

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.....

NAME..... Mitchell Creek COUNTY..... Mendocino

STREAM SECTION..... FROM..... Headwaters TO..... Mouth LENGTH..... 4 miles

TRIBUTARY TO..... Pacific Ocean Twp..... 18N R..... 18W Sec..... 25

OTHER NAMES..... Unknown RIVER SYSTEM..... -

SOURCES OF DATA..... Personal Observation

- 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 stream was walked out from .1 mile above the headwater forks to the mouth, a distance of 3.3 miles on Dec. 29, 1959 by S. N. Nye

LOCATION: This stream is located about 2.4 miles south of the Noyo river bridge on highway 1, near Fort Bragg, Calif.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS: An unimportant coastal stream.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

WATERSHED: A typical north coastal stream covered with Redwood, Douglas Fir and other types of minor forest. Alder Willow, Oak, Bay, Madrone and brush, blackberry bush & other stream side growths.

IMMEDIATE DRAINAGE BASIN: This stream rises North and East of the town of Cossper, about 4 miles East of the coast and flows West and North by West to the ocean, thru a canyon which varies from a steep V shaped to a wider and U shape and back and forth on down to the mouth. This stream has been heavily logged over.

ALTITUDE: Unknown

GRADIENT: Moderate in headwaters to shallow in lower section.

WIDTH: 1 foot to 10 feet, Average 3 feet.

DEPTH: 4 inches to 3 feet, " 1 foot.

FLOW: .3 to 1.2 cfs. Average .7 cfs.

VELOCITY: Rapid through out except behind silted in log jams.

BOTTOM: Mud & silt for most part. Quite a bit of bedrock in sections, very little gravel.

SPAWNING AREAS: None to poor. Average- almost none.

POOLS: Abundant, 2' x 3' x 1' to 10' x 30' x 4'; Average - 4' x 8' x 2-1/2'.
Bedrock, natural, logjam pools, tree stumps, and under bank pools.

SHELTER: Excellent through out. Heavy stream side and overhead growth and cover. Brush, blackberry and thorned bushes extremely entangled over stream and in stream bed. Stream side small trees, as well as large trees, as stated above, and including those listed under pools.

BARRIERS: See attached sheet.

DIVERSIONS: "

TEMPERATURES: Air, 48-52, Average - 50., Water, 43 (constant)

FOOD: None observed.

T-18N, R 18W, S 25 Mitchell Creek stream Survey, Mendocino County, Conti:

AQUATIC PLANTS: Rush, tules and other stream side weeds.

WINTER CONDITIONS: Mild with high & rapid runoff of freshets; sectional measurement of high water marks, stream width 10' bank- 4' high .

POLLUTION: Logging damage, only type seen.

SPRINGS: Abundant.

FISHES PRESENT & SUCCESS: None seen, evidently no success.

OTHER VERTEBRATES: None seen.

FISHING INTENSITY: Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE: Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY: Accessible near mouth by highway # 1., and near headwater forks off Simpson Lane. A logging road and residence road cross creek. Located 1 mile south of Noyo river bridge on highway #1. Go east on Simpson Lane 2.4 miles to Mitchell creek road, turn right or South and go .8 mile to creek.

OWNERSHIP: Many owners, the name Porree Brothers and Danials taken off equipment used in logging area.

POSTED OR OPEN: Posted for the most part.

IMPROVEMENTS: None seen, only extensive damage.

PAST STOCKING: Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE: The overall damage to this stream from recent logging is terrible. The headwater area is heavily damaged from old and recent logging. It is filled in with debris, mud, brush and is heavily overgrown. There is a short area below the headwaters forks, around the falls, which is in fair shape. The middle section is completely destroyed, and the stream is not even visible in many areas. There is a couple of scattered areas above the highway which are not in bad shape, the rest is damaged and closely overgrown on down to the mouth.

There are only a very few short stretches of poor spawning gravel left, and this along with the extensive damage and not having seen any fish leave only one conclusion. This stream at the present time is of No Fishery Value.

The access along and thru this stream was almost impassable and unbearable due to the extreme overgrowth of blackberry bushes, brambles and large thorn bushes and brush. It rendered the writer many bruises, cuts, scratches and small thorns left imbedded in the skin while trying to force a path thru the creek bed, fighting, and crawling all thru most of the heavy overgrowth, approximately 2/3 of the distance.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: This stream could be cleaned out and rehabilitated, but the cost would be very high. It would depend upon the economic factors involved at the time that such a project might be undertaken to save a few small coastal stream for Anadromous Fishery, when the California Water Plan is completed, or well under way.

SKETCH MAP: See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS: Personal observation, and C.D.F. 1948, Mendocino County South Half.