

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
STREAM SURVEY**

FILE FORM No _____

NAME Donley Gulch COUNTY Mendocino
 STREAM SECTION Entire FROM Headwater TO Junction with Big Salmon Crk. LENGTH Approx. 1 1/4 mi.
 TRIBUTARY TO Big Salmon Creek TWP 16N R 16W SEC 32
 OTHER NAMES Unknown RIVER SYSTEM Big Salmon
 SOURCES OF DATA Personal survey on foot and information from local personnel of the State Division of Forestry and the local residents of the area.

- 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
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- FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS
- OTHER VERTEBRATES
- FISHING INTENSITY
- OTHER RECREATIONAL USE
- ACCESSIBILITY
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- POSTED OR OPEN
- IMPROVEMENTS
- PAST STOCKING
- GENERAL ESTIMATE
- RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
- SKETCH MAP
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - The entire creek from its headwaters to its junction with Big Salmon Creek was walked out on foot by Fish and Game Assistant, James Crowdus, and Fish and Game Seasonal Aid, Jack Santos, a distance of 1-1/4 mi., on September 30, 1961.

LOCATION- Donley Gulch is located approximately 20 mi. southeast of the town of Fort Bragg, Mendocino County. It rises approximately 6 mi. east of the town of Albion on Highway 1, approximately 18 mi. south of the town of Fort Bragg by Highway 1.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Donley Creek provides a spawning, nursery and water contribution to the Big Salmon Creek fishery, as well as the main drainage for several small tributaries to Donley Creek.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed - Donley Gulch drains approximately 6 sq. mi. into the Big Salmon.

Immediate Drainage Basin - This gulch is in a U-shaped valley of a consistent gradient of 15 ft. per 100. The gradient is covered with second growth conifers of about 60 to 70 years of age, interspersed with alder, willow and fir. The immediate creek has heavy vegetation in the form of grasses, mosses, and ferns. The surrounding terrain is considered to be moderately steep and ranges from 200 to 300 ft. above the creek bed. This drainage basin is the site of old logging activities conducted approximately 60 to 70 years ago. There are many skid and logging trails in this area.

some of which are considered useable at this date.

Altitude - 150 to 800 ft.

Gradient - Gradient, as has been mentioned, is 15 ft. per 100 on the average. There are a very few sections of cascading rock over bedrock and log jams and other debris. In parts of the headwater there is no flow at all, but winter flows evidence an extreme velocity due to many visible signs of serious erosion in this area.

Width - The width ranges from 1 ft. to 30 ft., the maximum width being at its confluence with the Big Salmon. The average width is approximately 3 ft.

Depth - The range at this date is dry to 4 ft. The average depth is about 2 to 3 in.

Flow - Flow is intermittent to 50 gallons per hour. There are sections in this stream that are dry at this date.

Velocity - Nonexistent; of no importance at this date. Pools are at a standstill at this date in their water velocity. Velocity, if any, is believed to be underground and through seepage.

Bottom - Bottom is bedrock predominantly, progressing from boulder in the headwater to gravel and coarse rubble in the lower areas. Bedrock exposes itself over 70% of this stream.

Spawning Areas - Spawning area is estimated to be fair, with 30% of the 1-1/4 mi. of the stream surveyed useful for this function. Spawning gravel is scattered throughout but occurs most frequently in the lower section of this stream.

Pools - Pools are good; estimate 25 pools per 200 ft. and the size average is 2 to 3 ft. square and 1 ft. deep. Fewer pools will exist during the heavier run-offs as the gradient is considered relatively steep and these pools will be continued into one cascading flow.

Shelter - Shelter is abundant. Logs form 25% of the shelter at present. Other shelter consists of overhead and instream vegetation.

Barriers - Log and skid roads form 4 barriers in this gulch. They are scattered in even frequency and are composed of dirt which is being pushed down to form the road; of silt which is being backed up by the road crossing; along with accumulated logs and debris.

Diversions - None observed.

Temperatures - The water temperature for this date was 53° F., and the air temperature was 80° F., at the junction with the Big Salmon Creek.

Food - It is considered adequate. Mayfly and insects were common, but not overly abundant as compared to other streams.

Aquatic Plants - None noted.

Winter Conditions - Winter conditions believed to be a maximum run of 5 c.f.s.

Evidence of flows of this amount exists in the deep gulches cut in the earth down to the bedrock. Some of these gulches are 6 ft. across and 8 to 10 ft, deep in the upper section. Other sections average about 3 ft. deep and follow the stream width.

Pollution - None observed.

Springs - Numerous springs of no fishery value were observed at this date. Most of them were of an oozing consistency, or dry. One tributary to the north with a flow at this date of approximately .03 c.f.s. contributes to this gulch. This contributing tributary has a fishery value for 1/8 mi.; hence, a rock barrier.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Steelhead and/or rainbow trout were observed. The average size was 1-1/2 in. Their abundance was considered light, the average, from 3 to 4 per pool. As to success: It is believed that the summer die-off is high due to the near drought conditions of this stream. The condition of the existing fish was good; they appeared vigorous and healthy. Natural propagation, yes. Local residents remarked that this area has had heavy runs of steelhead but the jams and summer droughts have contributed to a high mortality in these fish, as well as to the distribution problem.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Deer, racoon were observed.

FISHING INTENSITY - None observed.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Recommend hunting, camping and limited fishing.

ACCESSIBILITY - Six and one-half miles from the town of Albion on the Albion ridge road, then one mile down a dirt logging road to the first fork, branch right for a short distance, thence you will arrive at a flat; then bear left and cross a small bridge. The creek you will cross at this point is the Big Salmon; the creek on the right after crossing this bridge is Donley Gulch. This road will parallel this creek to the end of the area of fishery value. This past was considered general access. Immediate access to the stream is relatively easy. There are some sections that are inaccessible due to the dense vegetation; otherwise, it is considered easy foot access.

OWNERSHIP - Ownership is believed to be private, but not posted as such.

POSTED OR OPEN - There were no postings observed either in the general access or the immediate stream.

IMPROVEMENTS - None noted.

PAST STOCKING - None known; none believed to have occurred.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - I believe Donley Gulch will be a fair to good spawning and nursery stream, with proper control and removal of log jams, debris and road barriers.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT -

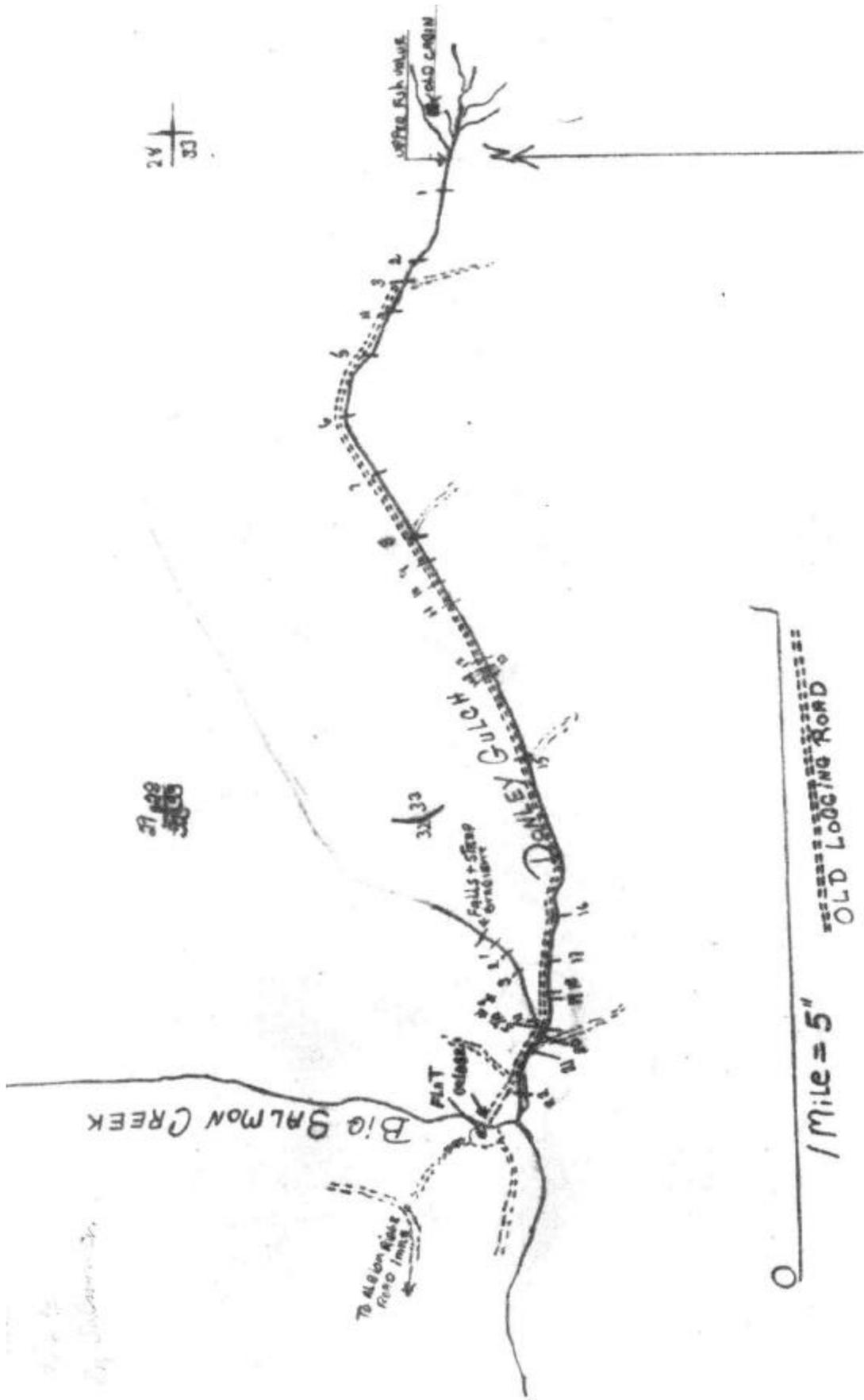
1. Remove the four road barriers;
2. Remove all jams listed in the jam survey;
3. Initiate erosion control of the minor eroded gulleys in the extreme headwaters. Close the stream to fishing. If this stream is to be used for an egg-taking station, general management should be spawning and nursery in application. This gulch and its management will greatly enhance the value of Salmon Creek fishery by the additional 1-1/4 mi. of Donley Gulch.

This concludes this stream survey on Donley Gulch by Fish and Game Assistant, James Crowdus, September 30, 1961.

Maps - USGS 15 min. Series, Navarro Quadrangle, 1943; State Div. Forestry, South half, Mendocino County Map, 1948.

James Crowdus/mh

cc - James Crowdus



Donley Gulch T16N R16W SECTION 32