MILL CREEK   MENDOCINO

Entire from mouth to headwaters. 8 miles.

Forsythe Creek   T. 17 N. R. 13 W. Sec. 36

No other names known.   Russian River System

Personal observation and interview with local residents.

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - Mill Creek surveyed, on foot and from vehicle
from the mouth to the headwaters, about 8 miles, on June 22, 1972 by
R. Klamt and S. Durkee.

LOCATION - Mill Creek enters Forsythe Creek where the Reeves Canyon
Road crosses Forsythe Creek. Reeves Canyon Road intersects Highway
101 ten miles north of Ukiah.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Mill Creek contributes winter and summer
flows to the Forsythe system and extends the present Steelhead
spawning and nursery grounds of the Forsythe system 4½ miles.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

   Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin - Mill Creek drains a
   basin of about 10½ square miles of which approximately one half
   is second growth redwood forest and one half is oak grassland.
   The creek can be divided into three sections by differing
   terrain. The lower section, from the mouth to a point about 4
   miles upstream, flows through a wide V-shaped canyon, the
   dominant vegetation being oak grassland. It has a gradient of
   about 100 ft. per Mile and a gravel bed with intermittent bedrock
   outcroppings. The middle section, about 2¼ miles, flows through a
   narrow V-shaped canyon, the dominant vegetation being second
   growth redwood. It has a gradient of about 142 ft. per mile and a
   gravel bed with frequent bedrock outcroppings. The upper section,
   about 1.75 miles, flows through a flat U-shaped canyon, the
   dominant vegetation being second growth redwood. The creek in
   this area is meandering and, boggy with a gradient of about 91
   ft. per mile.
   Altitude - At mouth t 800 ft. At upper fish value: 1600 ft.
   Gradient - 100 ft/mile overall; lower section - 1000 ft/mile,
   middle section - 142 ft/mile, upper section - 91 ft/mile,
   Width - Average 6 feet with range from 2 to 15 feet.
   Depth - Average 4 inches with range from 2 to 24 inches,
   Flow - At mouth - approx. 3½ cfs.
        3¼ miles above mouth - approx. 2½ cfs.
        4½ miles above mouth - approx. 2 cfs.
   Residents indicate that flow is • maintained throughout the year.
   Velocity - Moderately rapid.
   Bottom -
     Lower section: Silt, sand, and pea-sized, gravel - ¼; golf
     ball-sized - ½; baseball-sized - ¼; occasional basketball-sized
     and. bedrock.
     Middle section: Silt sand, and pea-sized gravel - ¼; golf ball-
     sized - ¼; baseball-sized and larger - ½; frequent bedrock.
     Upper section: Silt, sand, - ½; pea-sized gravel - ¼; marble-
     sized - ¼; no bedrock showing (boggy end meandering channel).
   Spawning Areas - Average of lower and middle sections - ⅔. Upper
   section ratio of silt to gravel may indicate unfavorable spawning area.

<u>Pools</u> : Lower and middle sections pool to riffle ratio - 1:1; upper section, few pools.
<u>Shelter</u> : Undercut banks, logs and boulders.
<u>Barriers</u> : a) one bedrock falls with log jam.; b) five tightly compacted log jams.; c) sixteen areas of loose litter.; d) one five-foot high summer dam,(flashboards removed during winter).
<u>Diversions</u> : None noted.

Temperatures :	Mouth	3¼ miles upstream	4½ miles upstream
Air Temp.	59°F	80°F	62°F
Water Temp.	64°F	72°F	62°F
Altitude	800 ft.	1120 ft.	1375 ft.
Weather	cloudy	clear	clear
Time	0850	1410	1020

<u>Food</u> : Caddisfly, Mayfly, Stonefly, diptera and beetle larva.
<u>Aquatic plants</u> : Nutgrass, <u>Juncus</u>, <u>Equisetum</u>, liverwort and algae.
<u>Winter Conditions</u> : 2 to 4 feet above summer level.
<u>Pollution</u> : Runoff from livestock areas.
<u>Springs</u> : Occasional small springs noted along entire length of stream.

<u>FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS</u> : Lower section, Sucker, Squawfish, and steelhead -Sizes, SH - l-2 inches. Abundance, SH - 100/100 ft. of stream; Above bedrock falls, Resident Rainbow Trout - Sizes - 1-3 & 6-8 inches, Abundance - RT 40/100 ft. of stream. (Note: The smaller size classes of fish were in greater abundance)

<u>OTHER VERTEBRATES</u> : Frogs, salamanders, tadpoles and snakes.

<u>FISHING INTENSITY</u> : Moderate to heavy.

<u>OTHER RECREATIONAL USES</u> : Unknown.

<u>ACCESSIBILITY</u> : Access from Reeves Canyon Road. Locked gate on Holliday property line 6½ miles from mouth of stream. Entry available from Harry Putnam or Mr. Little of the Dakin Conservation Project,

<u>OWNERSHIP</u> : Known - Putnam, Dakin, Holliday & Golden Rule Church Ranch. Others unknown.

<u>POSTED OR OPEN</u> : Posted, but permission obtainable from owners.

<u>IMPROVEMENTS</u> : Mr. Little, caretaker for the R.Y. Dakin Conservation Project, has re-established the stream channel for about 1.3 miles below Mud Lake with the use of a backhoe.
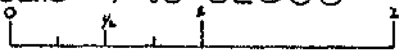
<u>GENERAL ESTIMATE</u> : Mill Creek at this time offers the beat SH spawning and nursery area in the Forsythe Creek system. It has enough gradient and sufficient water flow, maintained in the summer by a head at Leonard Lake, to keep its bed clear and in good conditions for Salmonids. At present however only about 4½ miles of the stream are being used by SH. An additional 2 to 3½ miles of spawning and, nursery area is available with the removal of log barriers found in the middle section,

<u>RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT</u> : Removal of logjams and litter from the streambed.

<u>SKETCH MAP</u> : Attached.

<u>REFERENCES</u> : U.S.G.S. 15 minute series (Willits Quad) 1961. Scale 1:62500.

MILL CREEK
T. 17 N. R. 13 W.   Sec. 36
Scale: 1 to 62500

Key: — 10 ~ barriers + diversions
      - - - ~ dirt road
      ═══ ~ highway
      ⌄ ~ stream
      —b ~ station location

Barriers & Diversions
(height x width x length)

1) rocky area with logs , 150 yards

2) fallen Oak tree

3) fallen Oak tree & logs, 5x30x60

4) fallen Oak tree

5) fallen Oak tree

6) loose logs 5 x 25 x 10

7) loose logs 5 x 15 x 5

8) 5 foot high summer dam

9) 30 foot high bedrock & boulder falls
   with log jam, holding gravel and
   changing flow to subterranean.

10) scattered litter

11) 15 x 75 x 200

12) 6 x 30 x 50

13) 6 x 30 x 30   (not in stream bed)

14) 15 x 50 x 75

15) 6 x 25 x 30

16) 6 x 25 x 25

17) 100 yards of litter

18) 75 yards of litter

19) 75 yards of loose litter

20) 150 yards of loose litter

21) 50 yards of litter

22) 150 yards of scattered litter

23) 50 yards of litter