

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY

Donnelly Gulch

Mendocino County

July 20, 1966

Identification: mouth R16W, T16N, Sec. 32 - Headwater tributary to Big Salmon Creek. Joins with Hazel Gulch to form Big Salmon Creek.

Method of Survey: stream was surveyed on foot.

Date of Survey: July 19, 1966

Access: Approximately 6.5 miles east on the Albion Ridge Road, the Hardell Ranch Road turns off. This road goes to the mouth of Donnell Gulch. Before reaching the mouth, the road parts. The main fork turns north while the road to the mouth heads southeast. The road continues from the mouth of Donnelly Gulch to the end of fish value, but needs to be cleared of slash.

Stream Characteristics1. Flow

a. At mouth est. .1 cfs; stream width 2-4feet, average 3 feet; winter width 5-6 feet.

2. Temperatures

a. At mouth - air 76°, H2O - 60 ; canopy open, weather clear, wind 10-15 mi. at 1130 hrs.

3. Barriers

Twelve barriers were observed on main stream and its tributary. Three of these were log jams in combination with a road crossing the stream bed. None were of major proportions.

4. Logging

No recent logging has been done on main stream. Tributary has been logged within last few years. No logging is presently taking place on any of the watershed.

5. Fish abundance

The only place fish were observed was near the mouth of the stream. The only species identified was silver salmon. The fish were in fair condition, size 2½".

6. Aquatic Insects

Insects were observed near the mouth of the stream. Only caddisfly were seen. All the riffle areas of the upper portions of the stream were dry or had so little flow that insects were not present. General observation - stream has little insect food to support fish during summer months.

7. Spawning or Nursery Areas

Excellent spawning gravels from mouth to end of fish value. Stream bottom has an abundance of coarse gravel and rubble.

Stream has little value as a nursery area, small flow and lack of insect life.

Comments and Recommendations

This stream has good potential as a spawning area for steelhead and silver salmon. The old roads crossing the stream are fairly serious barriers to fish passage and should be improved. The tributary near the mouth has little value, but the lower regions of it have spawning gravels. There is easy access to the stream along its entire length. For these reasons, I think that Donnelly Gulch should be cleared.

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12/20/66