CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
STREAM SURVEY

NAME GREENWOOD CREEK COUNTY Mendocino .

STREAM SECTION FROM mouth/headwaters TO 4 miles upstream, and 1.2 miles below falls (approx. 5.5 miles) Length 9.5 miles

TRIBUTARY TO Pacific Ocean TWP. 14N R 17W SEC 35 .

OTHER NAMES none known River System Greenwood Creek .

SOURCES OF DATA Personal observations, local warden, Larry Redfern, and local residents .

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - On April 13, 1966, Dave Netherby and Kevin Rockwood drove up this creek 2 miles from the mouth. We then walked upstream an additional 2 miles. On April 14, 1966, we drove up to the headwaters and drove along the stream for 5.5 miles from the headwaters.

LOCATION - From the mouth of the River to 4 miles upstream and from the headwaters to 1.2 miles below the falls.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Greenwood Creek is an important spawning and nursery area for steelhead and silver salmon. It is accessible to anadromous fish for approximately 12 stream miles, for the stream runs continually up to Russian Gulch, 2 miles from the headwaters.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION –

Watershed - The watershed area consists of first and second growth redwood forests with a few meadows interspersed. Vegetation consists of redwoods, alder and brush along the banks.

Immediate Drainage Basin — The basin ranges from a steep V—shaped canyon to a wide U-shaped canyon. The stream discharges in a WNW direction. The bottom is chiefly a flattened lens-shape throughout most of the area. The vegetation on the stream side edges is abundant, consisting of brush and grasses.

Altitude - The altitude ranges from sea level at the mouth to 1,600 feet at the headwaters.

Gradient - Moderate.

Width - The width varies from 2 feet at the headwaters to 100 feet at the mouth, with the average through out the accessible stream being 25 feet.

Depth - Range from 6 inches at the headwaters to 8 feet at the mouth. The average depth for riffles is 12 inches, for pools is 2 feet.

Flow - Continual throughout the year. It was estimated at 66 cfs at the mouth following several days of rain.

Velocity - Rapid throughout.

Bottom - The bottom consists of bedrock (10%), boulder (10%), rubble (30%), gravel (35%), sand (10%), and mud and silt (5%).

Spawning areas - Excellent and abundant with long stretches of loose gravel from pea sized to 2 inches. The spawning areas do appear to be better suited for Steelhead, for most of the gravel is pea-sized.

Pools - The pools average 40 feet wide, 60 feet long, and 2 feet deep. They are caused by digging action of the current flowing around or over boulders and log jams. They are shaded from above by the alder and redwood, which line the banks. Overhanging logs and brush also offer shelter. The frequency is - pools-60%, riffles-40%.

Shelter - The shelter along the pool consists of boulders, overhanging logs, undercut banks and overhanging terrestrial plants. These cover approximately 50% of the creek as a whole and 75% of the pools.

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Barriers - A series of three falls - 12 feet, 5 feet, and 15 feet constitute the upstream barrier to anadromous fish 2 miles below Russian Gulch or 4 miles from the headwaters.
A log jam ½ mile below these falls are a partial barrier to anadromous fish. This log jam is approximately 25 yards long. Three log jams in the 1¼ mile above the falls offer potential barriers, but are unimportant since they are above the upstream limits.
Three photographs were taken of the falls and one was taken of the log jam below the falls.
Diversion - None observed.
Aquatic Plants - Green and brown algae, watercress and water-mint make up the majority of the aquatic plants.
Winter Conditions - Unknown.
Pollution - None observed.
Springs - Springs are abundant throughout the entire length of Greenwood Creek, averaging 6-8 per mile.
FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Steelhead and silver salmon use this creek as a spawning and nursery area. However local residents state that very few were observed during the past year. The water was too muddy due to recent rains to see very well.
Local residents state that native trout also live in Greenwood Creek.
OTHER VERTEBRATES - Sheep, deer, frogs, salamanders, coons, snakes, and predatory birds reside in the area.
FISHING INTENSITY - Moderate to heavy. This is one of the better Steelhead streams in the area.
ACCESSIBILITY - Greenwood Creek is accessible by car for approximately 3 miles from the mouth by a logging road. This road is accessible by foot for most of the length of the stream with a few washouts. This road is what used to be the railroad bed back in 1902 when this area was first logged. The logging road can be approached by driving through the sawmill in Elk.
The headwaters can be approached by taking the Greenwood Ridge Road to the Cold Springs Road and then turning west on a logging road. This road is accessible by car for several miles, but a 4-wheel drive jeep would be able to go much further. It is accessible by foot down to the mouth.
OWNERSHIP - Most of this land is owned by the Crofoot Brothers of Ukiah, California and all of the land from ½ mile from the mouth is posted.
PAST STOCKING - None Known.
GENERAL ESTIMATE AND RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Greenwood Creek is an excellent spawning and nursery area for Steelhead and salmon and should continue to be managed as such. Removal of existing log jams and supervision of logging in the area is recommended.