



February 23, 1989

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Mr. Charles Alfred Edwin Brandt
Brandt Conservation Center
2364 Catherwood Road
R.R. #2
Site 22
Black Creek, B.C.
VOR 1C0

Dear Charles:

First, many thanks for sending me your article on the Oyster River. It certainly brought back memories--some pleasant like the day we swam and saw those large cutthroat trout among the salmon, and some not so pleasant like the logging road construction you mentioned. I remember arguing with MacMillan Bloedel's engineer and Grant Ainscough, M & B's former Chief Forester and Vice President about that road and the unstable soils in the area. At that time, the road was constructed and they were about to spend \$250,000 to stabilize it. I remember asking them if they had looked at alternative access. Of course, they had not and, of course, they said there were no alternatives. I also remember formally objecting to the road but to no avail. Their solution was to spend more money. In the end, as you point out, they did find an alternate route. I'm sure not because of environmental sensitivity but because of the high cost of maintenance.

That's not the real reason I write to you. I was delighted to see that you received the Steelhead Society's conservation award. It could not have gone to a more deserving person. In all my years in Fish & Wildlife management, I have never known a more dedicated individual when it comes to advocating a quality environment, particularly when you consider your sustained involvement. I remember your first environmental fight on the White and the valuable contribution you made on the Tsitika, Oyster, Strathcona Park and, of course, the Tsolum. On top of all that, you still have time to avidly pursue sportfishing. (I'll never forget the time I watched you for an hour hook, play and finally land that steelhead on the Campbell River.)

Charles, your contribution goes far deeper than you may think. These are tough times for those of us who work in government and are charged with managing fish. What with no budget increases since 1982, staff cutbacks, policies/agreements that force compromises and an ever increasing bureaucratic framework, it has become more difficult. Your activities relative to the environment helps counteract many of the negatives and makes our positions stronger. Hopefully, the environment will come out of it somewhat like the Tsolum probably will. A little tarnished, somewhat weaker, but recovering.

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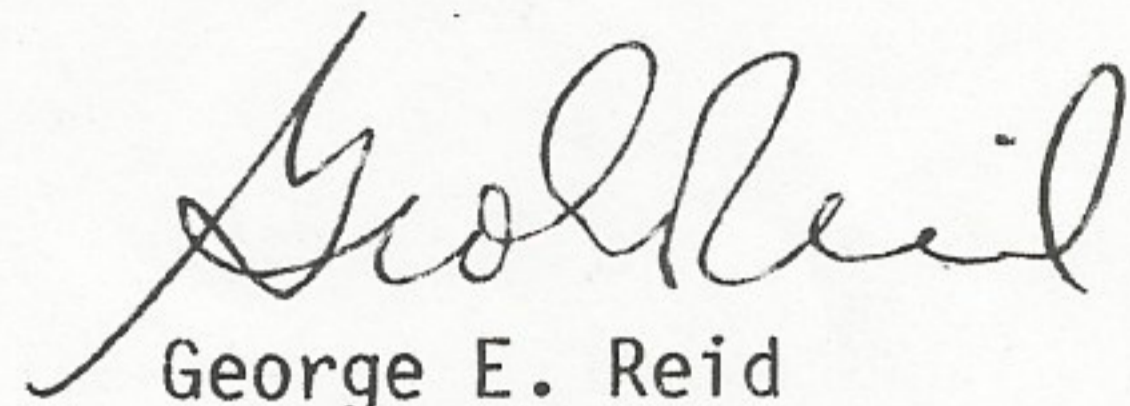
Charles Brandt
Brandt Conservation Center

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In closing, I again congratulate you on the award and sincerely thank you for your contribution to maintaining a quality environment.

Yours sincerely,



George E. Reid
Head, Fisheries Section
Fish & Wildlife

GER/1s

cc: M. R. Whately, Regional Fish & Wildlife Manager
D. Narver, Director, Recreational Fisheries
R. Glennie, President, Steelhead Society of B.C., Courtenay