

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.....

NAME..... JOHNSON CREEKCOUNTY..... Mendocino

STREAM SECTION.....FROM.....mouth.....TO.....headwaters.....LENGTH..... 2-1/2 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO..... South Fork of Big RiverTwp..... 16NR..... 14WSec..... 20

OTHER NAMES..... None KnownRIVER SYSTEM..... Big River

SOURCES OF DATA..... personal observation

- 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 walked out from the mouth upstream to the headwaters. This was a distance of 1 1/2 mi. Observers were Holman, Rowell, Day, Morehouse and Nye. Survey was conducted on July 8, 1959.

LOCATION - This tributary flows from north to south and enters the south fork of Big River 19 miles west of Ukiah on Spings Road.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS- Johnson creek is a minor spawning tributary to the headwaters of the South Fk. of Big River.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION- Watershed & Immediate Drainage Basin - This tributary heads in a typical steep slope, v-shaped canyon, passes through well wooded coastal drainage. It flows to a relatively small wooded canyon characterized by redwood, fir, alder, willow, madrone, live oak and other forms typical of this area. No cultivation present. There is abundant shade present.

Altitude - Unknown.

Gradient - Slight in the lower section becoming moderate in upper section.

Width - Ave. 2 ft. (2 in. to 8 ft.).

Depth - Ave. 3 in. - (1/2 in. to 1 ft.)

Flow - Ave. 2 cfs. (2 gpm to .3 cfs)

Velocity - Sluggish.

Bottom - The lower 1/3 of the stream exhibits a bottom of bedrock and gravel. The middle third exhibits a bottom of gravel, sand,

and silt. The upper third shows a bottom of silt with some gravel present.

Spawning Areas - Considered to be fair throughout.

pools - Good development of medium-sized pools throughout, becoming uncommon in the extreme upper section.

Shelter - Excellent throughout in the form of undercut banks rocks, streamside vegetation and fallen logs.

Barriers - Listed on attached sheet.

Diversions - A small domestic pump located about 200 yds. upstream from the mouth appears to be pumping approx. 100 g.p.m. A small concrete dam approx. 1 ft. x 9 ft. located about 250 yds. upstream from the mouth used as diversion in past but not in use at present. Is not a barrier.

Temperature - Ave. air 85° Ave. water 57° (55-63).

Food - Caddis fly, mayfly, stonefly, dipthera and other unidentified insects appear to be abundant.

Aquatic Plants - Algae observed in small amounts. Tules present in upper and middle section.

Winter Conditions - Appear to be mild but subject to high fluctuating runoff.

Pollution - Only logging pollution is evident.

Springs - Uncommon.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Steelhead, rainbow trout averaging 3 inches (1 1/4 to 6 in.) were observed to be common throughout the entire stream. Success and propagation is considered to be good.

OTHER VERTEBRATES- Frogs, snakes and salamanders were observed to be in fair numbers throughout the entire stream.

FISHING INTENSITY- Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY- Stream is accessible by road. By taking the Orr Springs Road north of Ukiah to Johnson Creek crossing which is approximately 45 to 60 minutes ride, an old logging road parallels the stream; however, only the lower is passable by vehicles.

OWNERSHIP- Mrs. Leonard, others unknown.

POSTED OR OPEN- Posted. Improvements not observed.

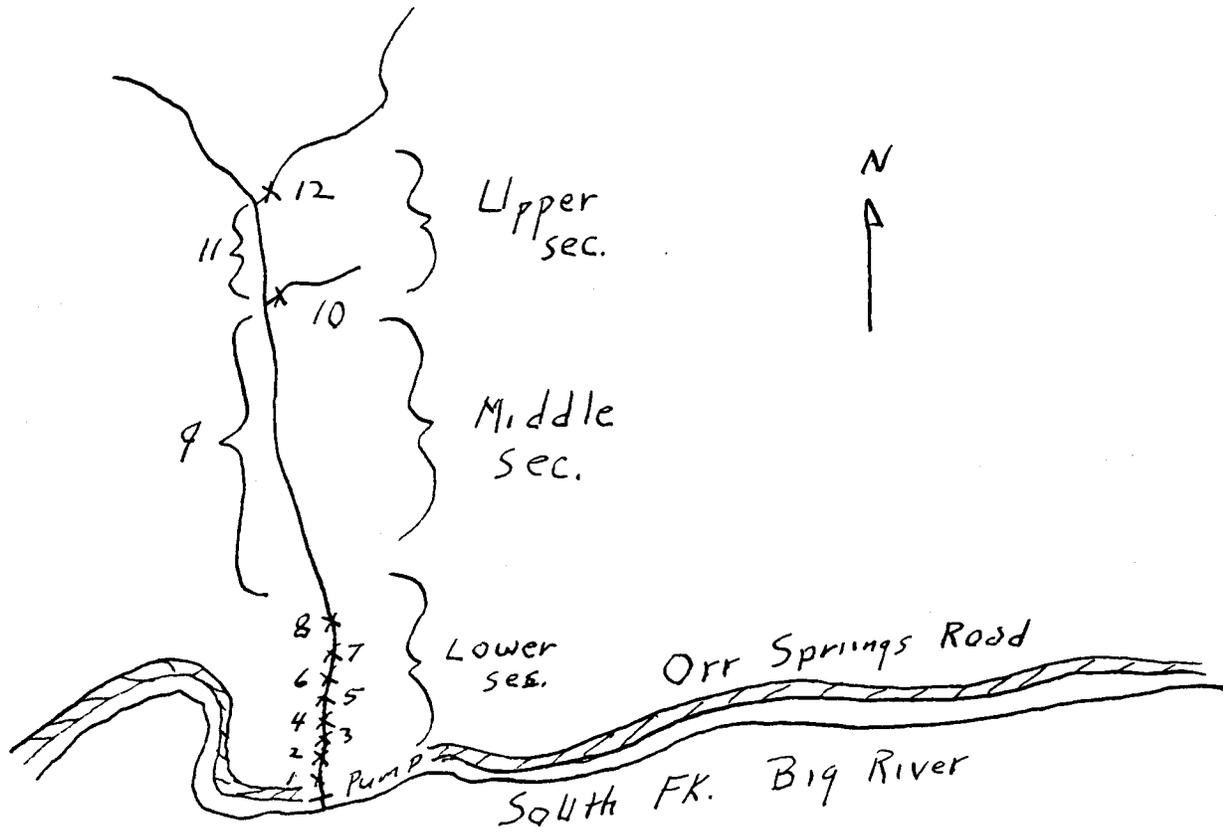
PAST STOCKING- - Unknown. Though Johnson Creek has undergone heavy logging damage it still appears to be a fairly successful spawning stream for migrating steelhead and it appears as though it has a potential of becoming an excellent salmon and steelhead stream. The upper section is inhabited by resident rainbow trout which would make excellent trout fishery for the energetic.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - It is felt that this stream should be cleaned up and all logging debris removed and that after the logging debris is removed this stream should be managed as a steelhead and silver salmon stream.

SKETCH MAP- See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - Personal observation and see Calif. Division of Forestry south half of Mendocino County map 1948.

Johnson Creek
Trib. to S. FK. Big River



JOHNSON CREEK

Jams and Barriers

1. Small pump 1-1/2 inch draft irrigation or domestic 200 yards upstream
2. 250 yards upstream small concrete dam no barrier - 1 ft high x 9 ft log
3. Log jam - no barrier - 10 ft wide 10 ft long - 3 ft high. void area
4. Log bridge crossing - barrier 4 ft high 30 ft long 10 ft wide 75% void dirt covering bridge 1000 yards upstream, from mouth.
5. Area 50 yards long - logging debris.
6. Log jam - no barrier - 20 ft wide 6 ft long 5 ft high void 60% 1/2 mile upstream from mouth.
7. Log jam - part barrier silted in - 2 ft high - 15 ft wide 10 ft long 5 ft high 90% void area 06 mile above mouth (Estimated).
8. Old logging sluice dam area no barrier 200 yards long 10 yards wide 10 yards high 95% void area 3/4 mile upstream.
9. Area from old dam upstream considerable logging debris and recent split stuff debris.
10. Tributary - little fisheries value.
11. Area between East Branch and Main Fork - heavily silted with considerable logging debris.
12. Forks - Minor flows in East and West forks - doubtful fisheries value.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Although Johnson Creek has undergone considerable logging damage it has a potential of becoming a fair Silver Salmon stream if the logging debris and old dam are removed. If the stream is rehabilitated to the main fork further investigation should be made for rehabilitating these forks.