

COMMENTS ON SHERMAN GULCH AND N.F. INDIAN CREEK,
MENDOCINO COUNTY

ACCESS

Access to this area of Indian Creek is by way of the Peachland Road on the outskirts of Boonville. There is one located gate at the end of the Peachland road. The lock combination can be obtained from Jack June of Boonville.

DRAINAGE DESCRIPTION

This BLM section of Indian Creek is in a hilly region near Boonville, Calif. The hills are covered with second growth Redwood and Douglas Fir with some Virgin timber in the BLM section. Some portions of the stream banks are of an unstable nature and some bank cutting was observed.

STREAM CONDITIONS

Sherman Gulch is 1.1 miles long with a surface drainage of approximately .75 square miles. It is a steep tributary to Indian Creek and was dry at the time of this survey. It's substratum is composed of 90% boulders and the gradient is too steep to provide any fishery habitat.

The North Fork of Indian Creek is 7.4 miles long and has a surface drainage of 12 square miles. It is a major tributary to the main fork of Indian Creek which drains to the Navarro River near Philo, Calif.

The stream shade of this portion of Indian Creek is 30% and is composed of Laurel, Madrone, and Red Alder trees. The average width of the creek was 7'-10' and the channel width is approximately 50'. Most of the stream was 3"-4" deep with pools reaching 20" in depth. The riffle to pool ratio was 4:1 and the average substratum is composed of coarse rubble to 10" 30%, rubble to 6" 40%, good gravels 20%, boulders 5%, and fine materials. 5%. Much of the substrate was coated with algae, especially in the pool areas.

The air and water temperatures were recorded at 98°F and 78°F respectively.

The flow varied throughout the surveyed area but was measured at 3.2 CFS in one of the faster moving riffle areas.

HABITAT SUITABILITY

The aquatic plant Lemna was seen throughout the creek indicating the slow flows and algae showing the warm water temperatures.

Aquatic invertebrates were found in adequate quantities. Some insects observed were Plecoptera, Ephemeroptera, Trichoptera, and Coleoptera.

The major factor of this stream to salmonids may be the high water temperatures recorded at 78°F. The lack of good shade and wide shallow riffle areas appears to be the major causes of these temperatures.

FISHERIES

Roach to 3.5 inches and steelhead to 5 inches were the two species observed and sampled. These two species may be filling separate niches, but were found in the same areas of the creek. There were good numbers of juvenile steelhead and in some places equal numbers of roach.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

The Indian Creek portion of this survey supports a population of juvenile steelhead and Sherman Gulch offers no habitat for fishes.

Indian Creek provides some spawning grounds and rearing grounds, but temperatures may be the limiting factor observed. No fish barriers were seen in the Indian Creek section surveyed.

SUMMARY

1. Sherman Gulch offers no habitat for fish due to steep gradient and lack of water
2. North Fork Indian Creek has steelhead to 5" and Roach to 3.5"
3. Water temperature N.F. Indian Creek 78° F
4. Flow N.F. Indian Creek 3.2 CFS
5. Shade N.F. Indian Creek 30%
6. Spawning and rearing grounds are found in N.F. Indian Creek

Survey Date: 27 July, 1977

Surveyor: M. Henry

This was transcribed from a ghostly copy of Form 6670-2 (April 1973) for KRIS

**UNITED STATES - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL STREAM SURVEY REPORT**

DATE 27 JULY 1977
SURVEYOR M. Henry
AGENCY - BLM Ukiah

STREAM.....North Fork.Indian Creek.....**COUNTY**.....Mendocino.....

TRIBUTARY TOIndian Creek..... **BASIN / RIVER SYSTEM**.....Navarro River.....

LOCATION (STREAM MOUTH)..... **TWP**.....14N..... **Range**...14W... **Section**....2.....

Stream width (average) 7--10 ft. today, 30 ft. when SH spawn

Turbidity (visibility in feet) 5--10 ft. (in clear range)

Temperature: air 98° F, Water 78° F Time 1400 Flow 3.2 cfs

SUBSECTION	FISH SPECIES	GRAVEL			POOLS	
		GOOD	MARGINAL	TOTAL	SQ. YARDS	DEPTH
0.00-0.25	SH & Roach	27	54	81	34	20"
0.25-0.50						
0.50-0.75						
0.75-1.00						
1.00-1.25						
1.25-1.50						
Total						

20% of section in pools

flat gradient (0 to 1%)

30% average stream area shaded

Streamside cover was herbaceous

Fish species, directly observed, were steelhead 5", at 6-50/100 ft

And roach 3.5", at 6-50/100 ft

Limiting factors

No limiting factors, all barriers passable.

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DATE 27 JULY 1977
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STREAM.....Sherman Gulch.....**COUNTY**.....Mendocino.....

TRIBUTARY TONorth Fork Indian Creek..... **BASIN / RIVER SYSTEM**.....Navarro River.....

LOCATION (STREAM MOUTH)..... **TWP**.....14N..... **Range**...14W... **Section**....2.....

Stream width (average) Dry
Turbidity (visibility in feet) N/A

Temperature: air °F, Water °F Time Flow cfs

SUBSECTION	FISH SPECIES	GRAVEL			POOLS		RUBBLE (sq. yards)	TOTAL (sq. yards)
		GOOD	MARGINAL	TOTAL	SQ. YARDS	DEPTH		
0.00-0.25	None						170	170
0.25-0.50								
0.50-0.75								
0.75-1.00								
1.00-1.25								
1.25-1.50								
Total								

steep gradient (2.5+ %)
70% average stream area shaded

Streamside cover was old growth and herbaceous

Fish species, NONE

Limiting factors
Falls, not passable.

INDIAN CREEK AND SHERMAN GULCH

