

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM NO.....

NAME... Buckhorn Creek.....COUNTY...Mendocino.....
STREAM SECTION FROM.....Mouth.....TO.....Headwaters Section.....LENGTH 2.1 miles
TRIBUTARY To.....Little North Fork.....TWP...20N..R...17WSEC...14NE¼/SE¼
OTHER NAMES.....None.....RIVER SYSTEM...Ten Mile River.....
NAME OF SURVEYORRowell and Adams.....DATE...August 11, 1961
SOURCES OF DATA.....Personal Observation and Union Lumber Co. Foresters.....

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION: This creek was checked on foot by Rowell and Adams from the mouth upstream 1.6 miles to the headwaters on August 11, 1961.

LOCATION -Buckhorn Creek flowing southwest enters the Little North Fork .3 mile from the North Fork, Ten Mile River. (Approximately 12 airline miles NNE of the town of Fort Bragg).

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS -Buckhorn Creek is the largest tributary to the Little North Fork. It contains a large amount of good steelhead and silver salmon spawning area. Food appears to be plentiful. This stream flows all year except for two short dry sections.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: WATERSHED and IMMEDIATE DRAINAGE BASIN -Buckhorn Creeek heads in mountainous terrain located within the coastal redwood belt north of Fort Bragg. Although practically the entire drainage has been heavily logged off in past years, much of the terrain now has fairly good cover of second growth (conifer). Large numbers of alders are growing in the stream bed. Buckhorn Creek drains approximately two square miles.

ALTITUDE - Drops from 1,000 feet in the headwaters to 100 feet at the mouth.

GRADIENT - Moderate to shallow throughout the stream except in the quarter mile of headwaters, which is steep.

WIDTH - Averages 3 feet. (2 to 8 feet).

DEPTH - 3 inches average with a range of 2 to 4 inches.

FLOW - Estimated at 1 c.f.s. near the mouth and less than ¼c.f.s. near the headwaters.

VELOCITY - Rapid to slow throughout the stream sections surveyed.

BOTTOM- Gravel and small rubble predominates. Buckhorn Creek has considerable mud and silt where there is a good stand of alders in the stream bed.

SPAWNING AREAS – Good in the lower and mid-sections. Non-existent in the upper reaches.

POOLS – Averaged about 8'x6'x4'/ Freequent and scattered throughout the stream.

SHELTER - Very good, with undercut stream banks, roots and log jams.

BARRIERS – No complete barriers, but numerous log jams. One large log jam at the mouth.

DIVERSION – None

TEMPERATURE – Taken near the mouth at 9 AM, water was 55° F. and air was 62° F. Near the headwaters at 12 noon, the water was 56° F. and air was 70° F. Because of the large amount of shade, the stream temperature shouldn't rise too much higher during the day.

FOOD – Appeared to be adequate.

AQUATIC PLANTS – None observed.

WINTER CONDITIONS – Apparently moderated.

POLLUTION – None observed.

SPRINGS – None noted.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS – Only small amounts of steelhead fingerlings were observed. This could be due to the large log jam at the mouth.

OTHER VERTEBRATES – None observed.

FISHING INTENSITY – None.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE – None known.

ACCESSIBILITY – Buckhorn Creek is reached via the main Ten Mile River logging road from Fort Bragg, turning off at the Little North Fork. Access along Buckhorn Creek is by foot only.

OWNERSHIP – The entire stream is under control or ownership of the Union Lumber Co.

POSTED OR OPEN – Posted.

IMPROVEMENTS – None observed. Removal of log jams would uncover more spawning gravel and provide easier access for steelhead.

PAST STOCKING – None known.

GENERAL ESTIMATE – This tributary appears to have the makings of an excellent spawning and nursery stream for steelhead and silver salmon if the log jams were removed.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT – This stream should be continued to be managed primarily for steelhead and silver salmon spawning and nursery.

SKETCH MAP: (Unreadable from copy, and not included)

REFERENCES AND MAPS - U.S. Dept of Interior Geological Survey Map.

15-minute series (Topographic)

Branscomb quadrangle - 1951