

FIELD NOTE
Churchman Creek
Ten Mile River Drainage
Mendocino County

February 3, 1965--On this day Jim Ryan, Whitesell, Jack Brady and myself walked out about two miles of this stream in reference to stream clearance. The first phase of stream clearance was completed on this stream during the winter of 1963-64. At that time all log jams were removed, mostly by cutting up into small pieces and placing above normal high waters. In one area a small power winch was used to pull larger logs above high water. On this date we found that conditions had changed. The storm of December probably contributed a good deal to this change. We found that a great deal of shifting of gravels from the headwater section to the midsection took place. Scouring of the stream, some places as much as four feet, was common throughout. Five gravels were deposited in one section of approximately one-half mile in length which doesn't appear to have much value as a spawning and nursery area. The storm waters by changing the stream bottom uncovered large logs. These, coupled with drifting stream clearance debris from last year's stream clearance and other small debris, created 10 to 15 small log jams.

The normal operation in stream clearance is to remove as much wood material from the stream as economically possible the first year. After the following winter's high flows, stream clearance is again conducted to remove any uncovered material that form new log jams.

As it was felt that the amount of material in the stream was not excessive, stream clearance will continue as normal.

About 25 silver salmon carcasses, one pair of spawning silver salmon and three adult steelhead were seen. Spawning redds were common throughout most of the stream except in the mid one-half mile section of fine gravels.

GRH

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