

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Fish and Game

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.....

Date September 6, 1967

NAME.... Olds CreekCOUNTY.... Mendocino.....

STREAM SECTION...entire...FROM...mouth..To..headwaters ...LENGTH 3.25 mi

TRIBUTARY TO Noyo River.....Twp..18N..R.15N..Sec..14

OTHER NAMES ...Not known River SYSTEM ... Noyo River.....

SOURCES OF DATA..Personal observation and interviews with local ranchers, residents and loggers

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION Survey by foot from mouth at Noyo River to 0.5 mile above fork in headwater's drainage, a point marked by a 50 ft. dilapidated bridge laid parallel with stream bed, a total distance of 3 1/2 miles, including 0.5 mile up tributary II and 0.25 mile up tributary I: (see map attached). Survey made by E. R. J. Primbs on 9 August 1966.

LOCATION Olds Creek flows into the Noyo River at a point 0.25 mile east of Irmulco at a road junction of the Irmulco road with the Shake City road. This point is 4.75 miles from the Fort Bragg-Willits road (Highway 20) on the Irmulco road. The Irmulco road joins Highway 20, 6.25 miles west of Willits on Highway 20. The mouth is marked by various road signs "Risch, Camp St. Albert, North Spur, Willard, Hopper, Big Stump, Nystron's

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Prvides the Noyo River system with 2.6 miles of excellent, highly productive spawning grounds for SH-SS.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin - Size: 3.5 sq. miles; Olds Creek flows from springs along its entire course and from the steep slope of the elevation upon which the Irmulco Road joins Highway 20; the direction of flow is approximately northwest; no current logging; bowl-shaped valley at mouth with gentle 35 slopes and continuing to headwaters, where the valley narrows to a 60° slope narrow canyon; stream banks are sheer, soil-incised, 2 ft. to 30 ft. high; stream shade 50% from trees and brush; tan

bark oak, willow, and red alder extremely common, with redwood, douglas fir, madrone interspersed; broken and sword fern, thistle, horse tail, blackberry, thimbleberry, poison hemlock and poison oak provide surface cover.

Altitude - At mouth 400 ft., at upper fish value 640 ft.

Gradient - 96 ft. per mile to upper fish value.

Width - Average 2 ft. with range from one ft. to 12 ft.

Depth - Average 3 inches with range from 2 inches to 7 ft.

Flow - 0.12 c.f.s. at mouth; above old concrete dam 0.02 c.f.s.; summer stream primarily intermittent pools with 30% of summer flow undersurface.

Velocity - Sluggish

Bottom - Boulders 2.5%, fine rubble 2.5%, coarse gravel 30%, fine gravel 40%, sand 20%, silt 5%.

Spawning areas - 80% of winter beds, average 6 ft. wide, 82,368 sq. ft.: excellent.

Pools - 95% of summer flow

Shelter - Poor; fish trapped in intermittent pools; movement limited.

Barriers - Partial: 17 small to moderate log jams; 1 abandoned concrete dam, 24 ft. wide 12 ft. high, 1/4 mile upstream from mouth.

Diversions - 8,000 gal./day by water tanker taken from headwater area for wetting road; tanker owned by Fred Mickey, who is currently logging on Gulch east of McGuire's property.

<p>EXTENT OF OBSERVATION include Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.</p> <p>LOCATION</p> <p>RELATION TO OTHER WATERS</p> <p>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</p> <p><u>Watershed</u> 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</p> <p>FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS OTHER VERTEBRATES FISHING INTENSITY</p> <p>USE</p> <p>OWNERSHIP POSTED OR OPEN IMPROVEMENTS PAST STOCKING GENERAL ESTIMATE RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT SKETCH MAP REFERENCES and HAPS</p>
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Temperatures - Measured maximum, above concrete dam: 1,000; 8-9-66: Air 64°, water 62°; weather: hazy from fire smoke, wind calm, altitude 400 ft.

Food - Type: caddis fly larvae, stonefly nymphs, mayfly nymphs, riffle beetle larvae, burrowing water, beetles and dragon fly nymph. Abundance: scarce, flow partly undersurface with remainder of stream consisting of sluggish intermittent pools, which do not favor deposition of insect eggs.

Aquatic plants - Liverworts and moss.

Winter conditions - Highly favorable winter flow for spawning; 3 ft. - 4 ft. maximum above summer's level.

Pollution - A considerable large deposit of silt above concrete dam, apparently washed from Irmulco Road. Considerable growth of iron bacteria in middle section of stream.

Springs - Olds Creek originates from several springs distributed along its entire course.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS -

1. Silver Salmon and Steelhead - The following parr were netted, identified and examined before release in representative samples:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>County</u>	<u>Size</u> <u>Range</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Salmon	250	1½" - 3½"	2"	slow growth; stressed
Steelhead	152	1½" - 4"	1-3/4"	
Total:	402			

2. Other Fish Netted and Identified

None

The stream is currently producing an estimated 5,000 silver salmon and 3,000 steelhead, both populations under optimum for spawning but for exceeding optimum for nursery. Summer mortality under present conditions should be high.

Other Vertebrates (Aquatic) - Yellow-legged frogs, newts, water snakes.

FISHING INTENSITY - Not known

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Deer hunting: Rocking (J.P.D.) Gun Club leases land near mouth.

ACCESSIBILITY - Accessible from mouth to headwaters by good streamside road, the Irmulco Road, which joins the Fort Bragg-Willits Road (Highway 20) 6.25 miles west of Willits on Highway 20. Irmulco Road-Highway 20 junction is marked by signs "Camp St. Albert", North Spur", Nystron's" and others. Tributary I and Tributary III (see map attached) are accessible by trail to upper fish value points.

OWNERSHIP - For first one mile from mouth: McGuire Ranch; above McGuire's - Alvin Whittaker.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted

IMPROVEMENTS - (1) Clearance of 17 small to moderate log jams, (2) obtaining summer passage for parr over abandoned concrete dam $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream from mouth.

PAST STOCKING - Local residents reported that **stream** was stocked during the past winter.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Olds Creek is an extremely important spawning grounds for silver salmon and steelhead in the Noyo River system, the salmon being significantly more numerous than the steelhead. This in spite of the fact that log jam barriers undoubtedly have adversely interfered with migration. The stream, however, has negligible value as a nursery area, a fact which emphasizes the detrimental effect of existing log jams and an old concrete dam near mouth, since these barriers are operating to prevent the parr from moving out of Olds Creek during the critical summer months, a period of high temperature, negligible flow, low d.o., and scarce food. In consequence the stream should have a high summer mortality among the very large populations.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Olds Creek should be managed for silver salmon and steelhead spawning. The 17 Log jams should be removed and the concrete dam modified to facilitate migration of adults and to reduce summer mortality among parr. Attempts should be made to stop the summer diversion of water from Olds Creek.

SKETCH MAP - See attached

REFERENCE AND MAP - (1) USGS (Willits 1961) 15' series, (2) USGS (complete 1960) 15' series, (3) Jackson State Forest Map, California Division of Forestry (1964) 1/31,680, scale.

E. R. J. Primbs