

ORRS CREEK

MENDOCINO

RUSSIAN RIVER

T. 15 N. R. 13 W. City of Ukiah

No other names known.

RUSSIAN RIVER SYSTEM

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - Orrs Creek surveyed on foot from mouth to upper fish limit, about 6 miles, on August 21, 1972 by R. Klamt and S. Durkee.

LOCATION - Orrs Creek enters the Russian River 1 mile north of the crossing of Perkins Street. This point is also directly across the river from the mouth of Sulphur Creek.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Orrs Creek contributes summer and winter flows to the Russian River and extends steelhead spawning for six miles on that system.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin - Orrs Creek drains a basin of about 10 square miles. It is divided into two sections by vegetation, terrain, and stream condition. The lower section, of about 2 miles, flows through the Ukiah Valley and has a gradient of about 20ft. per mile. The streambed in this section is within the city of Ukiah and contains large amounts of junk in some areas. The upper section of about 4 miles flows through a wide to narrow V-shaped canyon covered with oak-madrone forest and grassland. With a gradient of 150ft. per mile, the streambed in this section is largely gravel with occasional areas of bedrock.

Altitude - At mouth, 600 feet. At headwater, 2080 feet.

Gradient - Overall, 246 ft/mi. Lower 2 mi., 20ft/mi. Upper 4 mi., 150ft/mi.

Width - Average of 3 feet with range from 1 to 6 feet.

Depth - Average of 3 inches with range from 1 to 24 inches.

Flow - Upper section, approx.  $\frac{1}{4}$  cfs. Lower section, intermittent.

Velocity - Sluggish.

Bottom - Lower section: Golfball and marble-sized = 50% of total surface area, pea-sized, sand, and silt = 50%. Upper Section: Bedrock = 75% of total surface area, basketball to marble-sized = 15%, pea-sized, sand, and silt = 10%.

Spawning Area - Average of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of available area.

Pools - Intermittent flow in lower section.

Upper section, pool to riffle ratio = 1:1.

Shelter - Undercut banks, logs, and boulders.

Barriers - One compact log jam and one area of litter. One area of bedrock and boulder comprising a possible fish barrier.

Diversion - None noted.

<u>Temperatures</u> -	<u>6 mi. from mouth</u>	<u>2 mi. from mouth</u>
Air Temp.	72°F.	83°F.
Water Temp.	60°F.	76°F.
Altitude	1200	640
Weather	clear	clear
Time	0930	1535

Food - Caddisfly, diptera, and beetle larvae.

Aquatic Plants - Juncus, Equisetum, nutgrass, Typha, and algae.

Winter Conditions - 1 to 2 feet above summer levels.

Pollution - Residents along stream in Ukiah area.

Springs - Few noted.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Steelhead, Roach, Rainbow trout. Size: SH- 1-3 in. RT- 2-4 in. Abundances: SH in lower - 15/100ft. RT in upper - 10/100ft.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs and salamanders.

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY - Orrs Creek is accessible along most of its length from the Low Gap Road and various small streets in Ukiah.

OWNERSHIP - Unknown.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted.

IMPROVEMENTS - Blasting of fish barrier in 1970.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Orrs Creek offers roughly six miles of good steelhead spawning and nursery grounds. At the present only about 2½ miles of the stream is being used for this purpose. With the removal of the fish barrier 2½ miles upstream from the mouth, it is hoped that more adult salmonids will migrate to the upper reaches of the stream.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Removal of fish barrier and all logging debris in the streambed.

SKETCH MAP - Attached. [sic]

REFERENCES - U.S.G.S. 15 minute series. (Ukiah and Boonville Quads.)  
1961: Scale - 1:62500.