

NAME..... VALENTINE CREEK..... COUNTY..... MENDOCINO.....  
 Length 3 miles  
 TRIBUTARY TO..... BIG RIVER..... Twp..... 17N..... R..... 14W..... Sec..... 33.....  
 OTHER NAMES..... RIVER SYSTEM.....  
 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
- NAME OF DAM
- OWNERSHIP
- DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
- TYPE OF DAM
- HEIGHT OF DAM
- SPILLWAY (Type, Size, Discharge)
- OTHER OUTLETS (Type, Size, Etc.)
- FISHWAYS
- SCREENS
- USE OF WATER

Extent of Observation: On July. 29, 1959, James Morehouse walked upstream from the mouth to the extreme headwaters of this creek.

Location: This creek rises on the southeast slopes of the Big River watershed (about 1-1/2 miles west of Leonard Lake on Mill Creek Road) and flows north west to its confluence with Big River.

Relation to Other Waters: A small headwaters creek of the Big River system, relatively unimportant.

Water Shed: The entire watershed is typical Northcoast redwood, douglas fir forest. Large areas of this watershed seem to have been completely denuded of climax forest and steep slopes of grass or brush have resulted.

Immediate Drainage Basin: The lower 2/3 of this creek flows through gently sloping "V" type canyon. The forest growth, redwoods, douglas fir and tan oak constitutes the riparian growth in this lower area. The upper 1/3 of this canyon has steeper slopes with considerable bedrock in the creek. This upper riparian growth is predominantly horsetail, bullrush, tan oak and haxelnut.

Gradient: Is slight in the lower half of the creek becoming moderate to steep in the upper half.

Width: 1 ft. to 2 ft, average 18 inches.

Depth: 1 inch to 3 inches average 2 inches.

Flow: Was 0.3 cfs and fairly rapid in the lower half. The upper half had an intermittant

Velocity: flow of 2 or 3 gpm more or less sluggish.

Bottom: Primarily a rubble, sand, gravel bottom with occasional boulders and considerable bedrock in the upper 1/3.

Spawning areas: Poor to fair throughout most of the stream.

Pools: Abundant 8 ft long 2 ft wide 5 in, deep. to 15 ft long 6 ft wide 8 in. deep.

Shelter: Good to excellent. Boulders, undercut banks and tree roots and riparian growth.

Barriers: None (see attached sheet).

Diversions. None seen.

Valentine Creek

Temperatures: 60° F. in the lower half. 62° F. to 70° F. above. Air: 0800 - 58° F;  
1000- 70° F. 1200 - 74° F. Weather - clear.

Food: Common in the lower half, to uncommon above.

Aquatic Plants None other than algae.

Winter conditions: No evidence of excessively high water or flooding. It is felt that the winter conditions are fairly mild.

Pollution: None seen.

Springs: Flowing springs in the extreme headwaters.

Fishes present and success: RT/SH only, abundant in each pool. Very successful despite this writer's estimate of spawning gravels. Most trout were 1/2 in to 1-1/2 in. Occasionally larger trout, up to 5 inches were seen.

Other Vertebrates: Small frogs, Western Newts and one black bear (medium sized).

Accessibility: A private road turns off Baechel Creek road about three miles west of Highway 101, and goes into the Big River headwaters as shown on sketch map. Baechel Creek road turns west from highway 101 at the Southern City limits of Willits.

Ownership: All under private ownership.

Posted or Open: All access ways are locked.

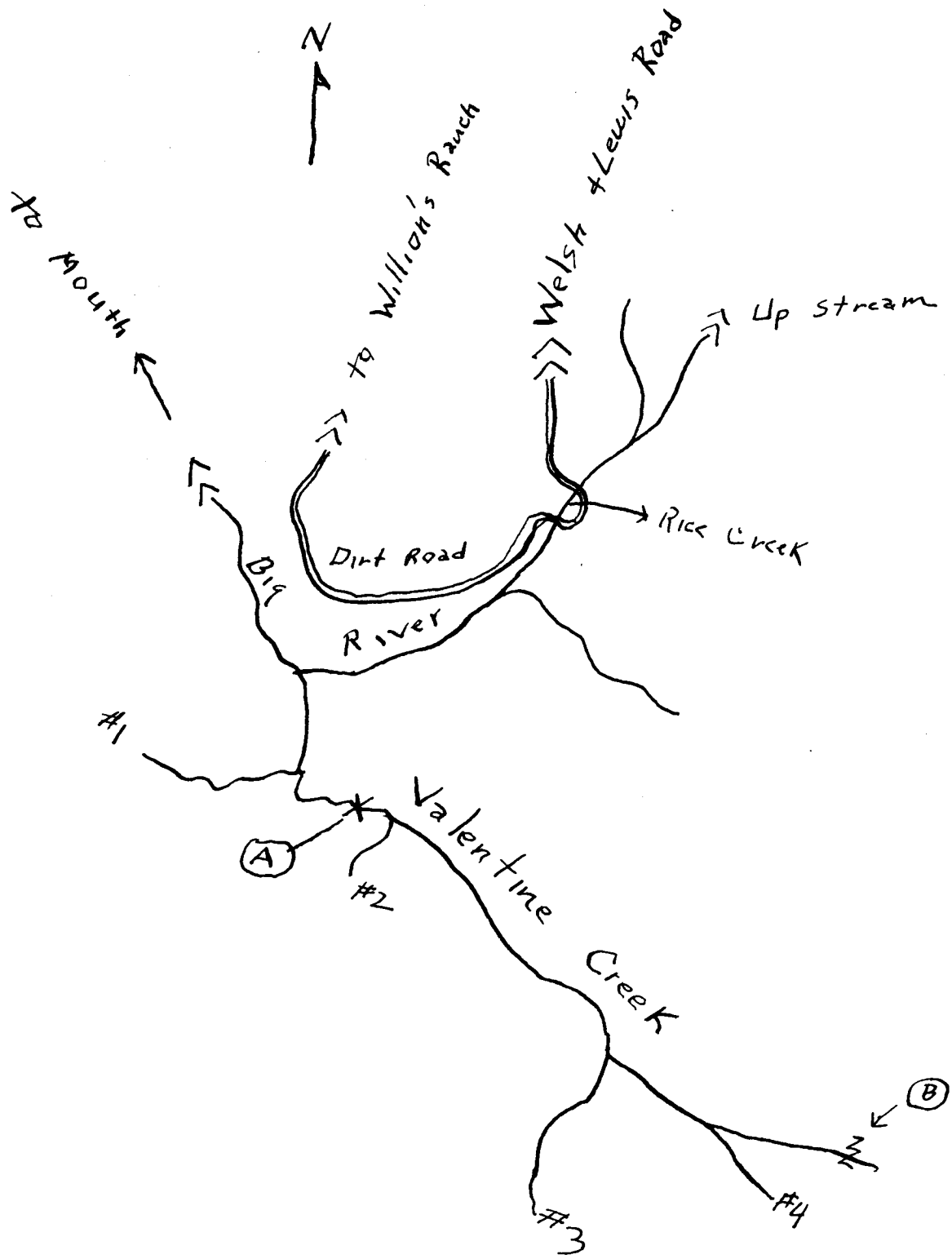
Improvements: This area has been logged over, and because the main creek is clean while its tributaries are filled with logs and because many large logs are stacked just above the stream banks, it is felt that this creek bed has been cleaned up.

General Estimate: This seems to be a good spawning and nursery stream for steelhead and it is felt it is in good condition.

Recommended Management: This Creek should be protected from future logging malpractice. Otherwise only normal steelhead, spawning management is necessary.

Sketch and Reference Maps: The Forestry map, south half, Mendocino County, 1948, was the only reference. The sketch map was taken from this.

Altitude - Fishing Intensity - Other recreational use and Past Stocking: Unknown.



## VALENTINE CREEK TRIBUTARIES

1. This tributary is dry, immediately steep and is not considered to be of any value to fish life. Extensive log jams near the mouth.
2. This tributary is not flowing. Small intermittent pools. Series of 3 ft to 4 ft falls. Falls are the result of large boulders and logs. It is felt that this tributary is of little value to fish life. Extensive logging damage.
3. This is a very small steep headwaters tributary with no flow and no value to fish life.
4. Headwaters tributary small, steep, boulder steps. No value to fish.

### Barriers and Log jams

- a. Log jam caught on large boulder.  
25 ft long 10 ft wide 10 ft high void 60%. As the stream above is clean, it is felt that this jam will not become a problem. It is recommended that this jam should not be removed.
- b. Log jam - it is felt that this is a logging flush dam that has fallen in:  
100 ft long 150 ft wide 90 ft high. Void 80%. There are trout in the pool immediately below this dam, but only extreme headwaters are above it. This writer believes that these, logs will cone downstream. It is recommended not to remove this jam.

It is felt that this flush dam is responsible for the scouring of the upper stream bed.