

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

File form No _____ Date: _____.

Name South Fork Of Fuller Creek County Sonoma.

Stream Section Entire From Mouth To Headwaters Length 4½mi..

Tributary To Fuller Creek Twp 10N R 13W Sec 17 proj.

Other Names Not known. River system Gualala

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 -- The South Fork of Fuller Creek was surveyed on August 18, 1964, on foot and from a vehicle by way of a close paralleling road from the mouth to the headwaters by J. Rowell and B. Fox in five hours.

LOCATION -- Fuller Creek is joined by its South Fork approximately one mile north and east of Nob Hill.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS -- The South Fork of Fuller Creek is an important tributary to Fuller Creek and contributes a summer and winter flow. The South Fork of Fuller Creek has a very limited fisheries value because of a heavy sand deposit and a lack of spawning area.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Watershed -- The Region consists of a heavily logged steep sloped redwood-fir type forest with scatterings of deciduous trees and brush patches on the lower slopes. The soil is porous with a large content of fine shale from many shale slides. All of the watershed area has suffered heavy logging damage.

Immediate Drainage Basin -- The South Fork of Fuller Creek drains a ten-square mile area. The stream flows west in steep-sided v-shaped canyons through a bowl-shaped channel. Streamside vegetation is abundant, consisting of willow, alder, grasses, blackberry and raspberry vines, ferns, oak and ash trees.

Altitude -- Range, mouth, 300 feet. At the headwaters, 1200 feet.

Gradient -- Steep gradient. Overall fall of 200 feet per mile. Greater in the extreme upstream sections.

Width -- Range, one foot to five feet. Average, three feet.

Depth -- Range, three inches to 12 inches. Average, five inches.

Flow -- Intermittent flow throughout. Summer minimum one cfs-. Winter maximum 30 cfs plus.

Velocity -- Moderate to fast throughout. Slowing in the pool areas, speeding over the ripples.

Bottom -- The bottom contained mainly sand and rubble with an overall content of 50 per cent sand 40 per cent rubble and ten per cent gravel.

Spawning Areas -- Scarce. Due to a large sand content less than two per cent of the total area of the South Fork is suitable for spawning.

Pools -- Range, pool length four feet to eight feet, average six feet. Pool width two feet to six feet, average three feet. Pool depth six inches to two feet, average six inches.

Shelter -- Poor, very little shelter present except logging debris in the pools.

Barriers -- The stream is almost a total log jam consisting of large logs, slash and debris from logging operations. There are over 40 partial barriers present.

Diversions -- None noted.

Temperatures -- Water temperature ran 65 throughout. Air temperature was 83. Temperature was taken at 1300 on 8-18-64 under clear skies.

Food -- Scarce, no food noted because of adverse conditions and muddy water.

Aquatic Plants -- Scarce.

Winter Conditions -- The stream is subject to high winter flows and heavy scouring.

Pollution -- The entire South Fork area is heavily polluted by logging damage consisting of jams, slash and debris in great quantity.

Springs -- Common, about five springs per mile.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS -- A few SH-RT are present. Size, one inch to four inches, average two inches. Abundance, three per hundred of stream section. Success poor. Condition of the fish good. Natural propagation poor.

OTHER VERTEBRATES -- Snakes, lizards, deer, raccoons, feral hogs, quail, kingfishers, doves and hawks were observed.

FISHING INTENSITY -- Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES -- Slight hunting but limited due to private ownership.

ACCESSIBILITY -- Accessible by a paralleling road which crosses the stream in many places.

OWNERSHIP -- All the land in this area is privately owned.

POSTED OR OPEN -- The land is posted and closed.

IMPROVEMENTS -- Removal of log jams and a general cleanup.

PAST STOCKING -- Not known.

GENERAL ESTIMATE -- The fisheries value of the South Fork of Fuller Creek appears to have been completely destroyed by poor logging practices. The stream is cluttered throughout by large log jams, heavy slash and sand. Spawning area is almost nil with less than two per cent of the total area being suitable for spawning. At the present time the South Fork of Fuller Creek is a very poor salmon and steelhead stream.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT -- Removal of log jams from the stream areas to allow the winter scouring to wash out sand and uncover spawning gravels is advisable. Erosion control to keep sand and silt from logging operations from washing into the streambed. At the present time the stream is still being heavily polluted by logging. Fresh dirt fills obstruct the stream in many places. A stricter enforcement of pollution laws in this area is suggested.

SKETCH MAP -- See attached. (sic)

REFERENCES AND MAPS -- Geological Survey Topographical Map, 7½-minute series, Quadrangle Annapolis.

Charles J. Parker/sc
8/20/64