

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

Date: June 29, 30, 1978

NAME: BURRIGHT CREEK **COUNTY:** Mendocino

STREAM SECTION: Partial **FROM:** ¼ mile from mouth **TO:** headwaters **LENGTH:** 5 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: East Fork Russian River **TWP:** 17 N **R:** 11 W **SEC:** 32

OTHER NAMES: None **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian River

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observations

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 - Burrright Creek was surveyed from 1/4 mile from the mouth to the headwaters on June 29 and 30, 1978 by Jack Lee and Liz Namba, Seasonal Aids.

LOCATION - Burrright Creek is located approximately three miles south of the town of Potter Valley in Mendocino County.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Burrright Creek supplies winter flow to the East Fork Russian River.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

WATERSHED AND IMMEDIATE DRAINAGE BASIN - In its upper reaches Burrright Creek flows through moderately steep-sided, V-shaped canyon forested with oaks, bay laurel, madrones, alders and poison oak. In the lower reaches, the canyon opens and the basin becomes U-shaped. The stream meanders through oak-grassland and pear orchards before it enters the East Fork Russian River. The main stem of Burrright Creek is 5.5 miles long with a drainage area of 7.1 miles².

ALTITUDE - Mouth-900 feet mean sea level (M.S.L.); headwaters-3,309 feet to 3,455 feet M.S.L.

GRADIENT - Average gradient of the headwaters of the main stem was 15 feet/100 feet. The gradient at the lower reaches was 1 foot/100 feet.

WIDTH - Average-4 feet; range-2 feet to 15 feet.

DEPTH - Average-1 foot; range-0.5 foot to 3 feet.

FLOW - Flow measurements were taken at two locations on the main stem. 150 yards above its confluence with tributary N-2 (see attached sketch map) (sic) -0.52 cfs. 150 yards below its

confluence with tributary N-2-0.48 cfs.

VELOCITY - The water velocity was generally slow at the headwaters and became more sluggish at the lower reaches, averaging less than one foot/sec.

BOTTOM - At the headwaters, the streambed was composed of silt (10%), sand (15%), coarse gravel (30%), rubble (30%), boulders (10%), and bedrock (5%). At the lower reaches, it was 20% silt, 20% sand, 25% coarse gravel, 30% rubble and 5% boulders.

SPAWNING AREAS - Suitable spawning areas for trout are limited due to siltation and compaction of gravel. Approximately 15% of the stream appeared to be suitable for spawning.

SHELTER - Some shelter was available in the forms of fallen trees and branches (30%) and boulders (70%).

POOLS - The average size was approximately 3 feet in width, 2 feet in depth, and 6 feet in length. The frequency was 35% pool to 65% riffle.

BARRIERS - A series of small log jams were observed on the main stem between its confluence with tributary N-2 and the first road crossing (R₁). The log jams were of equal size measuring 6 feet in width, 3 feet in height and 3 feet in length. A much larger log jam was seen on tributary N-2, approximately 1/3 mile above its confluence with the main stem. This jam measured 15 feet in width, 6 feet in height and 6 feet in length. The smaller jams may not impede fish passage during winter months but the larger one appeared to be a barrier regardless of the flow level.

DIVERSIONS - Water was diverted in the lower reaches approximately 200 yards above the mouth. The pipe measured approximately 3 inches in diameter and the water was used to irrigate the pear orchards. A few smaller pumps were noted near the confluence with the tributary (see sketch map). The water was diverted for domestic use. Records show that there is an earthen dam (WA 25201) near tributary N-2. Water was diverted from an unnamed stream tributary to N-2. The approximate capacity of the reservoir is 4.5 acre-feet. Another larger dam (WA 22788) with the reservoir capacity of 30 acre-feet is located at the NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 26. Water was diverted from an unnamed spring tributary to the main stem of Burright Creek. The impounded water in both cases was used for irrigation, domestic and recreational purposes.

TEMPERATURES - Main stem: 150 yards below confluence with tributary N-2—air 63°F and water 63°F at 1330 hours; 150 yards above confluence with tributary N-2—air 64°F and water 60°F at 1330 hours.

FOOD - Insect larvae were abundant.

AQUATIC PLANTS - Sedges (Cyperus) and horsetails (Equisetom); some algae were present in the upper reaches.

WINTER CONDITIONS - A local resident indicated that the winter flow level was about six feet above present (summer) conditions.

POLLUTION - None observed except for siltation.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Only two fish, appearing to be juvenile trout, were seen on the main stem between tributaries N-1 and N-2. No fish were seen in the tributaries. An electrofishing survey would reveal a more accurate count and identification of the fishery status. Overall, the stream has 1.5 miles of fishery value.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs, Western fence lizards, salamanders and deer.

FISHING INTENSITY - No indication.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - None.

OWNERSHIP - Private and posted.

IMPROVEMENTS - None other than the reservoirs indicated previously.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Burright Creek offers suitable nursery habitat for salmonids, but it provides limited spawning area due to a high degree of siltation. Dirt roads run parallel to the main stem and its tributaries all the way up to the headwaters. They may be the principal sources of the silt problem. Dirt and sand are blown into the streambed during the summer as the roads are subject to more frequent use. Sediments may also be washed into the stream during winter run-offs.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Burright Creek should be managed as a trout stream. Even in its present state, the stream offers some spawning and nursery areas for salmonids. Measures should be taken to minimize further siltation of the streambed to prevent additional loss of fish habitat.

SKETCH MAP - Attached. (sic)

REFERENCES - U.S.G.S. topographic map. Potter Valley Quad. 7 1/2 minute series, 1960.

Jack Lee
Seasonal Aid
Region 3