density in 1998 was lower than levels recorded over the last three years, totaling 80 fish per 100 feet of stream.

*Board Votes Against Catch and Release Fishing Proposal

The District Board submitted a letter to the California Department of Fish and Game opposing the opening of the Carmel River to catch and release fishing of steelhead during the month of February 1998. The Board reasoned that although the steelhead population was on the upswing, their numbers had not sufficiently recovered to allow fishing at this time. In addition, the Board expressed concern that steelhead nests and other river habitat could be damaged by fishermen. Catch and release fishing did proceed, but high storm flows in February minimized the opportunity for successful fishing.

*Extensive Repairs Completed at Sleepy Hollow Fish Rearing Facility

In February 1998, the Sleepy Hollow Fish Rearing Facility was seriously damaged when storm runoff on two roads caused a landslide and erosion that covered two large sections of the rearing channel with mud, sand and debris. Fortunately, no fish were being cared for at the facility when the landslides occurred.

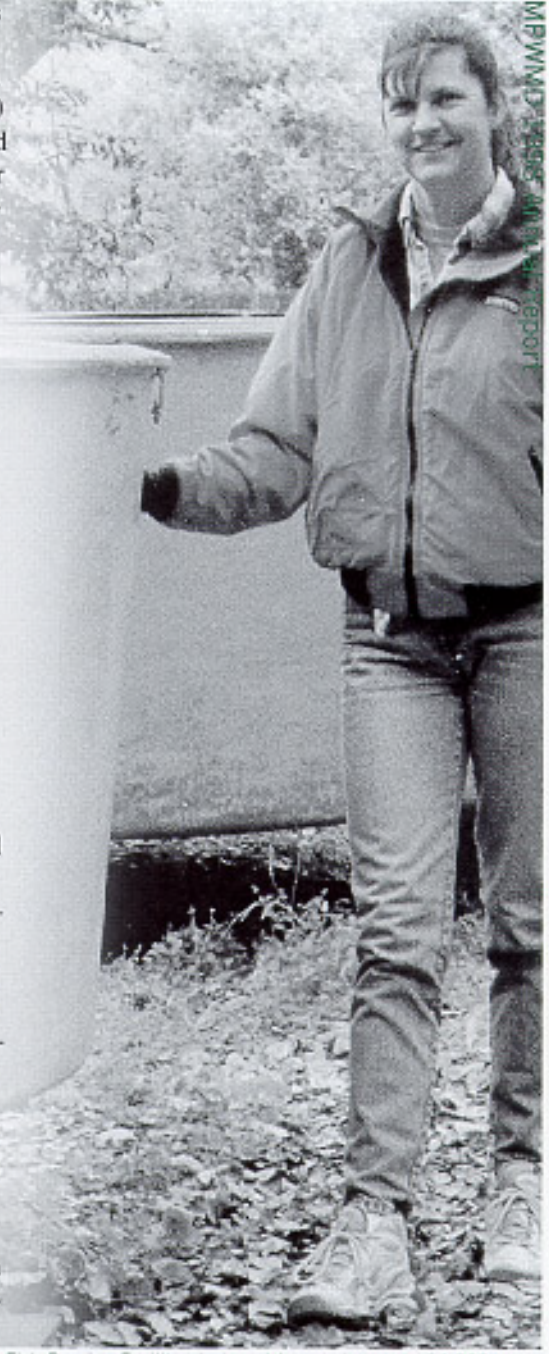
The facility was not used in 1998 while it was undergoing repairs that included construction of reinforcement walls to protect the area from future erosion. The rearing channel was also cleared of sediment, and clean cobble was placed in the channel. River flow was adequate for steelhead throughout most of 1998, so there was no need to hold rescued fish at the facility.

The rearing facility includes a screened freshwater intake, three large circular tanks, and a channel for rearing up to 64,000 juvenile steelhead. Fish rescued from drying reaches of the river can be held at the rearing facility until streamflow conditions improve and they can be released back into the river.

Other improvements are planned for the facility. In 1998, the District contracted for design of a cooling tower that will reduce water temperatures at the facility. In addition, staff developed plans to develop an expanded quarantine system that should prevent incoming fish from introducing disease into the resident population at the facility.

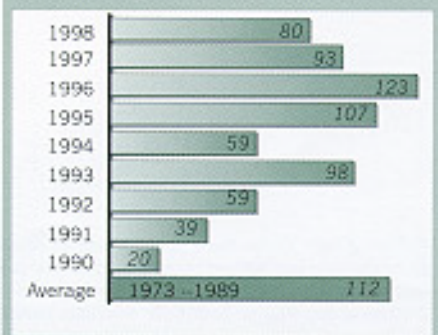
*Continued River Temperature Monitoring

In 1998, the District expanded its river temperature monitoring program to include four permanently installed stations and six that are deployed on a seasonal basis. The temperature sensors automatically record water temperature at 30-minute intervals. Sensors are located between a site above the Los Padres reservoir and extend downstream to the Carmel River Lagoon. Temperature data will enable District staff to determine when river conditions are most stressful for juvenile steelhead.



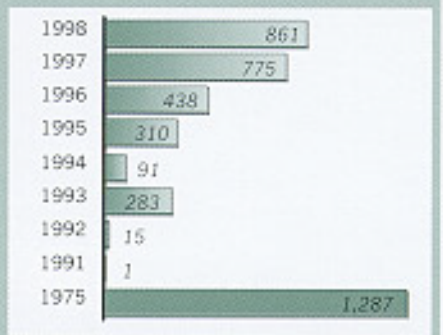
Beverly Chaney manages the Sleepy Hollow Fish Rearing Facility, designed for rearing up to 64,000 juvenile steelhead. Fish rescued from drying reaches of the river are held at the facility in tanks or an 800 foot-long rearing channel until riverflow improves and they can be released back into the river.

Juvenile Steelhead Population Density in the Carmel River



In 1998 the juvenile steelhead population totaled 80 fish per 100 feet of stream.

Adult Steelhead Counted at San Clemente Dam



The Carmel River adult steelhead population is steadily recovering from the impacts of the 1987-1991 drought when only one adult was counted.