

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
STREAM SURVEY**

FILE FORM No \_\_\_\_\_

NAME COLD SRINGS CREEK COUNTY Mendocino

STREAM SECTION \_\_\_\_\_ FROM Mouth TO Headwaters LENGTH 2.0 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO Rancheria Creek TWP 14N R 15W SEC 35

OTHER NAMES Unknown RIVER SYSTEM Navarro River

SOURCES OF DATA Personal survey and information from local residents, ranchers, and loggers.

- 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
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- Bottom
- Spawning Areas
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- Shelter
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- RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - The entire drainage was observed, excepting a short 1/2 to 3/4 mile of extreme headwaters which was unable to support fishlife, and was walked out by S. N. Nye and Douglas Stuart on Sept. 20, 1962.

LOCATION - Cold Springs Creek arises off Greenwood Ridge and flows southeast, meandering manner to enter Rancheria Creek approximately 3.5 air miles, southwest of the town of Philo.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Cold Springs Creek is a minor supplier of water to Rancheria Creek, and could not be considered to be usable by anadromous fishlife due to the falls at the mouth.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION-Watershed - Cold Springs Creek drainage is primarily a steep-sided, V-shaped canyon having been heavily logged over in the past and present consisting of redwood and douglas fir.

Immediate Drainage Basin - The immediate drainage basin consisting of steep-sided V-shaped canyon which widens out into a V-shaped canyon then narrows down to a V-shaped, steep-sided canyon, with a primary cover of redwood and douglas fir, now in the second and possibly third growth. Other minor trees consist of scrub oak, some madrone, bay, alder, willow, and brush. Vegetation consists only of aquatic plants in the jammed up areas. Soil consists of sandy-loam-gravel mixture.

Altitude - Range 400 to 1000 ft. with a spread of 600 ft.

Gradient - The 600-ft. spread averages a distance of 1.5 miles or approximately 200 ft. per 1/2 mile section.

Width - Range one foot to 5 feet, average (pool areas up to 15 ft. wide). The overall average width would be 3 ft.

Depth - Range one inch to 3 inches in the stream (5 in. to 2 ft. in the pools). Average depth 2 inches.

Flow - Range 1 gpm to 1/4 cfs with an average of 1/8 cfs. estimated flow.

Velocity - Sluggish to slow throughout, averaging less than 1/2 to maximum of 1 foot per second.

Bottom - The bottom of Cold Springs Creek has received major damage and is broken down in this way. Organic debris consisting of log jams and miscellaneous wood material consisting 70%, silt 10%, mud 1% , sand 5%, gravel 10%, rubble 3%, boulders 1%, and bedrock 1%. In many instances, gravel, sand and silt are stacked up to 30 ft. from the original estimated stream bed.

Spawning Areas - Considered poor overall, with a probability of less than 5% on the overall stream . These areas are located within gravel stretches which are silted in behind large log jams. The longest stretch would be 300 ft. and very few of these with short open stretches of only 20 ft, scattered throughout.

Pools - Range 5 ft. x 7 ft. x 2 ft. to 75 ft. x 15 ft. x 6 in. Average pool 10 ft. x 12 ft. x 1 ft. Mostly caused by and around log jams and log jam - boulder combination. A few pools are from felled trees in the water and frequency of pools and riffles are 2 to 1, riffles over pools.

Shelter - Considered open throughout. There are a few possible shelters consisting of log jams, fallen logs and rubble.

Barriers & Diversions - One large bedrock barrier falls are located 20 yds, above the confluence with Rancheria Creek. It is 12 ft\* at the lowest point and 15 ft. at the highest point being 90 degrees straight up and down falls. See attached barrier and log jam surveys for other barriers\* No diversions were observed.

Temperatures - Air temperature average 66° F. to 67° F.; water temperature average 58° F. thru 59° F.

Food - Considered scarce throughout. A few caddis fly, stone fly larvae were scattered in some areas. Number of larvae consisted of 2 per 4 to 5 sq. ft. area. Considerable flying bugs, gnats, mosquitos and diptera were present.

Aquatic Plants - Only horsetail and considerable algae were observed in the stream.

Winter Conditions - Indications are of a high, rapid runoff with winter banks being up to 80 ft. wide and indications 4 ft. high flows.

Pollution - The only evident pollution was that of the serious and extensive logging damage.

Springs - Springs were quite common throughout and can be considered abundant.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Species rainbow trout/steelhead (?) Size fish range 2 to 3 inches in the majority, with two 6-inch fish observed. Fish were observed 5 to 8 in number per pool with a total of 11 pools with observed fish. Success is considered good for the conditions present. Condition is considered good. Natural propagation, yes. Other Remarks: A resident population is quite possible due to the large barrier bedrock falls at the mouth of the stream. The few fish confined to certain areas of the stream sections were intermittent flow resulting in fish being kept to certain areas and pools. No fish were observed past the main forks on the main part of Cold Springs Creek. No fish were observed past the first jam, approximately 50 ft. up the southwest fork. The fish previously stated was the population for the total stream and it must be considered that due to the conditions and lack of food, more fish were not present. It was impossible to observe and take a number of fish count per 100 ft. of stream section due to the fact that they were confined to pools,

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Consist of frogs, snakes, racoons, deer, and sheep. A few water dogs or salamanders were observed,

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - The only other recreational use which could be determined from the stream would be that of hunting.

ACCESSIBILITY - Two routes are available. One, from Boonville 4.3 miles north on Highway 128 from the Standard Station, then join left on Craig Mill Road located by an old mill, going on out approximately 9 miles to the bridge crossing of Cold Springs Creek. However, I would recommend the use of the second route which is by far the shortest and the best. Continue from the Philo Motel, north on Highway 128, 2.9 miles to the Elk Road turnoff; from the Dago area .7 mile to the upper Dago Creek landing, continuing 1\*3 miles to the main Dago Creek forks; then .2 mile to the Craig Mt. Road. Turn right or upstream of Rancheria Creek and continue 1.2 miles to Cold Springs Creek bridge crossing. The road up the main creek is washed out .75 mile from this bridge. There is another road going up a side tributary which leads to the west or 2,2 miles which goes up and around the side of the mountain and comes out on the extreme headwaters of the West Branch of Cold Springs Creek and the road at this point is washed out. The access on the main heart of the stream is by an old washed out

road which becomes a trail, which could be opened if necessary, for access for clean-up.

OWNERSHIP - Refer to the master list of owners for the Navarro Stream and River Survey section\*

POSTED OR OPEN - The area is heavily posted.

IMPROVEMENTS - No man-made improvements were observed in this entire area.

PAST STOCKING - Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - The general logging damage to this creek is considered extensive and almost unbelievable. One would have to see the damage to believe it. All of the modern forestry practice act and fish and game laws have been violated in the logging of this stream area, consisting of roads built right up the creek bed with cat tractors and large landings constructed wherever desired and at every tributary confluence. In many places the stream has been flattened out and widened out and silted in up to 30 ft. deep from the original creek bed.

There are a few more open gravel areas between the main forks and open end of washed out road.

The south fork is heavily damaged and rises fairly steeply in a series of steps of log jams and bedrock and boulders. The area from the bridge crossing to .7 mile upstream where the road is washed out on the main stream is the area receiving recent logging damage.

Due to the bedrock barrier falls, it is doubtful if RT-SH can make access up this creek. However, I would recommend cleaning out and maintaining this creek as a resident fishery spawning and nursery habitat. The short length of the creek (3 miles available area) does not, in my opinion, warrant the blasting of a bedrock falls. At present the low flows are of a restrictive nature to any expansion of the fish population, coupled along with the evident lack of food supply.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - First step, clean up and remove all wooded material and allow siltation problem to clean out. Second, continue to manage as a resident trout spawning and nursery area,

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - USGS Boonville series 15-minute 1959 Dept. Water Resources, California 7 1/2-minute series 1959. Other information from local ranchers and loggers present on the scene.

Cold Springs Creek  
T 14 N R 15 W S 35

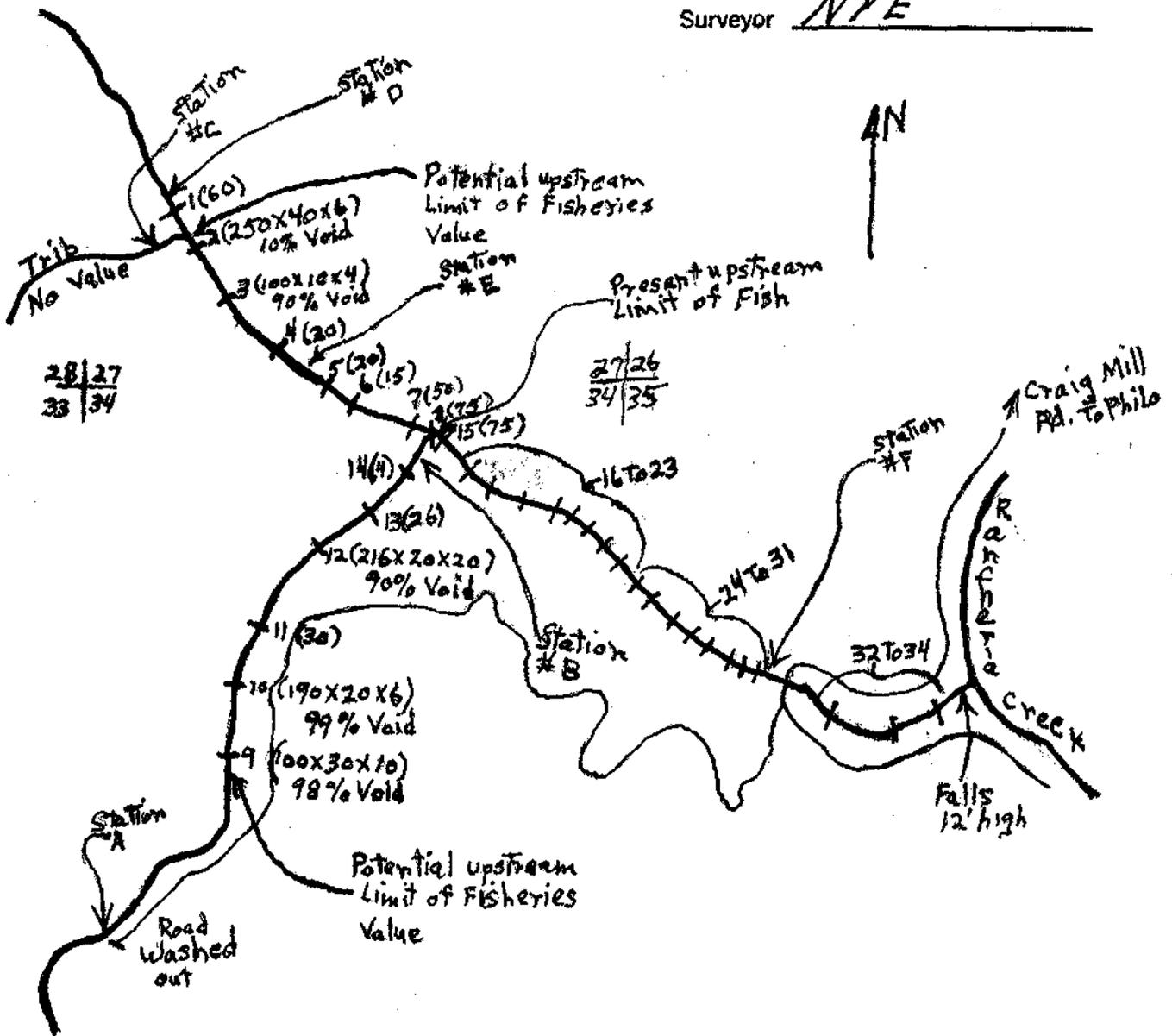
- 16. (20)
- 17. (6)
- 18. (120x20x10)  
90% Void
- 19. (210x15x15)  
95% Void
- 20. (60)
- 21. (40)
- 22. (25)
- 23. (125x15x12)  
90% Void
- 24. (210x20x10)  
95% Void
- 25. (30)
- 26. (120x12x6)  
95% Void
- 27. (60)
- 28. (50)
- 29. (25)
- 30. (145x15x5)  
95% Void
- 31. (60)
- 32. (300x10x6)  
90% Void
- 33. (20)
- 34. (60)

# Cold Springs Creek

T14N R15W S35

## Spawning and Nursery Area in miles

1. Now satisfactory for SH & SS 0
  2. To be improved 2.6 MILES
  3. Available after improvement 2.6 "
- Surveyor NYE



← 1 mi. →

Add 2% for debris between Jams not listed.