

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.....

NAME..... RUSSELL BROOK CREEK.....COUNTY.....Mendocino.....
 STREAM SECTION.....FROM.....mouth.....TO.....extreme headwaters.....LENGTH.....4-1/2 mi.
 TRIBUTARY TO.....Big River.....Twp.....17N.....R.....15W.....Sec.....26
 OTHER NAMES.....Unknown.....RIVER SYSTEM.....Big River
 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
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- Aquatic Plants
- Winter Conditions
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- 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
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - This stream was walked out from the mouth to the headwaters section for a distance of four miles on August 5, 1959 by S. N. Nye.

LOCATION- This stream heads northwest of Greenough Ridge and flows northwest into the Big River, approx. 2-3/4 miles northeast of the confluence of Big River and the South Fork of Big River.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS- This is a minor but good spawning and nursery tributary for the anadromous fishes of Big River.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -Watershed - This area is typical of the coastal drainage amongst heavily forested redwood, douglas fir associated terrain. This area has been logged over in the past.

Immediate Drainage Basin - This stream flows through a steep-sided V. shape canyon which widens out near the upper area then narrows down to a steep-sided canyon near the extreme headwaters section. This area is heavily forested with redwood, douglas fir, madrone, alder, willow, bay and small amounts of oak. Soils consist of typical forested floor with no cultivation or other vegetation. Shade is excellent. The side tributaries rise steeply exhibiting falls at their mouths. They appear to be of little fishery value.

Altitude - Unknown.

Gradient - Moderate to steep throughout.

Width - Average 4 ft. (2 ft. to 10 ft.)

Depth -Average 4 inches (1 inch to 12 inches).

Flow - Average .2 cfs (.1 cfs to .3 cfs)

Width - Range (1 ft. to 15 ft.), averaging 5 ft. in the main stream. The South

Velocity- Rapid throughout.

Bottom-Gravel, rubble, and sand with some amounts of bedrock present.

Spawning Areas - Fair to good throughout.

Pools -Good development. Pools are abundant and average 4 ft. x 7 ft. x 2 ft. Pools are in the form of undercut banks, overhanging roots and fallen logs.

Shelter- Excellent with overhanging tree limbs and foliage giving excellent shade.

Barriers - It is felt that the barriers listed are not barriers to fish.

Diversions - None observed.

Temperatures - Average air 61°F. (51°- 63°); Average water temp. 58° F. (56°-59°).

Food - Cadis fly, mayfly, stone fly, dipthera and other unidentified insects appear to be common.

Aquatic Plants -Small amounts of algae and a few horsetails observed.

Winter Conditions - Mild, subject to high fluctuating water runoff. Average winter bank 20 ft. wide x 4 ft. high.

Pollution - None observed.

Springs - Common throughout. Ave. 10 to the mile.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - RT-SH observed from mouth to extreme headwaters considered to be abundant. Ave. size 2 inches (1-6 in.). Success considered to be excellent. One salmonid (3 in.) appearing to be a silver salmon was observed in the upper headwaters.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs and salamanders appear to be common.

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY - Most difficult and trying egress to and along the stream. Reached by walking only. 21.8 miles from Hwy. 101 at Willits out Hwy. 20 to Two Rock Lookout Rd. then on to Redwood products road, down to Pig Pen Gulch, on out 2.4 mi. to road which parallels with the Big River downstream. 1.7 miles to the end of the road, thru Frank Williams lower ranch, then walk one mile down Big River to mouth of Russell Brook Creek.

OWNERSHIP- Willits Redwood Products Company, Frank Williams.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted. Three locked gates are on access roads. The Redwood Products Co. key will unlock all three gates.

IMPROVEMENTS - No improvements observed.

PAST STOCKING - Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - The stream generally is in good condition. There are many fallen logs in the upper area which are probably the remains of early logging, fire and natural stream undercutting. As evidenced by the number of RT-SH throughout the entire length of the stream. The log jam and barriers listed separately do not appear to be barriers at this time. The spawning areas are good throughout and are evidently well used by anadromous fish. The last 1/4 mi. of extreme headwater is of little value to fish life due to the steep gradient lack of flow and slash-filled nursery and spawning areas.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - It is recommended that the log jam barriers should not be removed due to the numbers of fish above them. The stream should be continued to be managed as an excellent anadromous fish spawning and nursery grounds. Little or no improvements are needed at present.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - Personal observations. Calif. Div. of Forestry 1948, Mendocino Co. south half map.

RUSSELL BROOK CREEK

Log jams and barriers

1. Log jam - 1/4 mile above last upstream- tributary - 10 ft wide 5 ft long 4 ft high - 75% void area.
2. Log jam and barrier - 150 yards below #1 - intermittent flow - silted in-bed drop 2 ft - 15 ft wide 10 ft long 5 ft high - 90% void area.
3. Log jam - 100 yards below #2 - 15 ft wide 5 ft long 4 ft high - 85% void area.
4. Log jam and barrier - silted in-bed drop 3 ft. - 200 yards below #3. 25 ft wide 5 ft long 4 ft high - 90% void area.
5. Log jam and barrier - silted in-bed drop * 3 ft - 200 yards below uppermost east tributary - 15 ft wide 5 ft long 4 ft high - 75% void area.
6. Log jam - 100 yards below #5 - 30 ft wide 10 ft long 6 ft high -90% void area.
7. Log jam - 100 yards above lowest downstream south tributary -25 ft wide 10 ft long 6 ft high - 75% void area.

I would not recommend the removal or disturbance of these log jams.

