

Forsythe Creek
Mendocino County

Oct. 23, 1954

FIELD NOTE

A chemical treatment post-check of this stream was made beginning 1/2 mile above Reeves Canyon Road and extending to the mouth of Mill Creek. No fishlife of any kind was observed. Turbidity, apparently from clay silt, was noticed in abundance in the upper portion. A quick check of work on the new divided highway in the falls area did not reveal the source of the disturbance. Time did not permit further investigation.

HEP:fo

August 20, 1956: During the electro-sampling operations on the Russian River tributaries, one section of Forsythe Creek was checked. This was at the sampling station in the area of Reeves Canyon immediately below the mouth of Mill Creek. Although Forsythe Creek had been flowing above this point in 1955, this year there was no flow whatever. Except for underflow, the entire contribution of water to the sampling station was from Mill Creek itself. Winter floods had apparently partially filled in part of the hole on the downstream end and scoured out the upper part of the hole somewhat deeper. As a result, the station had to be shifted slightly upstream in order to include a typical area of both pool and riffle. The flow from Mill Creek was estimated at about 1/2 cu. ft. per second. At 3 p.m. on this date the air temperature was 90°F and the water temperature was 75°F. The reason for the water being as cool as it was, was undoubtedly because of the cool, shaded area of Mill Creek which was contributing all of the surface flow. Included among the fish taken on this date was one brown trout 7.5" fork length. This was the only brown trout noted among a total of 16 stations which were electro-sampled. HEP:dk

August 15, 1957: During the course of experimental work with sampling methods and rough fish control evaluation of this stream, it was noted that the station used in previous years had been rendered inoperable because of extremely heavy silt deposits and high turbidity of the water. Upon investigating the conditions, it was found that the dirt logging road up Reeves Canyon which crosses Forsythe Creek about 100 feet upstream from the mouth of Mill Creek was the source. Although the conditions is relatively minor since Forsythe Creek dries up in spots a quarter of a mile or so below the mouth of Mill Creek, the condition is worth noting. The cause is the continuing crossing of loaded and unloaded logging trucks through the ford on Forsythe Creek. Each time a truck crosses, additional silt is stirred up in the pool there and this silt is carried by the stream down into the pool and riffle area which we normally sample. In normal water years when there are no late spring rains, this situation would not exist, simply because at the ford Forsythe Creek is not flowing. It is recommended that no action be taken on this situation. It should be noted however, that because of the situation, the sampling of this particular station had to be omitted from the 1957 electro-sampling program for the Russian River tributaries. HEP:cd