

MILL (Middle) CREEK
Mendocino County

Field Note

June 20, 1958: The uppermost section of this stream which serves as the inlet to the uppermost Talmadge Reservoir, lies in a narrow, steep-sided, well-wooded canyon with good conifer-madrone cover. Dense alder, maple, bay shade is furnished along the stream. The stream section contains very good gravel spawning areas and nursery areas.

The uppermost reservoir, which is approximately 10 surface acres in size, is utilized heavily by anglers during the first part of the season. The largest part of the margin of the lake is open for fishing in that it is free of brush and vegetation. The margin of the lake is intermittently covered with willow, oak vegetation. Patches of cattail are the only aquatic vegetation present. No submergent vegetation was observed. The air temperature on this date was 75°F., water temperature 65°F. at 12 p.m. along the shore 100 ft. above the dam. Inflow into this reservoir equals the outflow into the stream below.

The .3 mile section of the stream between the two reservoirs has the same characteristics as noted for the inlet stream. There is evidence in this section of successful reproduction of salmonids, however, these fish could be the result of recent rescued steelhead plants. Spawning areas in the section of stream below the two dams are good. Pool development is generally poor. The section is accessible to the public but appears to have little value as a trout fishery.

The lower reservoir is a canyon type development. There is very dense vegetation along the banks, in the form of oak-maple-and buckeye. Very few brush free areas are available along the margins for angling. This reservoir is approximately 5 surface acres in size.

There is a third dam located .1 of a mile below the middle dam. However, this dam does not impound water. Water passes through an open outlet at the base which at the present time is plugged with debris on the upstream side. Steelhead are known, to get this far each year. A Mr. Carmichael, state employee at the hospital stated he has personally observed adult steelhead at the foot of the second dam upstream last year. The outlet at the base of the lowermost dam is 3 ft. x 4 ft. arched concrete.

The stream below the lowermost dam goes dry each year according to Mr. Robertson, Assistant Superintendent of Hospital. The stream in this section runs through a narrow steep-sided canyon with dense maple-bay-alder stream shade. Flow on this date was estimated 12 c.f.s. The average width between the hospital and lowermost dam averages 6 ft. (4-10 ft), average depth 6 in. (4-8 in.). The bottom is mainly rubble and some boulders with very little gravel areas. Spawning areas are considered to be fair. Pool development is generally good being fair-sized and frequent. Flows on this date were observed to be rapid to cascading throughout. RE:cd