

California Department Of Fish And Game
STREAM SURVEY

NAME: MILL CREEK **COUNTY:** Mendocino
STREAM SECTION: **FROM:** Talmadge State Hosp **TO:** 3.5 mi. upstream **LENGTH:**
TRIBUTARY TO: Russian River **TWP:** 15N **R:** 12W **SEC:** 28
OTHER NAMES: Middle Creek **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian River
SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation, Mr. A.C. Robertson, Talmadge State Hospital Superintendent

- 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 tributary was surveyed via Mill Creek Road from the Talmadge State Hospital upstream 3.5 miles on this date by R. F. Elwell.
LOCATION - Rises on the western slopes of Cow Mt., flows west and enters the Russian River approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Talmadge and southeast of Ukiah.
RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Serves as a spawning area and limited nursery grounds for steelhead out of the Russian River.
GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed - Immediate Drainage Basin - The upper section of this tributary courses through a narrow, steep-sided, well-wooded mountainous canyon with excellent cover. Dense alder, maple, bay shade exist along the stream section in this portion of the drainage. The creek courses through the Mendocino State Hospital picnic area and the CSEA picnic grounds. It enters the open valley approximately 1½ miles above the state hospital. This section is cultivated and populated. Stream shade is good throughout this entire section.
Altitude -
Gradient - Moderate in the upper and mid-section, shallow in the lower reaches.

Width - Average 6 ft. (4-7 ft.).
Depth - Average 8 in. (6 in. - 1 ft.).
Flow - The flow at the picnic grounds on this date was an estimated 12 c.f.s.
Velocity - Rapid to cascading throughout.
Bottom - Predominantly gravel and rubble throughout.
Spawning Areas - Judged to be good above the reservoirs, between, and below.
Pools - Pool development was generally fair above the upper reservoir being small and scattered, and poor between the two reservoirs. Pool development in the sections of stream between the hospital and lowermost dam was fair.
Shelter - Considered adequate.
Barriers - Three concrete dams averaging 50 ft. in height exist in this stream. The lower dam, located approximately 3 miles above the mouth, is the present upstream limit to steelhead.
Diversions - Several large diversions take off from behind the two dams on this stream and supply water to the state hospital farm. The diversions are adequately screened at the intake.
Temperatures - Maximum water temperatures probably range well below 70 deg. F. in the well-shaded sections of stream during the summer months.
Food - Not checked.
Aquatic Plants - None observed.
Winter Conditions - This tributary is subject to fairly heavy runoff during the winter periods.
Pollution - None observed.

Springs - Fairly good spring development throughout.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - RT/SH averaging 1-2 inches in length were common above the reservoirs and in the reservoirs proper.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - None observed.

FISHING INTENSITY - The reservoirs and stream receive heavy fishing pressure during the first part of trout season each year.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - Two picnic areas are located alongside the stream in the drainage above the uppermost reservoir.

ACCESSIBILITY - The entire stream section between the state hospital and a point 3.5 miles upstream is accessible via Mill Creek Road which intersects the Russian River road approximately 1/4 mile south of the Talmadge State Hosp.

OWNERSHIP - The entire drainage lies within state and privately owned lands. The section of the drainage within which the reservoirs are located is state owned.

POSTED OR OPEN - The lower section of the drainage is open, the upper section above the Mendocino State Hospital picnic grounds is posted against hunting and trespass.

IMPROVEMENTS - None required at this time.

PAST STOCKING - The uppermost reservoir and inlet stream were stocked with 1600 SH rescued from drying tributaries of the drainage by the Mendocino Fish Rescue Crew. This section has received similar stocking of rescued steelhead in past years.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - The stream section available to steelhead at present appears to be a very good spawning stream. The inlet stream to the uppermost reservoir is considered to be a good spawning and nursery stream.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - It is recommended that this tributary continue to be managed as a steelhead spawning stream below the lowermost dam. The advisability of continuing to stock rescued steelhead in these reservoirs should be investigated further. There is a possibility that these reservoirs would serve as good brood ponds. A good portion of the rescued steelhead planted in these waters undoubtedly would wash out during the winter months into the river below.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - Mendocino County CDF 1948.

R. F. Elwell/cd
12-22-58

MIDDLE CREEK, (MILL CREEK)
MENDOCINO CO.
6-20-58 R.F.E.
T15N, R12W, Sec 28

