day below the mouth of Peaslee to Turlock lake, to only 2-4 per day since. I am hoping that these fish have moved upstream to cleaner water and that we have not experienced any kill because of this problem. It should be noted that we have not observed any dead fish, but it would be an impossibility to do so in a timely fashion as the visibility is only inches to a foot deep for many days after the storms. This is the case for countless miles down the river.

With the low numbers of Salmon Tuolumne river is experiencing, and the increased spawning use in the Bobcat and 7-11 projects, we can ill afford to have any other factors that could potentially limit numbers of fish in the river. I am amazed that this landowner has been allowed to let this runoff of mud and manure enter the creek and into the river.

We at CRRF hope that everything possible is being done by all of the regulatory agencies to remedy this problem as soon as possible. This is one potential limiting factor for our Salmonids that something can be done about and absolutely should be in an expeditious manner.

We are making a commitment to continuing to spend some of our week in that section to see how the fish are responding in subsequent weeks. That section, (downstream of Peaslee to below 7-11) has produced more 0. Mykiss in the winter and spring months during the last 3 years, than it ever has in the past. It would be a shame to see that trend change for the worse.

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