THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Fish and Game

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM No....

Date September 15, 1967

NAME..... McMullen Creek . . . . . COUNTY . Mendocino .

STREAM SECTION entire FROM mouth ... To .... headwaters ... LENGTH ....1.6 mi..

TRIBUTARY TO Noyo River ... Twp...18N..... R...14W.....Sec...7.....

OTHER NAMES..... None known ..... RIVER SYSTEM..... Noyo River .....

SOURCES OF DATA.....Personal observation.....

- 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
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- FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS
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- FISHING INTENSITY
- THER RECREATIONAL USE
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- RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - McMullen Creek was surveyed the afternoon of August 10, 1966. The stream was surveyed on foot from its mouth to a point 1.6 miles above its mouth. Surveyor: Brian Edie.

LOCATION - The mouth of McMullen Creek is located 2.5 miles east of Irmulco. The region near the mouth is called Shake City by local residents and is listed as such by the California Western Railroad. The mouth is approximately 27 miles east from Fort Bragg along the C.W.R. tracks.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - McMullen Creek is a small tributary to the Noyo River. It is important as the contributor to the summer flow of the Noyo, and increases the spawning and nursery area of the river system.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed - Section 1 - mouth to point .5 miles above mouth - wide valley bounded by steep sided hills, soil in section appears to be stable though great deal of silt in streambed. Vegetation - alder, manzanita, redwood, madrone, tan bark oak. Section 2 - From . 5mi. to 1.25 mi. above mouth. Narrow valley; soil unstable due to road building and past logging; vegetation - redwood, tan bark oak. Section 3 - from 1.25 mi. to 1.6 mi. above mouth - U-shaped canyon; soil unstable; vegetation - mainly redwood.

Immediate Drainage Basin - Section 1 - wide, shallow streambed, stream meanders through valley. Streamside vegetation abundant, mainly small manzanita and madrone near stream with taller redwood and oak trees back from stream. Section 2 - narrow, deeply incised streambed. Vegetation, scarce, scattered redwood trees and oaks. Section 3 - wider streambed no water at this time of year only scattered redwood grow in this area. Total drainage area 1.2 square miles.

Altitude - mouth - 560 ft. Upper fish value - 880 ft.

Gradient - 200 ft./mi. to upper fish limit (Aug.) - moderate gradient.

Width - Aug. 3' - range l'-5'.

Depth - Range - ½" - 1'; Av. 1½".

Flow - .25 c.f.s, at mouth.

Velocity - Moderate velocity

Bottom - 359. coarse rubble; 35% fine rubble; 25% coarse gravel; 5% fine gravel.

Spawning areas - Section 1 - good spawning gravels especially in winter bed. Heavy silt in stream bed now. Section 2 - no spawning gravels soil bottom. Section 3 - poor spawning gravels, too many large boulders.

Pools - Pool/riffle patio for summer flow is about 1 to 2. Frequency - good to poor Pools are caused by the digging action of the water. Also by boulders and undercut banks. Aug. size. Length 4'; wide 2.5'; depth .5'. Pools are generally long and shallow, with occasional deep spots.

Shelter - There is a fair amount of shelter for fish in Section 1 usually because of roots and undercut banks. No shelter is found in Section 2. The little shelter in Section 3 is due to boulders and logs.

Barriers - Only two barriers were observed on the stream one a log jam the other a bridge. The bridge is only a partial barrier and is passable at all times. The second is almost a complete barrier. It is 5' high, 10' wide, and 4' deep.

Diversions - No diversions were observed.

Temperatures - Near C.W.R. bridge - alt. 570'; weather-clear H_2O-76°; air 87°. 1445 hrs.

Aquatic plants - Some rushes and horsetails in section 1. Algae and mosses rare.

Winter conditions - Aug. depth 2'.

Pollution - None observed

Springs None observed

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS -

1. Steelhead rainbow trout
   a. Abundance - l00/l00 ft. in Section 1
      25/l00 ft. in " 2
   b. Size - 1½"-5" - Aug. 2½"
   c. Very successful in Section 1 only

2. Silver Salmon
   a. Abundance - l00/l00 ft. in Sect. 1
      10/100 ft. in Sect. 2
   b. Size - 2"-3" - Aug. 2½"
   c. Very successful in Sect. 1

OTHER AQUATIC VERTEBRATES - Frogs and newts were very common.

FISHING INTENSITY - Very light, closed during summer.

OTHER RECREATION USE - Hunting (deer).

ACCESSIBILITY - Highway 20 to Irmulco Road. Approximately 27 miles from California 1. Irmulco Road to Irmulco (mouth Olds Creek). Road to right to mouth of McMullen Creek. Jeep road part way up McMullen Creek washed out after about .5 miles. Locked gate on road from Irmulco to mouth of stream. Key from Gordon McGuire also possibly from Union Lumber Co.

OWNERSHIP - Mouth and middle portions of watershed John Urban. Headwaters - Union Lumber Company.

POSTED OR OPEN - posted

IMPROVEMENTS - No improvement is needed as the only barrier only prevents passage to poor spawning gravels.

PAST STOCKING - None known

GENERAL ESTIMATE - The major limiting factors in McMullen Creek are the heavy silt, high summer temperatures and low water flow. Steelhead and salmon will find the area suitable for spawning with limited nursery value.

The high temperature of the water is having a bad effect on the fish as they are not in peak condition.

The present regulations are adequate for this stream.

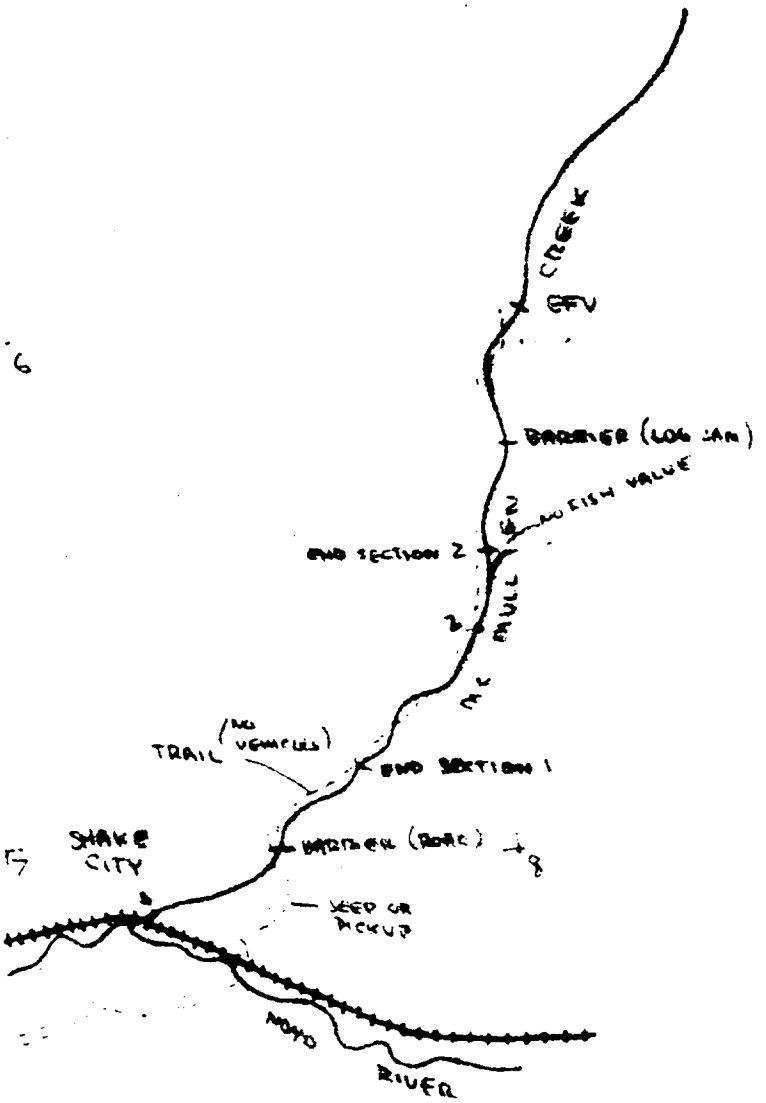
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - McMullen Creek should be managed for silver salmon and steelhead.

SKETCH MAP - Attached

REFERENCES - California Division of Forestry, Map of Jackson State Forest, Mendocino county, 1964.

STREAM CLASSIFICATION - II
MILES NOW ACCESSIBLE - 1.6
MILES TO BE IMPROVED - 0
TOTAL MILES - 1.6

R15W R14W



McMULLEN CREEK (TRIBUTARY TO NOYO RIVER)

SCALE 1:24000

1 MILE
½ MILE