FELIZ CREEK Mendocino County

FIELD NOTES

July 9, 1954. While searching for fingerling SH holding pond sites, this creek was briefly visited in company with Gerald Holman. This stream was dry from U.S. Hwy. 101 to the flashboard dam on the Hellman ranch except for a few scattered holes immediately downstream from the dam. Beginning about a half mile above the dam, the flow, which thereupon went underground, was estimated at ½ sec. ft. Water temp. in the shade was 75 deg. F. Only 5 R.T.-SH were seen. One was about 18" in length and the rest were advanced fingerlings. Rough fish were abundant in the larger pools. These consisted of Western sucker, Western roach, hardhead and Sacramento squawfish. Some of the suckers and squawfish approached an estimated 18" in length. It was felt that some of the large permanent pools might be useful for holding ponds if there were sufficient flow throughout the season to permit additional storage of water. In view of the rough fish present it is recommended that the stream be chemically treated from the upstream limit of the rough fish population, the latter to be determined by subsequent surveys. There is a fair possibility that the Hellman dam itself might act as a suitable barrier for rough fish provided the flashboards were installed at the same time in the spring as were the boards in the Maacama Creek dam below the Campfire Girls Camp.

- HEP/mm

August 22, 1956: On this date a single station on Feliz Creek was electro-sampled. Observations of the channel showed little change from 1955 although the flow was considerably less, being only a mere trickle in this area and completely dry starting a short distance downstream. The area sampled was directly opposite the Hellman Ranch's so-called "picnic grounds". At 1 p.m. the air temperature was 86° F and the water temperature was 80°F. Sampling yielded 411 fingerling and yearling steelhead but no other fish of any kind. HEP:dk