

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.....

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

STREAM SECTION.....FROM Mouth of James Creek TO Headwater of N.F. Big River.....LENGTH..... 14 mi.....

TRIBUTARY TO..... Big River.....Twp..... 17N.....R..... 15W.....Sec..... 28.....

OTHER NAMES..... None.....RIVER SYSTEM..... Big River.....

SOURCES OF DATA..... Personal Observation.....

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
- Diversions
- 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: Entire stream was walked out by Rowell and Lollock on August 4, 1959.

LOCATION: This stream heads about 6 miles west of Willits, between Highway 20 and Two Rock Lookout, It flows west to the mouth of Chamberlin Creek, then turns south, entering Big River approximately 3 miles south of Dunlap (Chamberlin Creek).

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS: If the complete barriers were removed, most of the stream would be a major spawning area for fish of Big River

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:
Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin: Watershed has been logged and much old debris is on the banks and in the stream bed. This is typical redwood and fir covered steep slopes.
Altitude: 200 to 1,200 feet.
Gradient: Slight, becoming extremely steep in minor tributaries and headwaters.
Width: 2 to 5 feet - Average 3 feet.
Depth: 3 inches.
Flow: 2 cfs Fairly constant throughout entire length.
Velocity: Sluggish.
Bottom: Gravel, sand, rubble and bedrock.
Spawning Area: Good above Tributary No, 6.

Pools: Pool development is good. Range from 2 ft x 8 ft x 2 ft to 15 ft x 45 ft x 4 ft

Shelter: Good. In the form of undercut banks, boulders and heavy tree shade.

Barriers: See attached list

Diversions: None.

Temperatures: 57 degrees to 60 degrees.

Food: May and Caddis flies found in fair abundance.

Aquatic Plants: Small amounts of algae in the upper open section.

Winter Conditions: Unknown. Debris on banks indicate rather high water during heavy rain.

Pollution: None observed. Spring s: At head of each tributary.

Fish present and Success: Steelhead scarce - these fish appear to be resident fish 3 to 5 inches in length.

Fishing Intensity: Unknown.

Other Recreational Uses: Unknown.

Accessibility: Stream leaves Highway 20 at the mouth of James Greek. Headwaters reached by road dropping down from Two Rock Lookout road. Redwood Products (Willits) key needed to gain access.

OWNERSHIP: Unknown. Redwood Products of Willits has the key to the area.

POSTED OR OPEN: Posted.

IMPROVEMENTS: Remove barriers.

PAST STOCKING: Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE : This section of stream should make an excellent spawning and nursery area.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Remove complete barriers. Keep close watch on future logging operations.

SKETCH MAP: Attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS: Topographic Map: Glenblair and Willits.
Forest Service Map: South Half Mendocino County - 1948
Revised 1950.

NORTH FORK BIG RIVER
UPSTREAM FROM JAMES GREEK - 2 MILES ABOVE JAMES CREEK

Log Jams and Barriers

1. Log jam - partial barrier - 50 yards above mouth of James Creek.
30 ft wide 40 ft long 8 ft high void area 50%.
2. Log jam - partial barrier - 50 yards above barrier #1. A small tributary comes in on the left, 20 ft wide 20 ft long 5 ft high void area 33%.
3. Log jam - complete barrier - 40 yards above barrier #2.
20 ft wide 20 ft long 3 ft high void area 33%.
4. Log debris - potential barrier - 120 yards above barrier #3.
20 ft wide 10 ft long 3 ft high void area 80%.
5. Logs - Potential barrier - 20 yards above barrier #4.
10 ft wide 10 ft long 5 ft high void area 80%.
6. Log jam - potential barrier - 150 yards above barrier #5.
15 ft wide 10 ft long 5 ft high void area 70%.
7. Log jam - complete barrier - 300 yards above barrier #6.
40 ft wide 30 ft long 10 ft high void area 33%.
8. Log jam - complete barrier - 100 yards above barrier #7.
40 ft wide 60 ft long 3 ft high - void area 40%.

From Headwaters to 2 Miles above James Creek

Log jams and Barriers

Remarks: Survey begins at Forks (see map) and proceeds downstream. Watershed has been logged and much old debris is on the banks and in the stream bed. Much of it doesn't present any problem however.

1. Log jam - partial barrier - 20 yards below Forks.
20 ft wide 10 ft long 5 ft high void area 65%.
2. Log jam - complete barrier - 100 yards below barrier #1 at Junction with 1st minor tributary (right side).
20 ft wide 90 ft long 10 ft high void area 50%.
3. Log jam - partial barrier - 50 yards below barrier #2.
30 ft wide 28 ft long 5 ft high void area 65%.
4. Log jam - partial barrier - 50 yards below barrier #3.
20 ft wide 15 ft long 3 ft high void area 80%.
5. Log jam - partial barrier - 50 yards below barrier #4.
20 ft wide 20 ft long 3 ft high void area 65%.
6. Log jam - complete barrier - 100 yards below barrier #5 at Junction with 1st major tributary on the left.
40 ft wide 20 ft long 5 ft high void area 50%.
7. Log jam - partial barrier - 10 yards below barrier #6.
10 ft wide 30 ft long 5 ft high void area 50%.
8. Log jam - partial barrier - 50 yards below barrier #7. Old shack is 10 yards below this point.
20 ft wide 10 ft long 5 ft high void area 75%.
9. Log jam - complete barrier - 50 yards below barrier #8.
20 ft wide 20 ft long 5 ft high void area 50%.
10. See Map and Rowell's notes.

Log jams and Barriers (continued)

10. Logs and small debris - partial barrier - high water flows around end.
30 ft x 20 ft x 3 ft. 50% void area.
11. 30 yards from #1. log - debris and silt
30 ft x 30 ft x 4 ft 40% void.

For 100 yards good gravel - then starts up V canyon choked with logs and brush
Old skid road alongside of stream.
12. Small logs and slash 20 ft x 10 ft x 3 ft 70% void Stream narrows to moderate brush
along stream bed.
13. Tributary to right or north about 1/4 mile from trib No. 4
30 ft x 60 ft x 10 ft 40% void jumble of logs in narrow 7 canyon.
Bottom loose gravel and sand.
14. Huge log jam - 200 yards from #13.
60 ft x 120 ft x 20 ft 40% void lots of short logs 20 ft in length.
15. gravel and sand - .200 yards from #14. complete barrier. Logs and small debris.
35 ft x 30 ft x 3 ft 50% void.
16. 50 ft from #15. mostly debris to one side of stream - silted in-no barrier. first
fish noted.
17. 150 yards from #16, stream choked with logs and small debris and silt. complete
barrier - 30% void. 30 ft x 75 ft x 3 ft.
18. 75 ft below #17. 35 ft x 80 ft x 3 ft. 40% void area logs choking stream complete
barrier.
19. 150 yards from #18. 30 ft x 60 ft x 5 ft. logs choking stream - 50% void. stream
makes a sharp curve.
20. 100 yards from #19. Log - partial barrier. 20 ft x 20 ft x 5 ft 90% void area.
21. 75 ft below #20 - logs on side bend. 15 ft x 10 ft x 4 ft 70% void area no barrier.
22. 100 ft from #21. logs and debris - 15 ft x 10 ft x 3 ft 90% void - partial barrier.
23. 30 ft x 15 ft x 10 ft 50% void area 0 logs choked stream - looks like complete
barrier - 200 yards from #22.
24. 35 ft x 100 ft x 12 ft - 50% void area - logs choking stream - 50 yards below washed
out road crossing.

Jams and Barriers (continued)

25. 50 yards from #24. 30 ft x 100 ft x 10 ft, 50% void area. Log jam & small debris.
26. 25 yards from #25. Logs piled up. 30 ft x 20 ft x 10 ft, 90% void area.
No barrier.
27. 30 ft x 75 ft x 12 ft, 90% void area partial barrier.
28. 100 yards from #27. 35 ft x 100 ft x 10 ft. Logs and debris - 60% void area.
29. 100 yards from #28. scattered logs for 100 yards 99% void. Upper and lower edge complete barrier. Enters steep 7 canyon.
30. 20 ft x 50 ft x 15 ft. Logs and small debris choking stream - 50% void area 300 yards below #29.
31. 50 yards from Tributary #5. Logs, debris and silt - mostly on one side of the stream. No barrier. 20 ft x 40 ft x 10 ft. 60% void area.

Bottom bed rock.

1030 Steep V gulley to the right.

Tributary #6 1035

Steep V gorge 3 cfs flow.

Main stream bedrock - rubble with some gravel - a few fish.

North Fork Big River
T17, R15W, Sec. 28
August 4, 1959

