

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM No-

NAME. **SOUTH FORK OF THE NOYO RIVER**

....COUNTY....**Mendocino** _____

STREAM SECTION FROM **Origin**..... TO...Mouth.....LENGTH.....7 miles Approx

TRIBUTARY TO...**Noyo River**.....Twp...18N.....R 17W.....Sec...14.:

OTHER NAMES.....**RIVER SYSTEM** ..**Noyo**_____

SOURCES OF DATA... **PERSONAL OBSERVATION**.....

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION This 7 mile river section was walked from its origin to its mouth by Jim Morehouse and Stan Nye on August 24th and **25th, 1959.**

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 Area
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

LOCATION: The South Fork rises at old Camp #19 on State Highway #20, and flows North-West to it's confluence with the North Fork of the Noyo River.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS: The South Fork is an important Silver Salmon and Steelhead spawning area of the Noyo River drainage.

WATERSHED: Typical north coast redwood forest.

IMMEDIATE DRAINAGE BASIN: This branch of the river flows through a fairly wide "U" shaped canyon; bordered by the alternating, slightly steep to very steep, slopes of the coast, redwood, douglas fir forest.

ALTITUDE: Not 'known.

GRADIENT: The gradient is moderate in the first mile becoming very slight in the balance of the stream.

WIDTH: 6 inches to 20 feet. Average 4 feet.

DEPTH: 1 inch to 2 feet. Average 2 1/2 inches

FLOW: Intermittent to 0.5 C.F.S. Average 0.2 C.F.S.

VELOCITY: Occasionally sluggish, mostly rapid.

BOTTOM: The bottom is fair to good gravel throughout. There is some bedrock bottom and a few silted in areas.

SPAWNING AREA: The majority of the river bed is satisfactory spawning area with an abundance of gravel.

POOLS: Pool development is excellent. Abundant throughout. 1 foot x 2 feet x 4 inches to 20 feet x 15 feet x 2 feet. **Average 30 feet x 10 feet x 6 inches.**

SHELTER: Shelter is abundant; in the form of pools, undercut banks, logjams and over hanging stream side growth.

BARRIERS: Recorded separately.

DIVERSIONS: A **concrete** abutment, flush board dam. About two miles South of Parlin Fork camp. There is a pump and 2" pipe below the dam.

TEMPERATURES: **65°F** to **59°F**. Average **52°F**.

FOOD: Common throughout. Caddis fly, May fly and other insect larva.

AQUATIC PLANTS **None** seen other than algae.

WATER CONDITIONS: There is no indication that winter flows are excessive for the river banks. Because of the wide river bed and the slight gradient, this stream tends to flood around logjams, wash out its banks and silt in the area around the jam creating a marsh **area**. I feel the winter conditions are fairly mild even tho the winter flows are relatively high. This would probably be a more severe, scouring, type of river if the gradient were not so slight.

POLLUTION: None seen other than logging.

SPRINGS: Common in the headwaters.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS: Silver salmon, steelhead/R.T. and sticklebacks were the only fish seen, and they occurred in the above order of abundance. All three species seemed successful. SS one inch to **2 1/2** inches. Average 2 inches. SH 2 inches to 24 inches. Average 2 inches. ~~Two~~ large adult **SH** were observed (about 2 feet long). Sticklebacks

averaged **1 1/2** inch

OTHER VERTEBRATE: Small frogs and salamanders.

FISHING INTENSITY: Not known.

OTHER RECREATIONAL:USE Camping, hunting, hiking and picniking. This recreational use is not restricted to the State Park area.

ACCESSABILITY: This South Fork is accessable in many areas by Forest Service and logging roads.

OWNERSHIP The majority of this drainage is within the Jackson State Forest. About one mile of the headwaters is owned by Kelly Mcguire and a portion of the mouth is owned by Union Aborigine Lumber Company.

POSTED OR OPEN: Not known.

IMPROVEMENTS The Parlin Fork Honor Camp personnel are removing logjams with hand tools. The result is a very definate improvement.

PAST STOCKING: Not known.

GENERAL ESTIMATE: The South Fork is in comparatively good condition, and is being improved by the removal of the present logjams. This branch of the river is an important area for silver salmon and steelhead as a spawning and nursery stream. It appears to be a better silver salmon stream than a steelhead stream. The lower one mile of this river is in private ownership and is badly damaged by logging, however, fish were seen through-out, and one of the adult steelhead was observed in this area.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: Normal salmon and steelhead management is suggested.

MAPS AND REFERENCES: The forestry map, South half, Mendocino County, 1948 was consulted.

