

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM No \_\_\_\_\_

NAME Hare Creek COUNTY Mendocino

STREAM SECTION Entire.....FROM.....Mouth..... TO.. Headwaters Length 8 miles

TRIBUTARY TO Not a tributary: flows into ocean Twp. 18N R. 18W Sec. 13

OTHER NAMES Not known River System Hare Creek

SOURCES OF DATA Personal observation and personal interview with local residents.

<b>EXTENT OF OBSERVATION</b> Include Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>RELATION TO OTHER WATERS</b>
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</b>
Watershed
Immediate Drainage Basin
Altitude (Range)
Gradient
Width
Depth
Flow (Range)
Velocity
Bottom
Spawning Areas
Pools
Shelter
Barriers
Diversions
Temperature
Food
Aquatic Plants
Winter Conditions
Pollution
Springs
<b>FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS</b>
<b>OTHER VERTEBRATES</b>
<b>FISHING INTENSITY</b>
<b>OTHER RECREATIONAL USE</b>
<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>
<b>OWNERSHIP</b>
<b>POSTED OR OPEN</b>
<b>IMPROVEMENTS</b>
<b>PAST STOCKING</b>
<b>GENERAL ESTIMATE</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>SKETCH M/</b>
<b>REFERENCES AND MAPS</b>

**EXTENT OF OBSERVATION:** Hare Creek surveyed on foot from mouth on shore of Pacific Ocean to a point in the headwaters area marked by a 50' long dtlapidated bridge over Hare Creek, parallel with the stream, a total distance of 8 miles, including .2 mile up Covington Gulch, on 9 September 1965, by E.B.J. Primbs.

**LOCATION:** Hare Creek flows into the Pacific Ocean at the bridge crossing of Hare Creek by Highway No. 1, 1.5 miles south of the city limits of Fort Bragg. The bridge is identified by the road sign "Sergeant Emil H. Evenson, Memorial Bridge, Hare Creek".

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS:** Provides five miles of excellent spawning grounds and 5.7 miles of fair nursery grounds for SS and SE immediately adjacent to ocean waters.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**  
Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin-Size: 5.2 square miles; Hare Creek flows from numerous springs along its entire course and from a slope of the elevation near the intersection of the Fort Bragg-Willets Road with Little Lake road; the direction of flow is approximately northwest; no current logging; logged extensively 20 or 30 years ago; a 50° - 60° slope narrow "U" shaped valley at mouth, 100' wide, gradually parallels to a 60° - 75° sloped "V" shaped canyon, 10' wide at headwaters; stream banks

are share, in sized, 2' to 14' high; stream shade 80° from trees and narrow canyon affect; red alder dominant along stream banks with redwood extensive on slopes; red berry elder and tan bark oak also common along stream with black berry, thistle, nettle, yellow mats, sword fern, lace fern as surface coverage; poison oak very abundant in headwater area.

Altitude-At mouth-sealevel, at upper fish value-680'.

Gradient-61' per mile to upper fish value.

Width-Average 12' with a range of 3' to 30'.

Depth - Average 1' with range from 2 inches or more.

Flow-1.5 cfs at mouth; 2.0 cfs at end of Valley Road; 1.0 cfs at Covington Gulch; .1 at upper cfs and upper fish value.

Velocity-Slow to moderately rapid.

Bottom-Section 1 (from mouth to first railroad trestle) sand 100 per cent. Section 2 (from first railroad trestle to upper fish value) coarse gravel 50 per cent, fine gravel 50 per cent with exception of 1/2 mile of rough bottom near Noyo Hill (see attached map) in which there are these porportions: bedrock 30 per cent, boulders 10 per cent, course rubble 40 per cent, fine rubble 20 per cent.

Spawning Areas-Section 1 (from mouth to first railroad trestle) negligible. Section 2 (from first railroad trestle to Bunker Gulch) 30 per cent of winterbed (61,416 square feet).

Section 3 (from Bunker Gulch to upper fish value) 40 per cent of winter bed (8,000 square feet ools- 70 per cent of summer flow; cawed by numerous log jams, digging action of current, and gravel deposits.

Shelter-Adequate from logs, overhanging vegetation, undercut banks, deep pools.  
Barriers-Partial barriers (1) 50 log jams, the largest of which are located below Covington Gulch. Of these, many were initiated by old railroad trestles, serving as anchoring structures. The abnormally large jams are these (see attached map for location). No. 10: 75 feet long, 24 feet wide, 10 feet high. No. 11: 100' long, 15' wide 16' high. No. 15: 20' long, 20' wide, 12' high. No. 18: 100' long, 50' wide, 10' high and No. 19: 65' long, 24' wide, 8' high. While these dams are only partial they undoubtedly bar large number of fish.

Diversions - No. 1: 8' Intake pipe to large permanent pump .7 mile from mouth a point 100' below Noyo Machine Shop, which is located at Fort Bragg-Willits Road. Road to pump adjoins the Fort Bragg-Willits Road 50' east of the machine shop. Pump owned and operated by Union Lumber Company, Fort Bragg. No. 2: Well at streambed at mouth for domestic use. No. 3: Well on streambed near Union Lumber Company pump for domestic use. May be owned by Don Babcock.

Temperatures-maximum at bridge at mouth at 7:30 at 9 September, 1965, - water 54°F, air 55°F; weather-clear, calm; altitude - sea level.

Food-Only caddis fly larve in riffle areas observed: 30 per square foot: the scarcity of riffle areas does not favor the deposition of insect eggs in streams.

Aquatic plants-Water cress in area near mouth; moss and liverworts generally.

Winter Conditions-Natural signs of 4' to 5' above summer level.

Pollution-Grazing of Sheep near mouth.

Springs - Hare Creek originates of numerous springs along the entire course and at headwaters (see attached map for location).

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS:

A Section 1 - From mouth to gulch

SS (Size: 2½" to 4", average 3") 120 per 100 feet.

SH (Size: 1½" to 3", average 2") 30 per 100 feet.

Three spined stickleback (Size: 2" one caught).

B. Section 2 - From Bunker Gulch to upper fish value

SS 8 per 100'

SH 2 per 100' of 47 fish caught and positively numerated and identified, 38 were silver salmon, 8 were steelhead, and one was stickleback. The low Bunker Gulch the SS and SH were of normal size and vigorous; above Bunker Gulch, in area of primarily spawning value, the parr for abnormally small, probably from scarcity of food and cold water temperatures.

OTHER VERTEBRATES: Frogs.

FISHING INTENSITY: None known.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE: Not known.

ACCESSIBILITY: No. 1 - Accessible at mouth by Highway No. 1 at the bridge crossing of Hare Creek by Highway No. 1 - 1.5 miles south of the city limits of Fort Bragg to accessible by a road along stream for a distance of 1.1 miles from Union Lumber Company pump (Noyo Machine Shop), .7 mile upstream from mouth at log jam No. 7, to a point 1.8 miles at mouth at log jam No. 13. This road may be entered through a gate which is 50' east of the Noyo Machine Shop on the Fort-Bragg-Willits Road. For passage along the stream the chain saw to cut a tree or two is necessary. No. 3 - Accessible at area of Covington Gulch by road which it joins at Fort Bragg-Willits road 100 yards east of Thomson's Land Mark, the Shell Service Station on the Fort Bragg-Willits Road. This road terminates at a landing on Covington Gulch Creek, but if a mound of soil at end of landing is removed, the logging road to Hare Creek is available. No. 4 - Accessible at mouth of Bunker Creek by Division of Forestry Road, which is on Noyo Hill. A large

iron bar and gate marks the entrance to this road. Sindell of Division of Forestry, Fort Bragg, has the key.

OWNERSHIP: The State of California has the Jackson State Forest, except for the first 1.7 miles from mouth.

POSTED OR OPEN: open.

IMPROVEMENTS: Removal of 50 log jams from mouth to the 50' long dilapidated bridge over Hare Creek, Parallel with the stream, a total distance of clearance of 7.8 miles.

PAST STOCKING: Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE: Hare Creek is an excellent spawning ground for silver salmon and steelhead, as evidence from the large current population utilizing the stream as a nursery in spite of the almost impassible logging debris in this stream bed. However, the stream is only fair as a nursery because of the limitations available food. On the other hand, the available population, except for those above the Bunker Gulch, is generally vigorous and about of normal size, the cold water temperatures contributing to the lower food requirements by reducing the rate of metabolism.

But removal of the log jams would undoubtedly reduce an unfavorable riffle and increase riffle areas and thus invite future deposition insect eggs, as well as give access to the stream to a great number of adults now incapable of reaching the spawning area.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Hare Creek should be managed for silver salmon and steelhead spawning and nursery. The 50 log jams delineated under improvements above should be removed to improve fish access to and traffic in the stream and to increase riffle area.

SKETCH MAP: See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS: (1) USGS (Fort Bragg-1960) 7½ minute series. No 2 - USGS (Comptche, 1960) 15 minute series (3) Division of Forestry Map, Mendocino Ranger Unit (1950).

E.R.J. Primbs/ljs



