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Stanford, California

BUREAU OF FISH CONSERVATION

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INDIAN CREEK, MENDOCINO COUNTY

Indian Creek is tributary to the Navarro River in T14N, R14W, Sec. 19. On August 10, 1948, it was seen by the writer at two points: 1. At State Highway 28 crossing and 2. Peachland Road crossing, T14N, R14W, Section 15.

At the first of the above stations at 1:30 p.m., the temperature of the water was 73° F and the temperature of the air was 76° F. The water and sky were clear. The flow was estimated to be approximately 5 c.f.s. Steelhead 2 1/2 to 3 1/2" were quite common. Bottom foods were abundant. In this vicinity the stream bed is composed of gravel and rubble and is fairly wide, the stream flowing through a valley. Alders and willows border the stream, and the surrounding terrain is partly wooded and covered by a redwood and Douglas fir association and partly open grass-land. Spawning areas are good, and pools and shelter are fair. Stocking at this point is not recommended because of high temperatures.

At the Peachland Road crossing at 3:30 p.m., the temperature of the water was 69° F and the temperature of the air was 76° F. The water and sky were clear. The flow was estimated to be 5 c.f.s. Indian Creek in this vicinity has a fairly wide stream bed and is bordered by maple, tan oak, and Douglas fir. The surrounding hills consist of wooded and brushy canyons and north slopes and grassland south slopes. Much of the timber is of second growth.

Spawning areas and pools and shelter are good in the vicinity of the Peachland Road crossing. Steelhead 2 to 3" long were abundant, and a few 5" long were soon. Silver salmon 3 1/2 to 4" long were common. Bottom foods were abundant. Goniobasis type snails were present.

Above the Peachland Road crossing the stream becomes rougher and contains many boulders over which the water cascades. There are some fine, deep pools.

One logging road turns to the right immediately next to the bridge over Indian Creek on the Peachland Road and follows up the stream bed. Excellent distribution of planted fish could be achieved by following this road up the stream.

Logging operations are in full swing in the general area of the upper station. One logger met on the Peachland Road reported that some land-locked adult steelhead were still present in Indian Creek and that one had been taken by the logger a few days previously.

Peachland Road is not marked by signs. It leaves State Highway 28 immediately west of Con Creek. The road forks 1.6 miles from State Highway 28. To reach Indian Creek take the left hand fork, going through a gate with a "No Trespassing" sign. Proceed 1.8 miles more to Indian Creek. Thus, the total distance from State Highway 28 to Indian Creek via Peachland Road is 6.4 miles. All of this consists of rough dirt road used by logging trucks. It may be noted that the property immediately beyond the above gate is posted with signs including the words "No Fishing", by Roy Tomlinson.

District Fisheries Biologist

LS:yn

cc: S.C. Smedley