

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM No.....

Date August 29, 1966

NAME..... EAST BRANCH NORTH FORK BIG RIVER..... COUNTY..... MENDOCINO.....

STREAM SECTION... Entire... FROM Mouth... TO End fish value... LENGTH 5.0 mi..

TRIBUTARY TO... North Fork Big River... Twp... 17N... R... 15W... Sec... 20

OTHER NAMES... Not known... RIVER SYSTEM... Big River

SOURCES OF DATA... Personal Observations

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION
Include Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
LOCATION
RELATION TO OTHER WATERS
GENERAL DESCRIPTION
Watershed
Immediate Drainage Basin
Altitude (Range)
Gradient
Width
Depth
Flow (Range)
Velocity
Bottom
Spawning Areas
Pools
Shelter
Barriers
Diversion
Temperatures
Food
Aquatic Plants
Winter Conditions
Pollution
Springs
FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS
OTHER VERTEBRATES
FISHING INTENSITY
OTHER RECREATIONAL USE
ACCESSIBILITY
OWNERSHIP
POSTED OR OPEN
IMPROVEMENTS
PAST STOCKING
GENERAL ESTIMATE
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
SKETCH MAP
REFERENCES AND MAPS

Extent of observation- Survey required the day of August 29, 1966. Surveyed on foot. Surveyor: Brian Edie.

Location and Relation to Other Waters - The East Branch is an important tributary to North Fork. It is valuable as a spawning and nursery stream, and contributes greatly to the flow of North Fork.

General Description

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin- The vegetation on the watershed is fairly consistent throughout, and consists mainly of these species: alders, redwood, Douglas fir, huckleberry, madrone, and tan bark oak. Also present were maple, rose, and poison oak.

This stream drains approximately 3 square miles, and flows generally in a southwesterly direction.

Section 1 - (Mouth to point .75 miles above mouth) - Stream flows through a narrow high-walled canyon. Channel is bowl-shaped. Vegetation scarce along streamside, abundant on canyon walls.
 Section 2 - (End section 1 to point 4.5 miles above mouth) - Bowl to lense-shaped. Vegetation scarce along streamside, abundant on canyon walls.

Section 3 - (End section 2 to end fish value) - Wide valley-channel lense-shaped. Vegetation scarce along stream edge.
 Altitude- Mouth - 240ft. End fish value - 720ft.

Gradient - 137 ft/mile.

Width- Range 2ft. - 15ft. average 5ft.

Depth - Range 1in. - 3ft. average 3in.

Flow - At mouth - approximately .5cfs.

Velocity - Section 1 - Rapid

Section 2 - Rapid to sluggish

Section 3 - Sluggish to moderate

Bottom - Section 1:

R - Boulders - 80%, gravel and rubble - 10%, sand - 10%

P - Boulders - 40%, sand - 30%, gravel - 30%.

Section 2:

R - Boulders and rubble - 5%, fine gravel - 40%, coarse gravel - 40%, sand - 15%

P - Gravel - 20%, sand and silt - 7-%, other - 10%

Section 3:

R - Rubble - 20%, gravel (coarse) - 35%, fine - 25%, silt - 20%

P - Sand and silt - 80%, gravel - 10%, other - 10%.

Spawning Areas -

Section 1 - Few spawning areas; very little gravel, mainly boulders.

Section 2 - Spawning areas plentiful, gravels very good. Silt a problem.

Section 3 - Spawning gravels present, could be good if winter flow is high enough to remove silt.

Pools -

Section 1 - Caused by digging action, undercut banks, boulders; frequency excellent. Average size - 10ft x 5ft x 1ft.

Section 2 - Caused by digging action, undercut bank, stumps; frequency good. Average size 15ft. x 7ft. x 1ft.

Section 3 - Caused by digging action, logs, frequency poor - Average size 7ft. x 3ft. x 1/2ft.

Shelter - Shelter is good for sections 1 and 2, in section 3 it is poorer. Shelter is provided by logs, roots, boulders, and undercut banks.

Barriers - 7 log jams were observed on the stream, all were major barriers to fish passage.

#1 - 20ft x 25ft x 5ft

#2 - 25ft x 30ft x 7ft

#3 - 20ft x 15ft x 10ft

#4 - 5ft falls over stumps in the stream

#5 - 30ft x 20ft x 4ft

#6 - 15ft x 29ft x 10ft

#7 - 15ft x 15ft x 7ft marks end of fish value.

Diversions - None noted.

Temperatures - 2.5 miles above mouth - time 1320 hours - H₂O - 55° Air - 65°

Food - Food is scarce in the stream. Few aquatic insects are present. Heavy silt in some areas may be the cause.

Aquatic Plants - Algae is very common in the stream, particularly in section 3. Mosses are not common. Few aquatic plants are present in the first two sections, section three has rushes, cattails, horsetails, and other of the higher plants.

Pollution - The stream is being filled with silt due to current road building in the area. The building is preliminary to logging.

Springs - None noted.

Fishes Present and Success - Salmon and steelhead are present in the stream. Salmon appear to be considerably more abundant. The salmon are smaller than average - average size 2.0in. Range 1.25 - 2.5 inches. Steelhead average size 1.75in. Range 1.25 - 5.0 inches.

Other Vertebrates - Frogs and newts are common on the stream.

Fishing Intensity - Fishing is light on the stream during the summer. Closed to winter fishing.

Other Recreational Use - Some hunting.

Accessibility - Access to mouth - Highway 20 to road just past Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp on the south side of road. State forest road to the west all the way to locked gate. Approximately two miles along state forest road, road divides east branch goes to middle of drainage also has locked gate. Both gates Union Lumber Co.

Ownership - Lower part of drainage to end of fish value - Union Lumber Co.

Posted or Open - All land is posted.

Improvements - Log jams need to be removed in order to facilitate fish passage and to help remove silt from spawning gravels.

Past Stocking - Not known.

General Estimate and Recommended Management - This stream seems to be of less than average value as a spawning and nursery stream. The fish seem to be undersized and few in numbers when compared to most streams of the same size. The unusual number of boulders near the mouth present a barrier to the upstream passage of spawning fish except during especially high waters. There is extreme lack of food and silt seems to be the main reason. Some silt is in the stream, also, because of the road building.

Sketch Map - Attached. References and Maps - Jackson State Forest Map, California Division of Forestry - compiled from USGS quadrangles, 1964.