CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND MAN POWER RESOURCES

RESOURCE PROJECT

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM No.....

Date 3/26/79

NAME.....EAST BRANCH NORTH FORK BIG RIVER.....COUNTY.....MENDOCINO.....

STREAM SECTION.....FROM.....Mouth.....TO.....head of nav.....LENGTH.....2 1/2 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO.....NORTH FORK BIG RIVER.....Twp.....17N.....R.....17W.....Sec.....17,16,15

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

SOURCES OF DATA.....Firsthand Observation

Extent of Observation:

Stream walked for 2 miles by Amy Newby and Tingley Wangmo.

Location:

7.4 miles east on Hwy 20 to Road 500 which winds 3 miles south to Berry Gulch, and then by foot down North Fork Big River Co East Branch mouth.

Relation to Other Waters:

Part of Big River watershed supplying approx. 1.4 CFS to North Fork Big River.

General Desription:

From the mouth the stream passed through a V-shaped canyon for about 1 mile, at times with 50 ft. cliffs on a side. There were numerous landslides coming from logging sites and roads (old). Approximately 1-3/4 mile upstream a grassy marshland develops and another about 2 $^{1}/_{4}$, mi. upstream. A general mixed evergreen forest largely made up of Redwood, Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, Oak, and Madrone. The canopy was heavy to moderate except for grassy marshlands which only had high grass banks forming some light cover on the stream.

Altitude:

From 200 ft. at mouth to 400 ft. at head.

Gradient:

100 ft/mile

Width:

Averaged 3 ft. to 4 ft, spreading out sporadically.

Depth:

Averaged 8 inches.

Flow:

One half mile from mouth 1.4 CFS; 1 1/2 mi. up, 1.2 CFS.

Bottom:

Excellent quality gravel for spawning in the first mile upstream then increasing quantities of silt along with more log jams and railroad tressels with smaller gravel generally.

Spawning Areas:

Pools and good quality gravel in first 1 mile section for spawning.

Pools:

80% pools, some up to 4 ft. deep more often 2 ft. deep.

Shelter:

Numerous logs, pools, boulders.

Barriers:

Noted 8 main log jams. Log jam //1-4 had limited passage. Log jam //5 was passable at present with a large silt and sand build up with the jam diverting the stream into bank which can easily cause major blockage at 3/4 mi. upstream. Log jams //6 and 7 occur at 50 yds. and 200 yds. further upstream with some hillside erosion and bank collapse and quantities of debris with limited passage. Log jam //8 at 1-3/4 mi. upstream after marsh areas. It is impassable at present water level (approx. 1.2 CFS) but possibly passable at high water. There are many smaller jams of logs and debs."*.;' on upper stream sometimes every 100 ft.

Diversions:

Two grassy swamplands each about 250 yds. long and up to 75 yds. wide cause stream diversion. Several have dried up since high water season, several are still running.

Temperature:

Station A, 49°F at mouth; 50°F 2 miles upstream, station B.

Food:

Some insects, a few larvae under rock.

Aquatic Plants:

Water grasses, some algae.

Pollutions:

Mainly log debris.

Fishes:

At the pool in the mouth of East Branch there were several 3" to 4" fish spotted. One was also spotted in a pool 1 mile upstream.

Other Vertebrates:

Evidence of deer.

Accessibility:

This tributary only accessible by foot.

Ownership:

California Dept. of Forestry

Improvements:

None noted.

Past Stocking:

Unknown.

General Estimate:

Lower 1 1/2 miles of stream suitable for salmon spawning grounds, perhaps even further if silt conditions improve.

Recommended Management:

Since the gravel was suitable for salmon spawning for the first section of the stream clearance of some of the major debris in log jams #1 through #5 would be advisable. Special attention need be taken with the loosening of of silt from hillside erosion however, as the lower part of the stream was generally more clear of silt and sand than the upper section (past the Railroad tressels).

Sketch Map:

Attached

References:

USGS map, Comptche Quadrangle V795.