

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.....

NAME..... DOUGHERTY CREEK COUNTY..... Mendocino

STREAM SECTION..... FROM..... SNUFFINS CREEK ROAD CROSSING UP TO LENGTH..... 2 Miles
EXTREME HEADWATERS

TRIBUTARY TO..... South Fork Big River Twp..... T16N R..... 14W Sec..... 19

OTHER NAMES..... Unknown RIVER SYSTEM..... BIG RIVER

SOURCES OF DATA..... Personal Observation

- EXTENT OF OBSERVATION
- Include Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
- LOCATION
- RELATION TO OTHER WATERS
- GENERAL DESCRIPTION
- Watershed
- 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
- FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS
- OTHER VERTEBRATES
- FISHING INTENSITY
- OTHER RECREATIONAL USE
- ACCESSIBILITY
- OWNERSHIP
- POSTED OR OPEN
- IMPROVEMENTS
- PAST STOCKING
- GENERAL ESTIMATE
- RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
- SKETCH MAP
- REFERENCES AND MAPS

Extent of Observation: This section of the stream was walked out from Snuff ins Creek Road crossing up to the forks and beyond, a distance of 1-3/4 miles on August 10, 1959 by Stanley Nye.

Location: This stream heads approximately 14 miles west of Ukiah off the Masonite Toll Road and flows west and north entering the South Fork of Big River near Hansen school on Orr Springs Road approximately 20 miles west of Ukiah.

Relation to Other Waters: One of the major spawning and nursery tributaries to the south fork Big River.

General Description: Watershed: A typical coastal rugged mountainous heavily timbered and logged over redwood/douglas fir forest drainage.

Immediate Drainage Basin:The stream flows through a steep narrow V shaped canyon to a high valley floor, then back into a narrow gorge area on down to a moderate U shaped canyon.

Altitude: Unknown.

Gradient: Moderate to steep, throughout; slight in valley floor.

Width: Average - 2 ft (2 ft to 4 ft).

Depth: Average 2 inches (1 inch to 2 inches)

Flow: Average - .3 cfs (.13 cfs to .3 cfs)

Velocity: Rapid throughout gorge to canyon area, sluggish in valley area.

Bottom: Silt, gravel, boulder, rubble, bedrock and sand. Heavily silted in upper areas.

Spawning area: Non-existent in valley and upper forks; fair in north tributary and remainder of stream.

Pools: Common in gorge and canyon, uncommon in valley.
Average - 3 ft x 5 ft x 8 inches (2 ft x 3 ft x 4 in. to 6 ft x 6 ft x 2 ft).

Shelter: Good throughout in the form of stream side growth. The valley is choked with horsetails, cattails, water grass, rush and thistles.

Barriers: Listed separately.

Diversions None observed.

Temperature: Air, average 85 degrees (82 to 88) water average 62 degrees (61 - 64).

Food: Common - caddis, fly, stone fly, mayfly, dipton, larva, other unidentified bugs

Aquatic plants: Horsetail, water grass, rush and reeds.

Winter conditions: Mild, subject to normal heavy fluctuating winter runoff. Pollution: Poor logging practice damage.

Springs: Uncommon to common.

Fishes present and success: RT/SH average 2 inches (1-1/2 to 6 inches) success appeared to be good. Common in lower section. uncommon in upper section. Fish not seen between #7 jam and just above the mouth of the North Tributary (or through the valley). No fish above #15 barrier.

Other Vertebrates: Frogs common, salamanders - uncommon.

Fishing Intensity: Unknown.

Other Recreational Use: Unknown.

Accessibility: The stream is reached by Masonite Toll Road - 14miles west of Ukiah. The road follows the headwaters fairly close down to the creek via Snuffins Creek Road. Locked gate on the Snuffins Creek Road.

Ownership: Masonite Corp.

Posted or open: Posted.

Improvements: None observed.

Past stocking: Unknown.

General Estimate: This section of the stream is in poor condition with severe logging damage, continuous log jams, slash, debris, fallen logs and heavily silting. The narrow canyon, and gorges exhibit small amounts of spawning areas. The valley and headwater forks are in the poorest condition. The headwater forks are of no fishery value due to the logging damage. The North tributary has received heavy damage, but has some spawning potential if cleaned out. These are fallen logs, debris and slash scattered throughout the stream, not included as jams and barriers. The area above the valley is questionable as far as rehabilitation.

Recommended management: Cleaning up entire stream and removal of jams and barriers. This might allow the stream (headwater section) to rehabilitate itself in time, and could then be managed as a spawning and nursery area for anadromous fishes.

Sketch Map: See attached.

References and Maps: Personal observation and C.D.F. 1948 South Half Mendocino County Map.

DOUGHERTY CREEK

HEADWATER SECTION - FROM SNUFFINS CREEK ROAD CROSSING TO EXTREME HEADWATERS.

Jams and Barriers

1. Log jam and root barrier - silted in - bed drop 4 ft - 15 ft wide 10 ft long 5 ft high - 90% void area. 50 yards upstream of Snuffins Creek road crossing.
2. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 3 ft - 20 ft wide 10 ft long 4 ft high 65% void area 30 yards above #1.
3. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 3 ft. 20 ft wide 10 ft long 4 ft high 95% void area 30 yards above #2.
4. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 3 ft. 28 ft wide 8 ft long 4 ft high 90% void area 50 yards above #3.
5. An area of 6 log jam and bed rock barriers - silted in and in 6 steps. 100 yards above #4. 15 ft wide 100 ft long 6 ft high 99% void area bed drop total 30 feet in 6 steps.
6. Same as #5 - in 4 steps - 4 jams and barriers - heavily silted in - bed drop 15 ft in 4 steps - 30 ft wide 75 ft long 6 ft high - 99% void - 50 yards above #5.
7. Same as #6 - 20 ft wide 50 ft long 6 ft high - 99% void area - 50 yards above #6.
8. 2 log jams and barriers - silted in - bed drop 3 ft - 15 ft wide 5 ft long 3 ft. high each 90% void located at the mouth of the North Tributary.
9. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 3 ft 15 ft wide 25 ft long 4 ft high 95% void area - 50 yards above #8.
10. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 4 ft 15 ft wide 15 ft long 5 ft high 95% void area 30 yards above #9.
11. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 2 ft - 20 ft wide 5 ft long 4 ft high 90% void area - 50 yards above #10.
12. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 5 ft - 30 ft wide 10 ft long 8 ft high 85% void area - .15 mile above North Tributary.
13. 2 Log jams and barriers - silted in - bed drop 3 ft each - 30 ft wide 15 ft long 4 ft high 95% void area each - 100 yards above #12.
14. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 5 ft - 25 ft wide 15 ft long 8 ft high 95% void area - 100 yards above #13.
15. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 3 ft - 20 ft wide 10 ft long 5 ft high 90% void area - 50 yards above #14 - below headwater Forks.

Jams and Barriers (continued)

16. Continuous log jam, slash and debris barrier, heavily silted in, total bed drop 30 ft - average 25 ft wide 150 ft long 4 ft high - 99.9% void area.- questionable estimate - 100 yards above #15. No fish seen above #15 -#16 in south fork headwater.
17. Log jam and barrier - silted in - bed drop 6 ft - 30 ft wide 15 ft long 10 ft high 95% void area - 50 yards above #16.

From this point on, it is a continuous mess, the other fork of the headwater is in the same shape - Neither are of any fishery value.