

September 8, 1954

FIELD NOTES

Forsythe Creek
Mendocino County

Chemical treatment to control the rough fish population in Forsythe Creek was begun the morning of September 8th and continued until the evening of September 9th. The treatment was started about midway up the falls, which is located a few miles below the Ridgewood Ranch owned by Welch & Welch. From the falls downstream to the mouth of Kill Creek, this stream runs through a rather narrow gorge filled with boulders and rubble, and is very well shaded. Below the mouth of Mill Creek, the stream flattens out to some extent and the gradient becomes less. About a mile from the mouth, the stream is typically, a lowland stream with a very low flow and wide channel. On this date the flow was estimated at approximately 2 second feet. The stream was flowing into the Russian River, although at that point the flow was less than 1/2 second foot. In addition to Pintler, Messrs. Marble, Beigel, Bravo, Hand, Emory and Stice assisted in the treatment. On the two days involved with treatment, a post check was made of four separate sections of this stream in order to learn the completeness of the kill and the composition of the fish population killed. The first section rechecked was located at a point a short distance up the falls, and running for about 100' downstream. This area consisted of very large boulders up to the size of a small house thru which the stream ran out of sight in several spots. The gradient was very steep, but did not preclude the possibility of rough fish ascending this far. Very few rough fish were seen in this area, however, prior to the treatment. After the treatment, the following fishes were found dead in this 100' section: RT-SH, 93; all of which were catchable size; green sunfish, 5; roach, 19. The second section rechecked is located about one-half mile above the mouth of Mill Creek. The following fishes were found dead in a 100' section of the stream where the canyon was steep, narrow and very well shaded: RT-SH, 35; green sunfish, 2; roach, 85; suckers, 22; smallmouth bass, 12; squawfish, 3; lamprey amocoetes, 31 plus. In addition, one brown trout 9" in length was discovered. The third section re-checked was located in the immediate area of the gravel pits operated by the Granite Construction Company on property leased from Mr. Southworth, owner of Southworth's Inn. In this area, the stream flattened out and became shallow and very slow. There was little or no shade in either of the following two areas rechecked, although there were several pools in these two 100' sections, they were shallow and the bottoms were either silt or sand covered. The third section yielded the following dead fish: RT-SH, 1; smallmouth bass, 8; roach, 223; suckers, 72; squawfish, 14; sticklebacks, 1. In this third section for some reason no lamprey amocoetes were seen. In the fourth section, also in the vicinity of the Granite Construction Company's gravel pits, the following dead fish were checked: smallmouth bass, 4; green sunfish, 3; suckers, 30; squawfish, 21; roach, 17. Lamprey amocoetes were present but extremely scarce and no trout were discovered in any of this 100' stretch.

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