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SALMON TROLLERS STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

PRELIMINARY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1990 - JACKSON STATE FOREST

This report is an update to those parties of interest as to the status of the STMA carcass recovery program.

SOUTH FORK NOYO RIVER

Parlin Fork- No live fish were seen in this stream during any of five surveys. Two skeletons were observed. As many as eight redds were observed and one tagged carcass from a January tagging was also found.

South Fork above Egg Station- In this section, five surveys were completed. Live fish sightings were limited to 1 steelhead on the 27th. The number of coho carcasses tagged were 3 on the 5th, 2 on the 9th and 1 on the 21st. Redd counts were as high as 10. Three of the six February tagged fish were recovered the following survey. All live fish and carcasses were found below the confluence of Parlin Fork. Many re-observed tags from earlier tagging continued to be found through February.

North Fork of the South Fork- The North Fork was surveyed five times in February. One live steelhead and one unidentified fish were reported. One coho was tagged and two coho skeletons observed on the 5th. No additional carcasses were found on following surveys. Redd counts were as high as 18. Again, many re-observed tags were found; some were observed as many as seven times.

South Fork below Egg Station - Five surveys were conducted below the Egg Taking Station. Two of those extended down to the mouth of Kass Creek only. Only one live fish was observed prior to the final survey on the 28th when seven steelhead were reported. We tagged 18 carcasses through the first three surveys. None were tagged after the survey on the 15th. Estimates of first re-observation of tagged carcasses were complicated by large numbers of tagged carcasses being found from January tagging surveys. Total tagged carcasses re-observed in the first three surveys were 50, 41, and 54 respectively. One of these had been found nine times; first tagged on the 19th of December and last seen on the 9th of February. One result of the large number of tags present was that in some surveys more tags of a specific color were found than had been tagged during the prior

survey. This could be due to any one or more of five factors; 1, finding fish that had been tagged several weeks prior but not re-observed since; 2, not tagging all re-observed carcasses; 3, shedding of tags; 4, improperly recorded re-observation; or 5, drift of tagged fish entering the South Fork from Kass Creek. The likelihood of any of these is increased as the number of re-observed carcasses increases. Redd counts were as high as 83.

Summary for the South Fork Noyo- The total number of tagged fish in February was 29 on Jackson State Forest. We tagged an additional 5 carcasses Kass Creek.

CASPAR CREEK

Caspar Creek was surveyed twice in February. Out of these two surveys only two live steelhead were observed and two skeletons found. Redd counts were as high as eleven. Both forks and the main stem were surveyed. High turbidity influenced surveys, especially in the south fork and main-stem below the forks.

FUTURE SURVEYS

We do not expect to do any more stream carcass surveys in Jackson State Forest this season.