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THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Fish and Game

CDFG
Eureka File

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM

No.

Date April 27, 1982

NAME May Creek

COUNTY Humboldt

STREAM SECTION FROM mouth To 1 mi. upstream LENGTH 1 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO Prairie Creek Twp. 11N R. 1E Sec. 11

OTHER NAMES Mae Creek RIVER SYSTEM Redwood Creek

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
Diversion
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

On April 27, 1982, Dave McLeod, Steve Heimlich (DFG) and Terry Hofstra (Redwood National Park) surveyed May Creek to assess its value to anadromous fishes. The available spawning gravel was assessed for total area, size and quality. Three barriers and two obstructions were located and described. All numerical values contained are approximations.

Migration Obstructions: h = height, w = width, l = length, d = diameter, NBNG = obstruction is neither a barrier to fish nor a blockage to gravel movement,

1. 350' above the mouth. Two 3' x 10' logs in creek, Total jam 4'h x 30'w x 20'l. Gravel accumulation behind jam 4'h at base x 15'w at base x 50'l, 80% silt and sediment, 10% sand and 10% gravel, Barrier.

2. 400' above obstruction #1. One log 6' x 30' across creek. Chunks and debris. Total jam dimensions 3'h x 20'w x 3'l. NBNG,

150' above obstruction #2 is an unnamed tributary from the south.

3. 600' above obstruction #2. Log jam with chunks and debris, Total jam dimensions 6'h x 30'w x 60'l. Gravel accumulation behind jam 6'h x 30'w x 60'l. Gravel accumulation behind jam 6'h at base x 50'w at base x 100'l, 80% silt, 10% gravel, 10% sand, Barrier,

4. 300' above obstruction #3. Logs and debris blocking streamflow. Total jam dimensions 3'h x 10'w x 3'l. NBNG,

5. 100' above obstruction #4. 5'h bedrock falls, with logs and debris at the base of the falls. Total dimensions 5'h x 30'w x 10'l. No gravel buildup. Barrier,

Observations:

The survey started at the confluence of May Creek with Prairie Creek. The stream gradient at the beginning of the survey was 1% and averaged 2% for the remainder of the survey. Bank stability was good throughout the survey.

Total channel width averaged 14' and wetted channel 3' to 4'. Riffle depth averaged 4" and pool depth 8". Pool to riffle ratio at the beginning averaged 1:2 with the remainder of the survey 1:1.

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Bottom composition for the beginning of the survey averaged 60% rubble, 20% sand, 10% silt, 10% gravel. For the remainder of the survey about 3000' from the mouth on upstream the silt increased and remained high, averaging 70% silt, 20% sand, 10% gravel.

The shade canopy species consisted of redwood, alder and western hemlock. The shade canopy averaged 40% for the first 3000' and 80% for the remainder of the survey.

Small salmonids were observed in the lower section of the stream. Aquatic insects observed were larval stages of caddisflies and stoneflies.

Recommendations:

Obstructions #1 through #3 should be removed to open up the lower part of the creek for suitable spawning and rearing habitat. Obstruction #5, the bedrock falls, is not going to be removed by Redwood National Park so obstruction #4, which is only 100' downstream should also be left. The upper stretches of the creek should be given sufficient time to heal itself of the heavy siltation problems, which reduces available oxygen for developing plant, insect and fish life. At that time it should be reassessed for its value to anadromous salmonids.

Written by: Steve Heimlich
Seasonal Aid

Wray Creek

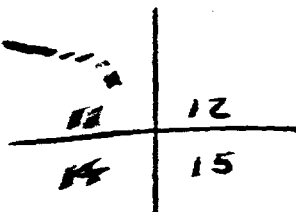


Prairie Creek

Boyes Creek

US. 101

Map Creek



Lost Man Creek

Survey Route

