

ELDRIDGE CREEK
 From Mouth to Headwaters
 Seward Creek
 No other names known.
 Personal observation.

MENDOCINO
 5 1/2 miles
 T. 16N.; R. 13W.; Sec. 11
 Russian River System.

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION : Eldridge Creek surveyed on foot and from vehicle from the mouth to the headwaters, about 5 1/2 miles, on July 6, 1972 by Steven C. Durkee and Robert R. Klamt,

LOCATION : Eldridge Creek joins with Jack Smith Creek to form Seward Creek about 2 miles above the confluence of Seward Creek and Forsythe Creek.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS : Eldridge Creek contributes summer and winter flow to the Forsythe Creek system and potentially extends SH spawning and nursery grounds approximately 4 1/2 miles.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION :

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin : Eldridge Creek drains a basin of about 5 1/2 square miles. The dominant vegetation for the entire drainage is oak grassland, however there are isolated areas of redwood forest. The stream is homogeneous for its entire length, running through a V-shaped canyon of varying widths. The overall gradient is 262ft/mile and the stream bed is largely gravel with bedrock dominant in a few areas.

Altitude : At mouth, 880ft.; at head 2320ft.

Gradient : Overall, 262ft/mile.

Width : Average, 3ft.; range, 1-6ft.

Depth : Average, 3 inches; range, 1-18inches.

Flow : At mouth and at 2 1/2 miles upstream, approximately 1/2cfs.; at headwaters, intermittent.

Velocity : Moderately rapid.

Bottom : At mouth: golf size gravel and above - 1/2, marble sized and smaller - 1/2, occasional bars of pea, sand and silt,
at 2 1/2 miles upstream from mouth: golf and baseball - 3/4, pea, sand and silt - 1/4;
at headwaters, baseball size and larger - 1/4, golf and marble - 1/4, pea, sand and silt - 1/2,

Spawning areas : Overall, good 1/2 -2/3 of area.

Pools : Pool to riffle ratio = 1:1

Shelter : Undercut banks and boulders,

Barriers : 1 compact log jam, 8 areas of litter, 1 dam - empty, not serviceable at present.

Diversions : None noted.

Temperatures :

	<u>Mouth</u>	<u>2½. miles upstream</u>	<u>Head</u>
Air temp.	72°	65°	65°
Water temp.	68°	64°	62°
Altitude	960	1200	1760
Weather	Clear	Clear	Clear
Time	1145	1100	1000

Food : Mayfly, Caddisfly, Stonefly, diptera larva.

Aquatic Plants : Juncus, Equisetum, nutgrass, liverwort and algae.

Winter conditions : 2 - 5 feet above summer level.

Pollution : Cattle grazing.

Springs : Few noted.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS : Rainbow trout, 1 inch, 2-4inches and 5-8inches.
Abundance: approximately 80/100ft., mostly of the smaller sizes.

OTHER VERTEBRATES : Turtles, frogs, tadpoles, and salamanders.

FISHING INTENSITY : Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES : Camping.

ACCESSIBILITY : Accessible by road leading to the Greenfield Ranch.

OWNERSHIP : Greenfield Ranch, being subdivided.

POSTED OR OPEN : Open.

IMPROVEMENTS : None.

GENERAL ESTIMATE : Eldridge Creek at present is not being used as a SH spawning stream, although it offers roughly 4 1/2 miles of potential spawning and nursery grounds for Salmonids, The major cause of this situation appears to be linked to low winter flows, not only on Eldridge Creek, but also on Seward Creek which is formed by the confluence of Jack Smith and Eldridge Creeks.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT : Further investigation of this fish movement problem is needed before serious consideration is given to barrier removal.

SKETCHMAP : Attached.

REFERENCES : U.S.G.S. 15 minute series. (Willits & Boonville Quads.) 1961
Scale - 1:62500.