

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.

NAME..... WEST FORK JAMES CREEKCOUNTY..... Mendocino

STREAM SECTION.....FROM..... mouthTO..... headwatersLENGTH..... 2 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO..... James CreekTwp..... 18NR..... 15WSec..... 35

OTHER NAMES..... None KnownRIVER SYSTEM..... Big River

SOURCES OF DATA..... Personal observations, State Forestry personnel

- 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 - This tributary was walked out from the mouth upstream to the headwaters on Dec. 9, 1958 by James Morehouse

LOCATION - Heads in Jackson State Forest, flows south and east and enters James Creek approx. 2 miles northeast of Dunlap.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - A small tributary within the Big River drainage that in past years has served as an excellent steelhead spawning water. Its present value has been reduced due to poor logging practices and road building operations.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin - Typical virgin redwood forest. This tributary lies primarily within virgin forest area and drains no immediate roads or other projects.

Altitude-

Gradient -

Width - Average 12 ft. (3-30 ft.).

Depth - Averages 4 in. (1-1/2 in. - 2 ft.).

Flow - Average 1-1/2 c.f.s. (1/4 to 1-1/2 c.f.s.).

Velocity - Rapid to sluggish, averaging rapid throughout.

Bottom - Mostly gravel-rubble and rubble-gravel. Some silt in the lower section of the creek and some mud in the bottom near the headwaters.

Spawning Areas - It felt that a comparatively large areas of medium to good spawning gravels in the upper reaches of this tributary.

Pools - Common throughout, averaging 4 ft. wide x 4 ft. long x 1 ft. deep to 10 ft. wide x 30 ft. long by 2 ft. deep.

Shelter - Good to excellent mainly in the form of undercut bank, riparian growth and fallen trees.

Barriers - A great many log jams are present throughout the entire stream section. Most of these appear to be partial barriers the present but could become permanent barriers in the future.

Diversions - None observed.

Temperatures -

Food - Common throughout. Mostly Caddis fly and unknown diptera-like larvae.

Aquatic Plants - None observed

Winter Conditions -

Pollution - The road building activities, as far as they go on this tributary at the present, are well on their way to reducing the stream to the plight of James Creek proper, in regard to silting and log jams.

Springs -

WEST FORK JAMES CREEK
Mendocino

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Salmonids averaging 1-3 inches in length are common in the lower 3/4 of the stream. Their success is considered good and natural propagation satisfactory. There appeared to be a great many fish in this tributary.

OTHER VERTEBRATES -

FISHING INTENSITY - State Forestry personnel have reported that many good sized trout were caught in this tributary before it was closed 2 or 3 years ago.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - None known.

ACCESSIBILITY - A state logging road follows the creek about half-way up the drainage. It would be put through in the near future as this area is to be logged off next year.

OWNERSHIP - Lies entirely within the Jackson State Forest.

POSTED OR OPEN - No posted areas observed.

IMPROVEMENTS - See recommendations.

PAST STOCKING -

GENERAL ESTIMATE - This tributary appears to be satisfactory as a spawning and nursery stream for anadromous fish.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - I do not feel qualified to make any practical suggestions concerning this tributary. Since this tributary appears to have considerable fisheries potential, I would suggest an effort be made to work closely with Forestry personnel during the coming year when they are to be extending their road building activities and logging in this area, to preserve what remains of the spawning and nursery areas in the stream (Elwell).

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - CDF Mendocino County South half 1948.

This stream survey was dictated for Morehouse by Elwell.

R.F.Elwell/cd
12-24-58

WEST FORK OF JAMES CREEK

1. 15 ft long 5 ft wide 10 ft high 95% void - fallen trees.
2. 10 ft long 6 ft wide 5 ft high 40% void area fallen trees.
3. 20 ft long 8 ft wide 8 ft high 90% void area fallen trees and slash.
4. 9 ft long 6 ft wide 3 ft high 30% void barrier, trees, roots, slash.
5. 25 ft long 5 ft wide 4 ft high 90% void roots and slash.
6. 20 ft long 10 ft wide 6 ft high 85% void fallen trees and slash.
7. 4 ft long 10 ft wide 4 ft high 30% void fallen trees and slash.
8. 25 ft long 6 ft wide 6 ft high 70% void fallen trees and slash
9. 8 ft long 7 ft wide 4 ft high 50% void fallen trees and slash.
10. 10 ft long 10 ft wide 2 ft high 85% void fallen trees and slash.
11. 15 ft long 10 ft wide 6 ft high 99% void area fallen trees and slash.
12. 100 ft long 20 ft wide 10 ft high 99% void fallen trees and slash.
13. 20 ft long 20 ft wide 10 ft high 90% void fallen trees and slash.
14. 10 ft long 20 ft wide 10 ft high 90% void fallen trees and slash.
15. 30 ft long 10 ft wide 10 ft high 95% void fallen trees and slash.
16. 20 ft long 10 ft wide 6 ft high 80% void fallen trees and slash.
17. 20 ft lone 20 ft wide 10 ft high 95% void area fallen trees and slash.
18. 20 ft long 9 ft wide 6 ft high 80% void area fallen trees and slash.
19. 30 ft long 20 ft wide 10 ft high 90% void fallen trees and slash.
20. 12 ft long 20 ft wide 6 ft high 70% void fallen trees and slash.
21. 8 ft long 20 ft wide 10 ft high 40% void fallen trees and slash.
22. 20 ft long 20 ft wide 20 ft high 95% void fallen trees and slash.
23. 25 ft long 25 ft wide 20 ft high 75% void fallen trees and slash.
24. 10 ft long 20 ft wide 3 ft high 70% void fallen trees and slash.
25. 30 ft long 20 ft wide 10 ft high 85% void fallen trees and slash.
26. 10 ft long 20 ft wide 3 ft high 60% void fallen trees and slash,
27. 4 ft long 20 ft wide 4 ft high 30% void fallen trees and slash.
28. 20 ft long 20 ft wide 5 ft high 90% void fallen trees and slash.

Jams and barriers (continued)

29. 9 ft long 10 ft wide 5 ft high - 60% void area fallen trees and slash.
30. 20 ft long 10 ft wide 2 ft high 40% void area fallen trees and slash.
31. One large douglas fir in creek bed.
32. 6 ft long 20 ft wide 8 ft high 60% void area fallen trees and slash.
33. 40 ft long 20 ft wide 5 ft high 70% void area fallen trees and slash.
34. 15 ft long 20 ft wide 4 ft high 75% void area fallen trees and slash.
35. 7 ft long 7 ft wide 3 ft high 50% void area fallen trees and slash.
36. 15 ft long 10 ft wide 6 ft high 70% void area fallen trees and slash.
37. 30 ft long 20 ft wide 5 ft high 99% void area fallen trees and slash.
38. 20 ft long 30 ft wide 5 ft high 70% void area fallen trees and slash.
39. 9 ft long 20 ft wide 3 ft high 30% void area fallen trees and slash.

All of these jams are natural windfalls. Most of this tributary is within virgin forest. The extreme headwaters has been logged and there are road building operations near the mouth. There is serious silting from the road near the mouth.