

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.....

NAME..... NORTH FORK BIG RIVER.....COUNTY.....Mendocino.....
 STREAM SECTION.....FROM.....North Fk. Camp.....TO.....James Creek.....LENGTH.....6 mi.....
 TRIBUTARY TO.....Big River.....Twp.....17N.....R.....15W.....Sec.....28-29.....
 OTHER NAMES.....none.....RIVER SYSTEM.....Big River.....
 SOURCES OF DATA.....Personal Observations.....

- 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
- Flow (Range)
- Velocity
- Bottom
- Spawning Areas
- Pools
- Shelter
- Barriers
- Diversions
- Temperatures
- Food
- Aquatic Plants
- Winter Conditions
- Pollution
- Springs
- FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS
- OTHER VERTEBRATES
- FISHING INTENSITY
- OTHER RECREATIONAL USE
- ACCESSIBILITY
- OWNERSHIP
- POSTED OR OPEN
- IMPROVEMENTS
- PAST STOCKING
- GENERAL ESTIMATE
- RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
- SKETCH MAP
- REFERENCES AND MAPS

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION- The stream section between the mouth of East Branch and James Creek was checked out on 11-3-58 by R.F. Elwell. The entire North Fork was previously flown out on 10-16-58.

LOCATION- North Fork heads on the southern mountainous slopes approximately 5 miles west of Willits, flows south and west and enters Big River approximately 4-5 miles south of Dunlap.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS- This fork is part of the Big River drainage that serves as an important spawning and nursery grounds for anadromous fish.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin- This branch of Big River lies in a typical redwood coastal drainage. The immediate section observed lies in a fairly large, well-wooded, mountainous canyon with dense alder-conifer-tan oak shade in the upper and mid-sections. The immediate stream channel ranges from narrow steep-walled to gorge sections to more open canyon development.

Altitude-

Gradient - Moderate throughout the entire section.

Width- Average 15 ft. (6-25ft.).

Depth - Average 8 in. (4in.-2 ft.).

Flow - Flows on this date ranged between 8 and 10 c.f.s.

Velocity -Rapid to cascading throughout the sections surveyed.

Bottom - Predominately gravel and small rubble throughout.

Spawning Areas - Considered to be very good to excellent throughout the entire section surveyed.

Pools - Very good pool development. Some pools average 20 ft. x 20 ft. x 10 ft. in depth.

Shelter - Very good, mainly in the form of undercut banks, rock, and streamside vegetation.

Barriers -Two log jams that may develop into barriers were observed in the section of the drainage. 1. Four cut logs, approximately 4 ft. in diameter are jammed in a narrow gorge section approximately 200 ft. below the |TS-3 road bridge crossing (see sketch map). A serious barrier to fish life could result at this point in the future. 2. A small amount of debris has piled up against a large log lying across the channel (10ft. above the streambed level). While no barrier at the present, it is a potential site. This debris is located approximately ¼ mile above North Fork Camp.

Diversions - None observed.

Temperatures - Maximum water temperatures probably range well below 70° F. during the summer in the well-shaded portions of the stream.

Food - Native insects and larvae, caddis and mayfly, common throughout.

Aquatic Plants - None observed.

Winter Conditions - This tributary appears to be subject to heavy runoff flows.

Pollution - No pollution of any type observed.

Springs - Spring development good.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Salmonids averaging 3-6 inches in length were observed to be very common throughout the section. Their success is considered to be very good. Sticklebacks averaging 1.5 inches in length were also present throughout the drainage in lesser number. No other rough fish of any description were observed. Particular note was taken of this section of the drainage in regards to the large sucker population reported present within the Big River drainage. None were observed.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Salamanders and frogs quite common throughout the drainage.

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - None known.

ACCESSIBILITY - The mid-and upper sections of the drainage are accessible via Highway 20 between Willits and Ft. Bragg. The lower section of the drainage is accessible via fire access road TS-3 which intersects Highway 20 approximately one mile west of Dunlap.

OWNERSHIP - Unknown.

POSTED OR OPEN - Open.

IMPROVEMENTS - THE LOG JAM AND DEBRIS NOTED UNDER BARRIERS SHOULD BE removed before they become complete barriers to fish life.

PAST STOCKING - None known.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - This tributary appears to be an excellent spawning and nursery area for anadromous fishes in the Big River drainage.

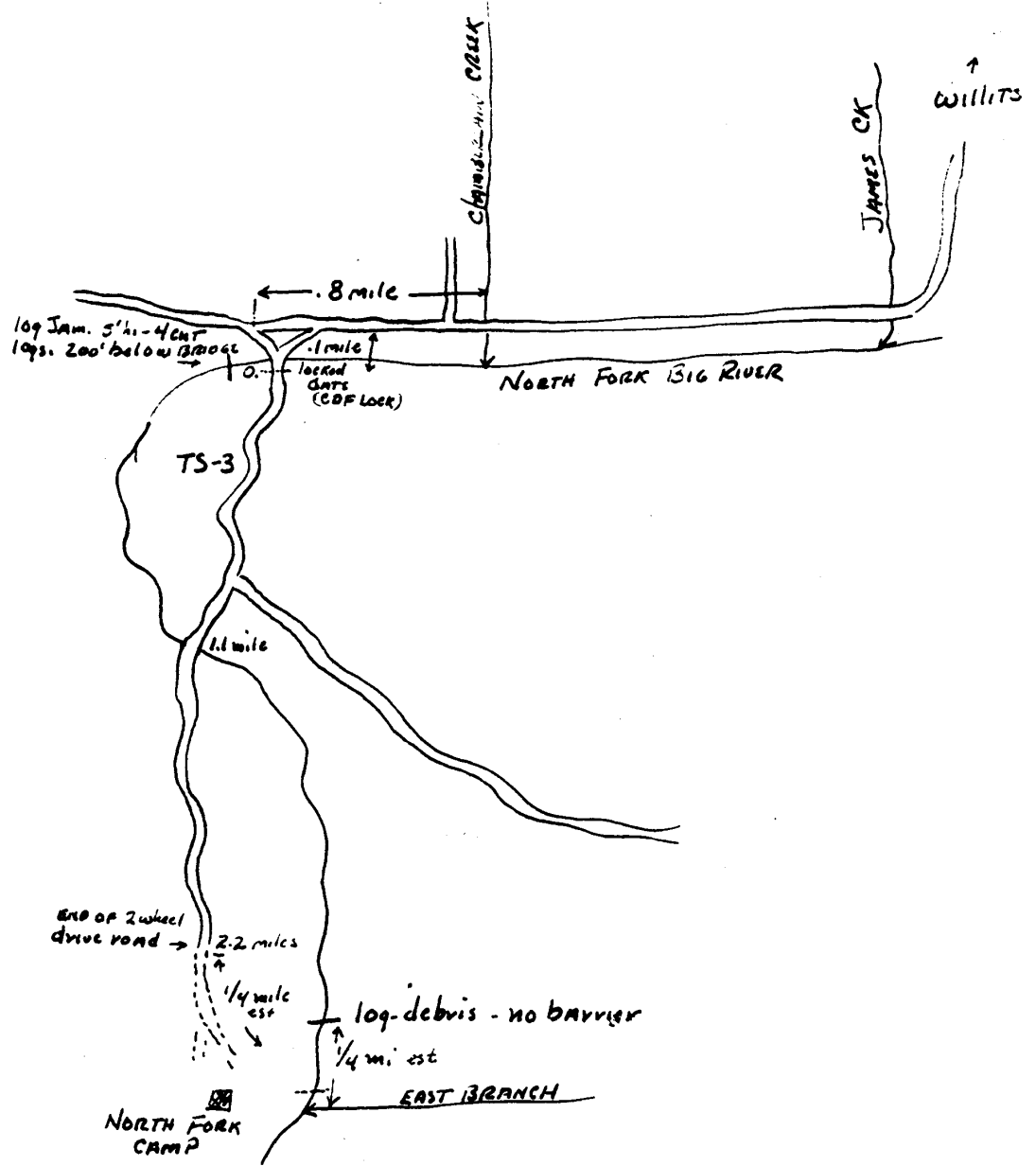
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - It is recommended that this branch continue to be managed primarily as an anadromous spawning and nursery area. It is further recommended that efforts be made to have log jams noted in this report removed. Since they are within the boundaries of Jackson State Forest, there is a possibility the removal can be effected through the use of the Forest Service personnel at the Parlin Fork Honor Camp. This possibility should be investigated.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - Mendocino County CDF south half 1948.

R.F. Elwell:cd

NORTH FORK BIG RIVER
MENDOCINO COUNTY
11-3-58 RFE



NORTH FORK BIG RIVER

(From James Creek to East Branch)

Jams and Barriers

1. 40 ft long 25 ft wide 4 ft high 95% void area log jam
2. 60 ft Long 30 ft wide 5 ft high 90% void area log Jam
3. 30 ft long 20 ft wide 4 ft high 95% void area log Jam
4. 40 ft long 20 ft wide 3 ft high 85% void area log jam
5. 30 ft long 15 ft wide 10 ft high 80% void area log and slash
6. 200 ft long 50 ft wide 20 ft high 95% void area fallen redwood trees & logs.
7. 20 ft 1 long 35 ft wide 15 ft high 40% void area fallen redwood trees & logs.
8. 20 ft long 30 ft wide 10 ft high 99% void area fallen redwood trees & logs.