

Redwood National  
Park Files

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David Anderson  
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Redwood National Park  
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Dear David and Vicki:

The attached is research I did this summer in anticipation that I would get the contract with Ann Smith to prepare the historical resource report for the Prairie Creek Hatchery. I didn't get the contract, but I thought you should have the information.

Two things are noteworthy. First, Fish and Game had been talking about establishing a cutthroat hatchery for some years before it picked Prairie Creek, indicating the Department felt this stream had the greatest potential to supply cutthroat eggs. Secondly, Redwood Creek was a significant producer of coho salmon, as you can see by the numbers. That 1952 paper on marking is interesting because it includes a map showing the northern coastal streams which they seined and the comment that "Little River and Redwood Creek are both excellent silver salmon streams, but were not seined extensively because in the few places where they could be reached by road, the pools were so deep as to make netting impractical..." "Pools...so deep" makes us wish for the habitat conditions pre '55 flood.

In Fish and Game's petition to the Board of Forestry to list coho (1994), Appendix A lists hatcheries that produce coho in California. Under Prairie Creek Hatchery (p. 59) the petition states that the hatchery began capturing returning adult coho salmon in 1972. Obviously, the writer's research was confined to recent data. Unfortunately that is a problem with most natural resource information and management. There is virtually no good historical information.

Thanks David for the photocopy of the fish pictures. I was interested in identifying the cover on the summer "Historian" which shows three fellows with a string of 27-28 fish--silvers, steelhead, and at least one cutthroat. I found out that they were fishing in Tom McDonald Creek or Stone Lagoon and the year was about 1918.

Please don't give this information to the consultants who got the contract with Ann Smith. They can do their own research.

Best,



Susie Van Kirk

3307

## Prairie Creek Hatchery Notes

State of California, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Game, Biennial Reports.

Thirtieth Biennial Report for the years **1926-1928**

pp 36-67 Report of the Bureau of Fish Culture By W.H. Shebley, in charge. [photos and descriptions of individual hatcheries]

p. 57: Prairie Creek

During the summer and fall of 1927, a survey was made to find a stream on the northwest coast from which cut-throat trout eggs could be obtained. After a close study and from data gathered in former years; we decided to establish a temporary hatchery and traps on Prairie Creek, Humboldt County, Prairie Creek is a tributary of Keawood creek, one of the large streams of northern Humboldt County. Racks and traps were installed by an experienced crew, but the heavy rainfall in that section made the work difficult. The men, working in mud and water in the dense redwoods where there is very little if any sunshine during the winter months, and where even in the summer there is a heavy shade nearly all day from the giant redwood trees, caused the ground to be soft and muddy all winter. The tent hatchery was established under trying conditions, but by the middle of November the racks were in place and the crew was ready to collect cut-throat trout eggs as well as steelhead eggs in the spring. The station is located on Prairie Creek below its junction with Lost Man Creek. Eight eyeing troughs were installed at first and later the number increased to thirty. The water for the eyeing troughs was taken from Lost Man Creek and carried to the troughs through about 2,500 feet of twelve-inch flume.

Two cabins were also built to accommodate the employees. The material was not on the ground soon enough to have the racks finished for the run of Chinook salmon and the high water allowed the cut-throat run to pass over the top of the racks. During the run of the silver salmon, 208,000 eggs were taken and the fry hatched at the station, excepting 60,000 which were taken to Fort Seward Hatchery to be liberated in Eel River.

During the steelhead run, about 1,400,000 eggs were taken. 762,000 were shipped to Fort Seward Hatchery and the balance hatched, reared and are to be distributed from Prairie Creek Station.

Judging from the first season's showing, we think the establishing of the station was justifiable and the station is a decided asset. There is ample water for hatchery purposes even if the capacity is increased and the water seems to be good.

Several log jams and other obstructions in Prairie Creek below the racks made it hard for the fish to ascend the creek. These have been partially removed and all of those which are in the way will be taken out before the salmon run this fall.

There are four varieties of fish that run in the creek, Chinook salmon, silver salmon, cut-throat trout, and steelhead

trout. The Chinooks and steelhead are desirable for general distribution and the silver salmon and cut-throat trout are of value for distribution in Humboldt County.

Thirty-First Biennial Report for the years 1928-1930.

pp. 43-68 Report of the Bureau of Fish Culture By W.H. Shebley, in charge.

p. 52: Prairie Creek Station (Experimental)

The experimental station was established in the early fall of 1928. No major improvements have been made at this station other than the building of a garage, which was a necessity. Only work that was absolutely necessary for the operation of the station has been done, as we still consider the station in an experimental stage and unproven as to either its continuance or as to its abandonment.

The climatic conditions prevailing during the past two years have been so adverse as to preclude an opinion as to the merits of the location as a potential egg supply. One or two bad breaks in the racks have been repaired.

Information from residents of the district is to the effect that there is a good run of steelhead trout in Prairie Creek about once in five years. We have planted the creek heavily during the past two years in the hope of ultimately building up a regular steelhead run in the creek. If we are able to succeed in this endeavor, it will be very good proof of the plan of planting large numbers of small fish instead of a few large fish. A further study is to be made of the streams of the district with a view of establishing dependable sources of egg supply. Redwood Creek has been under consideration for a number of years as a source of supply of salmon and steelhead eggs, but lack of funds to establish a permanent station have [sic] prevented carrying out of plans for this purpose. The United States Fish Commission attempted to establish an egg-collecting station on this stream over thirty years ago, but owing to the small sum of money used in the construction work and the tremendous floods during the period the experiments were carried on, the station was abandoned. With improved methods of trap construction [and] new roads to available sites when funds are available this creek should be considered. Redwood Creek is a stream that carries several thousand second-feet of water during flood stages and any work must be of a substantial nature that will stand the high water conditions.

| Fish Distributions By Counties, Season 1928 |           |         |         |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|
|                                             | Steelhead | Silver  | Quinnat |
| Prairie Creek                               |           |         |         |
| Humboldt                                    | 354,650   | 122,760 | 3,900   |
| Santa Clara                                 | 210,000   | -       | -       |
| Totals                                      | 564,650   | 122,760 | 3,900   |

Fish Distribution, Season 1929

|               |         |       |           |               |          |
|---------------|---------|-------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Prairie Creek | Quinnat | Steel | Cutthroat | <u>Silver</u> | Atlantic |
|---------------|---------|-------|-----------|---------------|----------|

|          |        |         |        |         | Salmon  |
|----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| Humboldt | 62,300 | 496,300 | 65,350 | 189,300 | 4,395 - |

Thirty-Second Biennial Report for the years 1930-1932

pp. 24-28 Report of Bureau of Fish Culture by J.O. Snyder, Chief.

Fish Distribution, Season 1930

|               |           |         |         |
|---------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Prairie Creek | Steelhead | Silver  | Chinook |
| Humboldt      | 614,680   | 365,600 | 25,000  |

Thirty-Third Biennial Report for the years 1932-1934.

pp. 22-28 Report of Bureau of Fish Culture By J.O. Snyder, Chief.

Donald Evins, Foreman Prairie Creek Hatchery, Orick.

Fish Distribution by Hatcheries and Counties, Season 1932

| Prairie Creek Hatchery | Steelhead | Cutthroat | Silver  | Chinook |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Del Norte              | 130,000   | -         | -       | -       |
| Humboldt               | 249,720   | 44,460    | 370,840 | 13,850  |
| Totals                 | 379,720   | 44,460    | 370,840 | 13,850  |

Fish Distribution, Season 1933

|           |         |        |         |        |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Del Norte | 195,000 | -      | -       | -      |
| Humboldt  | 289,385 | 39,060 | 446,570 | 69,840 |
| Totals    | 484,385 | 39,060 | 446,570 | 69,840 |

Thirty-Fourth Biennial Report for the years 1934-1936

Allan Pollitt, Foreman Prairie Creek Hatchery, Orick.

pp. 19-24 Bureau of Fish Conservation (formerly Bureau of Fish Culture) by J.O. Snyder, Chief.

Extensive construction and improvement have been accomplished through government relief agencies. Notable among these are the new hatcheries with their accompaniment of residences, etc. which have been built at Basin Creek, Prairie Creek, [and] Elk Grove. Each of these is well planned and presumably adapted to its particular function...Salmon propagation centers at Fall Creek, some support being received from the Mt. Shasta, Prairie Creek and Big Creek hatcheries.

Fish Distribution, 1935

|               |           |         |
|---------------|-----------|---------|
| Prairie Creek | Steelhead | Silver  |
| Humboldt      | 373,040   | 400,535 |
| Del Norte     | 230,000   | -       |
| Totals        | 603,040   | 400,535 |

Thirty-Five Biennial Report, 1936-1938

Allan Pollitt, Foreman Prairie Creek Hatchery, Orick.

pp. 28-35 Report of the Bureau of Fish Conservation by A.C. Taft, Chief.

...During 1937 the rebuilt Prairie Creek and Basin Creek hatcheries were put into full operation...

|                         |           |           |         |         |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Fish Distribution, 1936 |           |           |         |         |
| Prairie Creek           | Steelhead | Cutthroat | Silver  | Chinook |
| Del Norte               | 190,000   | -         | -       | -       |
| Humboldt                | 308,595   | 24,700    | 685,100 | 11,800  |

|                         |         |   |         |   |
|-------------------------|---------|---|---------|---|
| Fish Distribution, 1937 |         |   |         |   |
| Del Norte               | 190,600 | - | 61,500  | - |
| Humboldt                | 398,200 | - | 576,050 | - |

Thirty-Sixth Biennial Report for the years 1938-1940.

Allan Pollitt, Foreman Prairie Creek Hatchery, Orick

|                                   |           |       |         |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|--|
| Record of Fish Distribution, 1938 |           |       |         |  |
| Prairie Creek                     | Steelhead | King  | Silver  |  |
| Del Norte                         | 323,380   | -     | 153,500 |  |
| Humboldt                          | 648,700   | 3,360 | 405,540 |  |
| Lake                              | 56,000    | -     | -       |  |
| Mendocino                         | 155,500   | -     | -       |  |
| Sonoma                            | 10,400    | -     | -       |  |
| Trinity                           | 95,300    | -     | -       |  |

|                                     |        |      |        |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------|--------|--------|
| Trout and Salmon <u>Fish Rescue</u> |        |      |        |        |
| Prairie Creek Hatchery              | Steel  | cuts | King   | Silver |
| Del Norte Co.                       | 20,687 | 825  | 47,900 | 85,645 |
| Humboldt Co.                        | 17,929 | -    | 33,740 | 2,400  |

|                                   |         |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Record of Fish Distribution, 1939 |         |         |
| Prairie Creek Hatchery            | Steel   | Silver  |
| Del Norte o.                      | 394,800 | -       |
| Humboldt                          | 892,700 | 118,500 |
| Napa                              | 27,500  | -       |
| Trinity                           | 50,200  | -       |

|                           |        |            |        |        |
|---------------------------|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| Trout and Salmon Rescue   |        |            |        |        |
| Prairie Creek Hatchery    | Steel  | Lock Leven | King   | Silver |
| Del Norte                 | 66,245 | 2,320      | 10,544 | 77,015 |
| Humboldt                  | 10,452 | -          | 1,813  | 10,470 |
| (1 cutthroat in Humboldt) |        |            |        |        |

Thirty-Seventh Biennial Report, 1940-1942

Harold Hewitt, Foreman, Prairie Creek Hatchery, Orick

|                         |       |      |        |
|-------------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Fish Distribution, 1940 |       |      |        |
| Prairie Creek Hatchery  | Steel | King | Silver |

|           |         |        |         |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|
| Del Norte | 288,507 | -      | 40,500  |
| Humboldt  | 637,439 | 24,090 | 172,570 |
| Trinity   | 20,500  | -      | -       |

## Fish Distribution, 1941

|                        |         |        |
|------------------------|---------|--------|
| Prairie Creek Hatchery | Steel   | Silver |
| Del Norte              | 218,990 | 19,000 |
| Humboldt               | 648,970 | 53,120 |
| Trinity                | 30,340  | -      |

## Thirty-Eighth Biennial Report, 1942-1944

Hatcheries and egg collecting stations operating in 1942-43  
29 hatcheries; 11 egg collecting stations

Prairie Creek Hatchery

Prairie Creek & Lost Man Creek egg collecting-silver salmon<sup>3</sup>

## Fish Distribution, 1942

|                        |         |      |        |
|------------------------|---------|------|--------|
| Prairie Creek Hatchery | Steel   | cuts | Silver |
| Del Norte              | 229,910 | -    | -      |
| Humboldt               | 548,660 | 135  | 4,607  |
| Marin                  | -       | 600  | -      |
| Trinity                | 40,320  | -    | -      |

## Fish Distribution, 1943

|                        |         |         |         |        |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Prairie Creek Hatchery | Rainbow | Steel   | King    | Silver |
| Del Norte              | 10,000  | 264,920 | 491,920 | -      |
| Humboldt               | 60,348  | 692,432 | -       | 8,925  |

## Thirty-Ninth Biennial Report, 1944-1946

## Expenditures, 1 July 1945 to 30 June 1946

|                        |             |           |           |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
|                        | Salaries    | Operating | Equipment |
| Prairie Creek Hatchery | \$ 7,110.17 | 2,684.12  | 2,308.95  |
| Mt. Shasta Hatchery    | 52,606.48   | 17,944.37 | 327.96    |

## Fish Distribution, 1944

|                        |         |         |         |        |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Prairie Creek Hatchery | Rainbow | Steel   | Ring    | Silver |
| Del Norte              | -       | 545,904 | 497,900 | -      |
| Humboldt               | 25,644  | 629,118 | -       | 69,252 |

## Fish Distribution, 1946

|                        |           |          |         |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Prairie Creek Hatchery | Del Norte | Humboldt | Total   |
| Steelhead              | 492,280   | 377,588  | 869,868 |
| King                   | 487,360   | -        | 487,360 |

## Forty-First Biennial Report, 1948-1950

Hatcheries operating during report period include Humboldt County  
Prairie Creek Hatchery near Orick, 80 troughs, five redwood  
tanks, 4'x16'x30", located outside of hatchery building.

## Fish Planted, 1948

|                        |         |        |               |      |
|------------------------|---------|--------|---------------|------|
| Prairie Creek Hatchery | Rainbow | Steel  | Eastern Brook | King |
| Del Norte              | 40,530  | 25,600 | 2,310         | -    |

|                        |         |         |       |         |
|------------------------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Humboldt               | 101,865 | 33,768  | 9,510 | -       |
| Fish Planted, 1949     |         |         |       |         |
| Prairie Creek Hatchery |         |         |       |         |
| Del Norte              | 5,000   | 399,500 |       |         |
| Humboldt               | 77,864  | 312,799 |       | 155,400 |

Forty-Second Biennial Report of the Department of Fish and Game for 1950-1952.

Bureau of Fish Conservation...Hatchery Operations: The ever-increasing demand for catchable fish to satisfy a greater number of anglers each year has been partly met by bringing into production one new hatchery and by remodeling and enlarging several of our older units in order to better adapt them to the rearing of larger fish. Trout and salmon produced by hatcheries during the period covered by the report amounted to 1,109,013 pounds as compared to 952,768 pounds during the previous biennium...

Unprecedented storms ranging throughout Northern California and extending as far south as the Tehachapis during November, 1950, caused stream flows to reach flood stage and considerable flood damage was experienced at Prairie Creek, Mt. Tallac, Kern River, Kaweah and Yuba River Hatcheries...

Prairie Creek Hatchery on Highway 101, 4 miles north of Orick, 80 troughs, five redwood tanks, 4'x16'30"...

A graduate college student employed as a student biologist completed a study of the efficiency of natural propagation of steelhead and king and silver salmon and the factors affecting it. This study was carried out in the Prairie Creek drainage, Humboldt County.

Table 3. Marked Fingerling Salmon Released February, 1950 to June, 1952. [marked at Prairie Creek Hatchery]

| year marked       | date released              | species    | brood | origin         |
|-------------------|----------------------------|------------|-------|----------------|
| 1 1950            | May 4-May 18               | king (H)   | 1949  | Mad at Sweasey |
| 2 1951            | July 19-Aug 2              | king (H)   | 1950  | Mad at Sweasey |
| 3 1951            | May 11-July 21             | silver (C) | 1949  | DelNorte\Hum   |
| 4 1951            | May 14-July 22             | silver (C) | 1950  | DelNorte\Hum   |
| 5 1952            | Apr 9-Apr 23               | king (H)   | 1951  | FallCk\Klamath |
| 6 <del>1951</del> | <del>June 10-June 11</del> | king (H)   | 1951  | Mad River      |

(H) hatchery; (C) captured

|   | where released       | no. marked | no released |
|---|----------------------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | Big River, Mendocino | 137,396    | 132,734     |
| 2 | Mad River, Sweasey   | 79,341     | 75,826      |
| 3 | DelNorte\Hum Co.     | 1,784      | 1,772       |
| 4 | DelNorte\Hum Co.     | 166,578    | 164,423     |
| 5 | Klamath\101 bridge   | 202,226    | 199,730     |
| 6 | Mad near 101 bridge  | 102,451    | 99,300      |

Appendix B. Fish Distribution and Rescue, July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1951

|           | rainbow | steelhead | king |
|-----------|---------|-----------|------|
| Del Norte | -       | 483,938   | -    |

|          |        |         |        |
|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| Humboldt | 94,324 | 544,900 | 50,031 |
|----------|--------|---------|--------|

July 1, 1951 to June 30, 1952

|           |       |         |         |
|-----------|-------|---------|---------|
| Del Norte | -     | 236,970 | 507,250 |
| Humboldt  | 1,920 | 126,761 | 175,128 |

Forty-Fourth Biennial Report of the Department of Fish and Game, .  
for **1954-1956**.

Fourteen hatcheries listed for **1956**; Prairie Creek not listed.

Outmoded Plants Abandoned--With the completion of the hatchery expansion program, three of the older, outmoded hatcheries were abandoned. The abandoned installations are Prairie Creek Hatchery, Humboldt County; Kings River Hatchery, Fresno County; and Madera Hatchery, Madera County. This brought to **10** the total of outmoded hatcheries that have been closed during the modernization period.

California Fish and Game (CF&G), the Department's quarterly publication:

CF&G **13(1):47** (Jan. **1927**) Better Protection for Steelhead Needed--One of the conservation problems that through the years continues to confront California has to do with the steelhead trout in coastal streams. Not only does the season remain open during the winter time so that larger spawning fish are continually caught but the season again opens in May and continues open during the summer season. During the summer, few large trout are in the stream and therefore catches are largely limited to three and four-inch young fish, which should be given an opportunity to develop before being caught. Perhaps there are several solutions, but they remain untried with the exception of the attempts to introduce some resident species. The cutthroat trout is being tried out in the streams of Humboldt County. This may eventually produce a larger sized fish and reduce the toll taken of young steelhead...

CF&G **13(3):212-213** (July **1927**) Dept. of Fish Culture--Biologist Coleman made a survey of Prairie Creek and tributaries in Humboldt County this spring to determine the comparative numbers of steelhead and cutthroat trout and to gather data on the spawning of cutthroat trout.

CF&G **14(1):78** (Jan. **1928**) Dept. of Fish Culture--The Prairie Creek egg collecting station is about complete. This station, it is hoped, will furnish at least half the supply needed for the Fort Seward Hatchery. It was established after considerable investigation. The racks were located so as to take advantage of the run of both salmon and steelhead up Lost Man Creek and Prairie Creek.

Another experimental station will be located on Mill Creek, one of the main tributaries of the Smith River in Del Norte County. A tent hatchery will be set up and a trap installed, the

station being ready for operation by the beginning of the steelhead run.

CF&G 14(2):164 (April 1928) Dept. of Fish Culture--A storm the latter part of November caused the water in Prairie Creek to rise to such a height as to wash out the racks. As a result of this, new racks have been built fourteen feet long and placed in the main channel and the old racks placed in the newly created stream channel; hence the station is now in condition to cope with heavy floods.

The first steelhead and cutthroat trout taken at the Prairie Creek Station proved to be too green for spawning and the crew was forced to prepare a place to hold them. By placing a set of low racks below those in the new channel a suitable pond was made which will serve a similar purpose in the future.

Thirty more troughs have been added to the original eight at this station. Several million steelhead trout eggs can be eyed now, and sufficient number of eggs hatched to meet local demands if Prairie Creek enjoys this year the good runs that have attended it in the past.

CF&G 14(3):241 (July 1928) Dept. of Fish Culture--The egg-collecting season came to a close on Prairie Creek in April. In March the new tent hatchery neared completion sufficiently to receive a portion of the eggs and by May it had some 567,000 steelhead trout fry developing in its new troughs.

CF&G 15(2):162 (April 1929) During January 1929, 666,750 silver salmon eggs were shipped from Prairie Creek Station to the Fort Seward Hatchery.

Prairie Creek contains 62,300 chinook salmon fry, 45,500 steelhead trout and 63,550 cutthroat trout. Tanks have been built at the Prairie Creek Station for holding Atlantic salmon. These tanks are 32'x48'x16". Rainfall was below normal and the run of steelhead trout was late.

CF&G 15(3):271 (July 1929) Dept. of Fish Culture--In order to carry out an experiment to prove whether the Atlantic salmon will thrive on this coast, a shipment of 28,000 eggs was secured from New Brunswick. The Atlantic salmon is essentially a cold water fish. A very serious effort will be made, nevertheless, to determine whether this species can be propagated in the state to advantage. It has been claimed by some that if the fish succeeds in acclimatizing itself to California waters, it will prove more of a sporting fish than the native steelhead.

Another shipment of 25,000 Atlantic salmon has been received from the Bureau of Fisheries, East Orland, Maine. These will be taken care of at Cold Creek Hatchery, Mendocino County. The New Brunswick shipment is being cared for at the Prairie Creek Hatchery...

At the Fort Seward Hatchery, Humboldt County, there were 1,496,870 steelhead trout being developed. These came originally from the Cold Creek Hatchery. There were also 132,680 steelhead

trout from the Prairie Creek Station and **79,390** rainbow trout from Pocatello, Idaho.

Silver salmon to the number of **825,170** were planted near the hatchery in April and constituted the remainder of the fish received from the Prairie Creek Station earlier in the year. These fish were of good size and had every appearance of being strong and vigorous.

The latter part of the usual steelhead spawning season at the Prairie Creek Station passed with practically no movement of fish to the racks. The few light showers and the absence of storms failed to cause sufficient rise of water in Prairie Creek to bring about a good run. Only **98,500** steelhead trout eggs have been taken. These have been procured from occasional fish that have managed to reach the racks.

**CF&G 15(4):346 (Oct. 1929)** Bureau of Fish Culture--The foreman of the Prairie Creek hatchery, J.C. Lewis, reported a serious epidemic among the Atlantic salmon which were being reared at that station. Though the loss was heavy, the **3,000** remaining after the epidemic ceased have grown rapidly and are in prime condition for planting.

It appears from this report that these fish are not resistant to the organisms existing in western waters. Great care was exercised in the handling of these fish from the time the eggs were received, but it was difficult to check the epidemic after it got a start.

**CF&G 16(2):181 (April 1930)** Bureau of Fish Culture--During the month of November, the **4,395** Atlantic salmon which were being held in tanks at the Prairie Creek Station were planted in Redwood Creek. They had reached a length of from four to five inches. During the cold weather of the fall, with consequent lowered water temperature, they added but little to their size, not feeding very heavily in the cold water.

**CF&G 17(2):176 (April 1931)** Game Fishes: Fish Culture--The egg-collecting station on Prairie Creek in northern Humboldt County has been in operation for the collection of silver salmon and cutthroat trout eggs. This station will be continued in operation during the period of steelhead trout egg collections.

**CF&G 17(2):212-213 (April 1931)** Bureau of Fish Culture--The streams are very low in Humboldt County. Very few fish are ascending the Eel River at this writing. Redwood Creek and Prairie Creek are so low that very few steelhead are ascending these streams.

**CF&G 17(4):482 (Oct. 1931)** Bureau of Fish Culture--Basin Creek, Big Creek, Brookdale, Prairie Creek, Fort Seward, Almanor and Wawona hatcheries have had such a shortage of water that they could operate but a short time this spring. The low warm water has, at a majority of the hatcheries, caused them to plant earlier than usual. The hatcheries that are in operation are all running on diminished supplies of water and it will take more

than one winter of normal precipitation to give the streams and springs their usual supply: as the drought has continued so many years that it will take several years to restore the lakes with water to bring **up** the flow anywhere in California so that we can have the same amount of water as was to be found in the springs and streams fifteen years ago.

CF&G 20(1) (Jan. **1934**) Donald Evins, Foreman Prairie Creek Hatchery.

CFbG 23(1) (Jan. **1937**) Allan Pollitt, Foreman Prairie Creek Hatchery.

CFbG 27(1) (Jan. **1941**) Harold Hewitt, Foreman Prairie Creek Hatchery.

CF&G 30(1) (Jan. **1944**) S.C. Smedley, Fish Hatchery Man, Prairie Creek Hatchery.

CF&G 38(2):275 (April **1952**) Pink Salmon in Prairie Creek, California--Another of those infrequent visits to California waters has been made by at least one individual of the species Oncorhynchus gorbuscha, the pink or "humpback" salmon. The specimen, a male 26 inches in fork length and weighing seven pounds, was taken in Prairie Creek, tributary to Redwood Creek in Humboldt County, on October **13, 1951**. The normal spawning grounds for these fish lie well north of California, usually from Washington to Alaska. Pink salmon mature and spawn at the early age of two years and thus are the smallest of the Pacific salmons. Only the males develop the grotesque hump seen in the specimen pictured.

Previous appearances of the species in California waters have been recorded at various times; indeed, fairly respectable runs apparently occurred in some Mendocino County streams during **1937**. (See "Pink Salmon in California" by A.C. Taft, California Fish and Game, vol. **24**, no. **2**, p. **197-8**, April, **1938**). These, however, do not appear to have been repeated regularly and the appearance of isolated individuals in California remains noteworthy.--S.C. Smedley, Bureau of Fish Conservation, California Department of Fish and Game, November, **1951**.

CF&G 38(3):301-332 (July **1952**) California's Part in a Three-State Salmon Fingerling Marking Program. By Richard J. Hallock, George H. Warner and Donald H. Fry, Jr.--Acknowledgements: Mr. Stephen C. Smedley, Foreman of Prairie Creek State Fish Hatchery, gave extensive assistance in the handling of fish, and much valuable information about the silver salmon spawning streams in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties...

At present there are only three hatcheries in the State which regularly handle salmon. Coleman Fishery Station is a large federal king salmon hatchery. It is on Battle Creek near the Sacramento River. Mt. Shasta Hatchery is a large Department of Fish and Game trout hatchery which handles some salmon. It is near the headwaters of the Sacramento River, many miles above the

farthest point which salmon can now reach. All salmon eggs must be transported to the hatchery. The Prairie Creek Hatchery in Humboldt County is another Department of Fish and Game trout hatchery which handles some salmon. It is not large but it is the only one of the three within a reasonable distance of a source of silver salmon eggs. When the marking experiment was started, all of Prairie Creek Hatchery's available space was being utilized by trout and king salmon. ~~It is now rearing some silver salmon which will be marked and released in the spring of 1953...~~

California has no hatcheries devoted to raising silver salmon, although small quantities of these fish are occasionally reared at Prairie Creek Hatchery. No silver salmon were available at this hatchery in 1951; consequently, the fish to be marked ~~had to be obtained from some of the coastal streams where silver salmon runs occur. Since Prairie Creek Hatchery afforded~~ facilities for fish marking and a number of streams in the vicinity were known to contain silvers, operations were conducted in this area. Seines were tried in Prairie Creek and it was demonstrated that young silver salmon could be taken in fairly good numbers by this means...

Seining for silver salmon was confined to the coastal streams of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, between Bull Creek, a tributary to Eel River, and Mill Creek, a tributary to Smith River. Very few salmon were taken south of Humboldt Bay because of the long hauling distance to Prairie Creek Hatchery. All releases of marked fish were made in permanent streams between Elk River, a tributary to Humboldt Bay, and Mill Creek in Del Norte County...

Little River and Redwood Creek are both excellent silver salmon streams, but were not seined extensively because in the few places where they could be reached by road, the pools were so deep as to make netting impractical. However, these streams made good planting places and as such received more fish than were taken from them...

Seining was started on May 8th and concluded on July 20, 1951, when a total of 168,362 silvers had been captured...Most yearling silvers appearing in the catch were taken early in May near the mouths of streams. They represented the last of the seaward migrant yearlings still in fresh water...