

NAME East Fork of New River Mouth: T. 7N., R. 7E., S. 23 Trinity
 COUNTY Trinity
 TRIBUTARY TO Trinity River via New River Twp. 12N R. 7E Sec. 23

OTHER NAMES...None..... RIVER SYSTEM..... New River .

SOURCES OF DATA Personal observations of John Thomas & Carol Powell and references listed in survey.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

From mouth to 9 miles upstream (9 miles surveyed)
Total length: 13 mi.

- EXTENT OF OBSERVATION
- NAME of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
- LOCATION
- RELATION TO OTHER WATERS
- GENERAL DESCRIPTION
- Watershed
- Immediate Drainage Basin
- Altitude
- Area
- Volume
- Shape
- Shore and Immediate Terrain
- Bottom
- Depth
- Fluctuation
- Aquatic Plants
- Flood
- Winter Conditions
- Pollution
- Temperatures
- Inlets
- Outlets
- PIST%&NT AND SUCCESS
- OTHER VERTEBRATE
- FISHING INTENSITY (Shore, Boats)
- OTHER RECREATIONAL USE
- ACCESSIBILITY
- OWNERSHIP
- POSTED OR OPEN
- IMPROVEMENTS
- PAST STOCKING
- GENERAL ESTIMATE
- RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
- SKETCH MAP
- REFERENCES AND MAPS
- NAME OF DAM
- OWNERSHIP
- DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
- TYPE OF DAM
- HEIGHT OF DAM
- ig&-Si *ggE\$#.,
- SCREENS
- USE OF WATER

The East Fork of New River has a drainage area of about 45 square miles. It heads at an elevation of 6,400 feet in the vicinity of Mullane Corral and Election Camp. The northern most part of the drainage is divided by the Siskiyou-Trinity County Line. This is also the Wilderness Area Boundry. The eastern part of the drainage is bounded by Limestone Ridge, and the western side by the Pony Buttes and Bake Oven Ridge. The southern part of the drainage is bounded by Jim Jam Ridge. The stream flows mainly in a south to south-west direction for 12.5 miles to the main stem of New River at elevation 1,650 feet. In the headwaters the stream drops 800 feet the first mile for a 15.1 percent grade. This area is fairly flat up on the south ridge in the vicinity of Mullane Corral, and is characterized by timber and small meadow areas. As the stream leaves the vicinity of Mullane Corral it drops rapidly the next mile 1,200 feet for a 22.7 percent grade. The next four miles of stream to Cabin Creek the stream drops 1,300 feet for a 6.1 percent grade. The final 6.5 miles of stream from Cabin Creek to the confluence with New River the stream drops 2,700 feet for a 3.1 percent grade.

The canyon through which the East Fork of New River flows is very steep sided; however, the stream is easy to walk in the summer months from at least from the Pony Lake-Cabin Creek trail crossing on downstream. Our survey did not involve hiking the stream above this point. Much of the bed of the stream above Cabin Creek is bedrock with large boulders and rocks. Spawning gravel is scarce in this area, but there is enough for some spawning. From Cabin Creek downstream there is also alot of bedrock in the streambed, but there is much more rock and rubble in the stream.

There are three main tributaries entering the East Fork--Cabin Creek, the South Fork of the East Fork, and Pony Creek. Pony Creek and the South Fork are the largest. Surveys were made on these streams on the way downstream, and these data are filed under their respective headings.

The vegetation mainly found in the surveyed area was Douglas fir, incense cedar, alder and maple. Also found in the drainage in minor amounts were yew, madrone, hazel nut and redbud. In the lower portion of the drainage California black oak becomes a prominent species. The very upper portion of the drainage consists of stands of red fir, western white pine and incense cedar. Red fir is the predominant species in the area from Pony Lake to Mullane Corral.

It is not known how far steelhead go to spawn in the upper reaches of the drainage; however, one adult summer steelhead was observed just below the mouth of the South Fork of the East Fork of New River. and fingerling and yearling RT/SR were in good numbers all the way from the Pony Lake-Cabin Creek trail crossing on downstream.

Shelter is excellent throughout the drainage except for a small stretch from just above Fall Creek to the mouth. This portion of the stream was exposed to direct sunlight as the result of the Jim Jam Ridge fire in 1952. This destroyed the overstory of vegetation over the stream and raised water temperatures through this area. The stream above this point is well shaded by overhanging trees. Shelter is also provided by exposed tree roots and undercut bedrock banks. Large boulders and rocks offer sheltered areas mainly below Cabin Creek.

Only one main barrier was noted in the survey area (Photo in Weaverville File). This barrier is just over 1/4 mile above the mouth of Cabin Creek. Although measurements were not taken of the falls here, it is estimated that it is about 8 feet from the top of the falls to the base. The problem is caused by a bedrock shelf that the water pours over into the pool below. There is a possibility that some steelhead may pass over this barrier during times of heavy rainfall. Photos in Weaverville file.

Diversions

None

Temperatures

The following spot temperature checks were made:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Air</u>
Pony Lk.-Cabin Cr. trail jct.	7-31-73	14:08	65° F	83° F
Unnamed tributary by trail	7-31-73	14:06	64° F	83° F
2nd unnamed trib. by trail	7-31-73	14:25	62° F	83° F
1 mile below trail junction	7-31-73	16:35	68° F	91° F
E. Fk. above Cabin Cr.	8-1-73	09:12	62° F	65° F
Cabin Creek	8-1-73	09:12	58° F	65° F
E. Fk. just below Cabin Cr.	8-1-73	09:12	62° F	65° F
Unnamed trib. below Cabin Cr.	8-1-73	12:00	63° F	84° F
E. Fk. just above South Fk.	8-1-73	18:20	71° F	90° F
S. Fk. of East Fork	8-1-73	18:45	63° F	76° F
E. Fk. just below South Fk.	8-1-73	18:15	63° F	89° F
E. Fk. just above Pony Cr.	8-2-73	08:50	63° F	63° F
Pony Creek near mouth	8-2-73	08:50	63° F	63° F
E. Fk. just below Pony Cr.	8-2-73	08:50	63° F	63° F
Whiskey Creek	8-2-73	10:30	52° F	73° F
E. Fk. by bridge nearest car	8-2-73	11:05	66° F	82° F

Air temperatures were comfortable usually until around 11:00 in the morning, then became extremely hot for the rest of the day; . While direct sunlight was shining in the canyon the walking became quite fatiguing in the open areas.

Food

Excellent food supply present. Caddis fly larvae, mayfly larvae, stonefly larvae, dragonfly larvae. A large amount of terrestrial insects coming off the overstory and landing in the water. Surface feeding was often seen while walking downstream.

Aquatic Plants

None observed.

Winter Conditions

Flow at time of survey was estimated at 15 cubic feet per second (cfs) below the mouth of Pony Creek. The winter scour line in this area indicated the water level would be 3 to 5 feet above this low summer flow. Some areas where the canyon is constricted, and the stream bed is all bedrock, the winter scour line is 6 to 8 feet above the summer flow level. Because of the high flows during the winter, there is a good possibility that the barrier above Cabin Creek is only a barrier during moderate winter flows.

Pollution

None observed.

Springs ,

No observations along surveyed area. The trail from Pony Lake to the East Fork of New River is completely lacking for any water except for an unnamed tributary within 100 yards of the junction of the trail with the East Fork. This trail is very steep and water should be carried going up toward Pony Lake if you are on foot.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS

RT/SH were present throughout the surveyed area. They ranged in size from about 2 inches to 8.5 inches. One observation of a female steelhead was made just below the mouth of the South Fork of the East Fork of New River (see map). This was a summer steelhead estimated to weigh about 4 pounds. It is possible that some of the fish above the barrier are resident HT. The abundance, success and condition of the RT/SH in the survey area was good. The stream appears to be mainly utilized as a steelhead nursery area. Spawning appears to be adequate although not a great deal of spawning gravel was noted. The stream is also used as a holding area for summer steelhead; although, the main New River in the vicinity of Virgin Creek Guard Station appears to be the main area of concentration of these fish. Human activity in the East Fork probably limits the adult summer steelhead habitat due to fishing or poaching as the trail travels close to the stream and it is easy to spot these fish in the deeper pools.

OTHER VERTEBRATES

The usual assemblage of deer and small wildlife. Large salamanders were noted in the stream. One in the pool just below the mouth of Cabin Creek was very aggressive. A trout we caught for dinner was cleaned and put in the water near shore. In less than a minute one of these salamanders had found it and had it half eaten. This one was about 10 inches long, had external gills, a large mouth with teeth, a tail with a fin, was $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide across the back. Its coloration was dark brown, mottled with yellow, irregular spots. It had fourlimbs. It looked similar to a tiger salamander, Ambystoma tigrinum.

FISHING INTENSITY

Pressure is evidently very light. However, there are several cabins in the area, and two of them were occupied at the time of our survey (Gunther's and Scott's--see map). Both parties seemed to be fairly familiar with the fishery of the area, and had reported fishing for trout (RT/SH). I suspect that summer steelhead might be caught in the areas of these cabin sites.

ACCESSIBILITY

The following time checks were made while going into the area:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Accumulative Time</u>
Weaverville	0	0
Hawkins Bar	55 minutes	55 minutes
Denny	45 minutes	1 hr. 40 minutes
U.S.F.S. Corral	15 minutes	1 hr. 55 minutes
End of road and start of trail	5 minutes	2 hrs.
Start of trail (time by horse)	0	0
Whiskey Creek	23 minutes	23 minutes
Unknown tributary (cabin present)	17 minutes	40 minutes
Whites Creek	15 minutes	55 minutes
Pony Creek trail junction	6 minutes	1 hr. 1 minute

From here we traveled to Pony Buttes (see Pony Lake file for times). It took us about 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours to come down the very steep trail from near Pony Lake to the East Fork of New River. The walking time from the junction of this trail with the East Fork on down the stream to Cabin Creek was about 4.5 hours. No trail here, but walking not too difficult. The trail from Cabin Creek downstream should be changed slightly on the maps as it is in error. Note these changes on enclosed map. Also note the new trail going from Pony Creek toward Pony Lake.

OWNERSHIP

All streams and lakes in the survey area are located in the Trinity National Forest and parts of Pony Creek and the area of the East

Fork of New River above **Semore** Gulch are part of the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area. The cabins in use along the East Fork are on mining claims, and their use is to be used for mining purposes only. The entire survey area is open to public use.

IMPROVEMENTS

A trail parallels the East Fork all the way to Cabin Creek. This area has **seen** much mining activity in the **past** years. Miners began to work the gravels in the 1850's, and very large mining operations took place in the drainage in the 1870's, 80's and 90's. Pony Creek was heavily mined in the early days, and there are many large areas where all the rock had been removed from the stream in past years. This is in evidence all the way to the headwaters of the drainage. Six sample sites were chosen by the Geological Survey in 1969 and 1970. These samples showed that gold occurring in cents per cubic yard amounted to just traces at Station 5 to 1.6 at Station 1. This same survey showed that the recorded production from placer operations in the East Fork and its tributaries totals 310 ounces of gold. The report further states that the East Fork New River drains an area underlain by metavolcanic, metasedimentary, and ultramafic rocks. Most bedrock benches along this fork are 10-25 feet above stream level and are overlain by 5-12 feet of gravel. The placers are generally narrow and of limited volume because of the steep canyon walls and moderately steep stream gradients. In some sections of both the East Fork New River and Pony Creek, the stream flows through narrow gorges where there is no gravel.

The impression we got while making this survey was that the cabin., owners-are not actively seeking gold, but are rather individuals that wish to get away from other people and live a life of solitude. We could see no signs of active mining; or for that matter, any extensive mining equipment other than a gold pan. The two cabin owners that we talked with were working on there cabins, and **one** spent some time with his vegetable garden.

PAST STOCKING

None.

GENERAL ESTIMATE

This is a major spawning and nursery stream for steelhead. It is also a holding area for summer steelhead at least as far upstream as the South Fork of the East Fork of New River.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

Continue to manage stream as a valuable spawning, rearing and holding area for steelhead. The barrier above Cabin Creek should be removed or modified. Section 4(d)(8) of the Wilderness Act states: "(8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several states with respect

to wildlife and fisheries in the National Forests." The language of this subsection is particularly important when we recognize that it is number 8 in a list of activities that are specifically exempted from the general restrictions of the Wilderness Act. The regions of the South Fork of the East Fork and the upper East Fork not surveyed should be checked soon for other barriers, and the upstream limits of steelhead.

REFERENCES AND MAPS

- U.S.F.S. Trinity National Forest Map
 U.S.G.S. 15' quads for Ironside Mtn., Salmon Mtn., Cecilville and Helena.
 U.S.G.S. Survey Bulletin 1371-B, Studies Related to Wilderness Primitive Areas, Salmon-Trinity Alps, California, pp. **B82-B86** U.S. Printing Office, Washington, 1972.
 Sudworth, George B., Forest Trees of the Pacific Slope.
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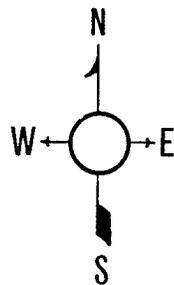
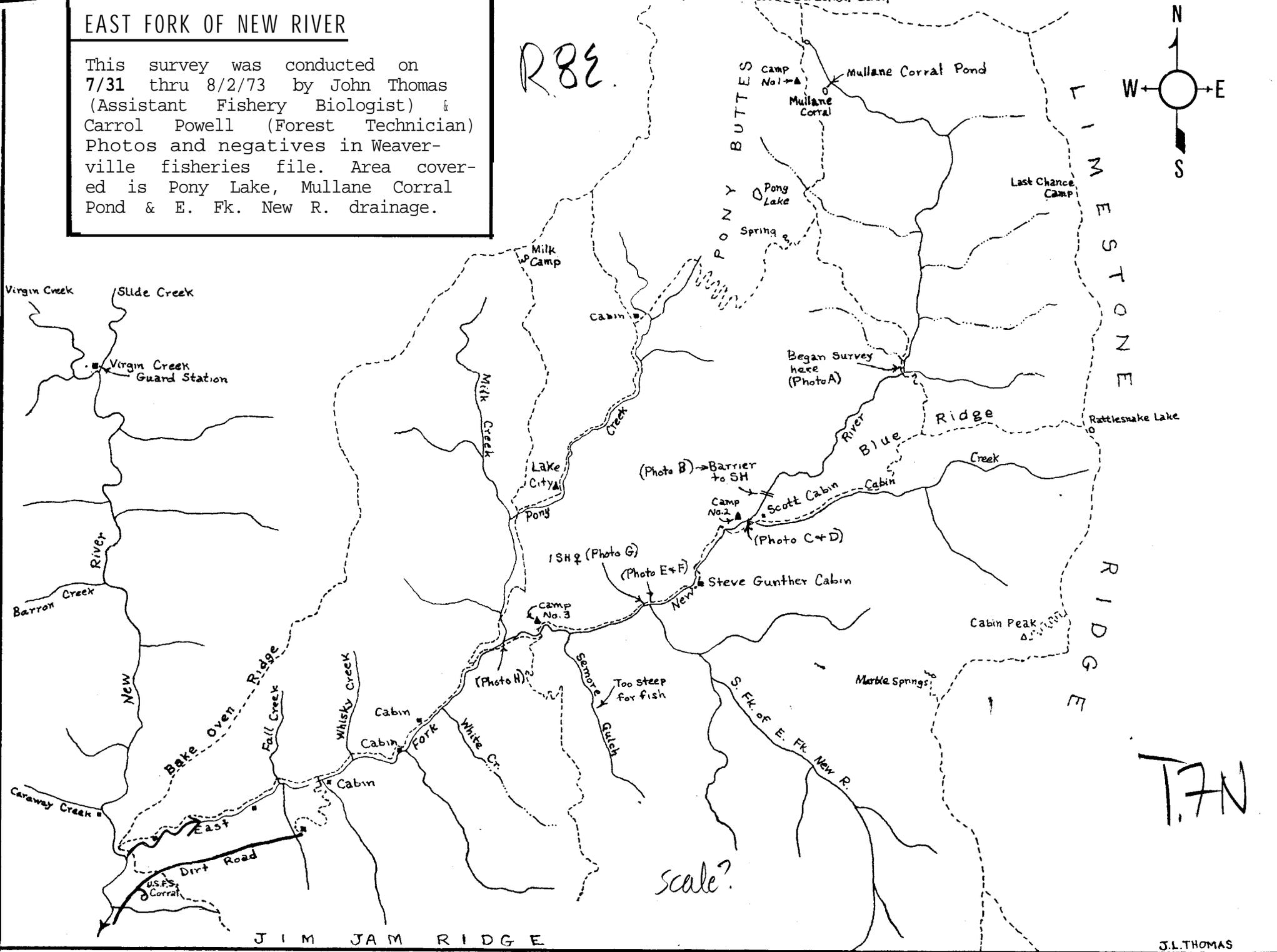
&k.& *L. Thomas*

John L. Thomas
 Assistant Fishery Biologist

EAST FORK OF NEW RIVER

This survey was conducted on 7/31 thru 8/2/73 by John Thomas (Assistant Fishery Biologist) & Carrol Powell (Forest Technician) Photos and negatives in Weaver-ville fisheries file. Area covered is Pony Lake, Mullane Corral Pond & E. Fk. New R. drainage.

R82.



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