

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM NO.....

NAME...Dago...Creek.....COUNTY...Mendocino.....

STREAM SECTION..FROM MOUTH.....TO.....EXTREME HEADWATERS....LENGTH.....4.0 mi.

TRIBUTARY To.....Rancheria Creek.....Twp...14N.....R15W....Sec...26.....

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

SOURCES OF DATA....Personal survey and information from local personnel, loggers and ranchers.....

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - Dago Creek was surveyed from the mouth upstream 2.2 miles on the main Dago Creek; and 1.8 miles upstream of the confluence of the west branch by foot and by truck by S. N. Nye and Douglas Stuart on September 18-19, 1962. (The truck access along this creek was accomplished because the road in many instances ran directly up the stream bed made from logging cat trails).

LOCATION - Dago Creek rises just west of the Hageman Ranch south of the Greenwood Ridge Road and flows southeast to enter Rancheria Creek approximately 2.5 air miles west by southwest of the town of Philo.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Dago Creek is a rather unimportant tributary to Rancheria at this time providing very limited source of water and almost no spawning and nursery area, due to the extreme logging damage.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed - Consists of a coastal transitional zone logged over past and presently consisting of second growth Redwood, and Douglas Fir on steep sided V shaped canyons, with minor growths of alder, willow, bay, oak, and brush. The soil consists of a sand loam-gravel mixture. The shade is relatively open.

Immediate Drainage Basin - The immediate drainage basin has very steep sided V shaped canyons in the headwater area, widening out to a wide V shaped canyon in the upper third section, and then back to a V shaped canyon going down to the middle and lower section. The damage to the immediate drainage basin has been severe and extensive from past and present operations.

- 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

Altitude - The range - 400-750 feet with a 350 ft. spread for a distance of 2.2 miles.

Gradient - The gradient is moderate in some areas with fairly steep headwaters, and going to a shallow lower end. The gradient averages 70 feet per 1½ mile of the main Dago Creek. The west branch has a 60 ft. per mile gradient. Overall average gradient could be considered moderate,

Width - The stream section or width ranges from 1-10' with an average of 3'. Pool area widths run up to 8' wide.

Depth - Range 1-3" with an overall average of 2". Pool depth running from 6" to 2' with an average of 1 ft.

Flow - Range 1/8 cfs to ½ cfs at the mouth. An average of ¼ cfs with intermittent flow throughout this drainage.

Velocity - Considered sluggish throughout. Less than ½ a ft. per second movement throughout the entire stream section.

Bottom - The bottom of this stream can and probably will entail a great deal of description. The stream throughout has received extensive and heavy logging damage consisting of logging debris deposits, log jams, debris with the access road in many cases made by caterpillar

tractor running right up the streambed and flattening out the streambed into a wide flat type road and wide landings. The average stream bottom consists of 70% organic debris consisting of log jams and other wood material, 10% silt, 10% gravel, 5% sand, 2% rubble, 2% boulders and 1% of bedrock exposed.

Spawning areas - Dago Creek must be considered to have less than 1% overall spawning area available. The few scattered 10-30' sections lie between log jams and other debris.

Pools - Intermittent pools were observed in some areas of this stream with other areas being almost non-existent as far as pools are available in normally thought of streams. The riffle area to pool area averaged 3 to 1. Pool sizes ranged from 5'x7'x2' to 20'x8'x 8" with an average pool considered to be 8'x10'x1' in the west branch. Average and pool sizes would also hold for the main Dago Creek branch. The west branch would consist of one pool per 300 feet of stream section; the main Dago Creek branch would consist of one pool per 900 feet of stream section.

Shelter - Must be considered extremely scarce. The area is mostly open, with only log jams, large rubble, and fallen logs laying in the stream.

Barriers and Diversions - See the separate and attached barrier survey.

Food - No food was observed in the lower main stream section or the lower west branch section. The only food observed were located in the upper stream sections of the main Dago Creek and the west branch. Food supply must be considered fairly scarce with an average of only one per 5 sq. ft. observed. Caddis fly, some stone fly, a few backswimmers, diptra, mosquitos, and a few other flying gnats and insects were observed as the food supply in this stream section.

Temperature - Air temperature averaged 73-76° during the day. Water temperatures averaged 63° during the middle afternoon with a low of 60° reported in the morning.

Aquatic Plants - The aquatic plants observed were algae, water grass, tules and a few other unidentified grasses or plants in the heavy silted areas behind jams.

Winter Conditions - Winter indications are high rapid runoff with winter banks up to 60' in width and 4' in height.

Pollution - The only pollution evident is the serious logging damage.

Springs - Springs were very abundant throughout this stream.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - No rainbow trout/steelhead were observed in the entire drainage. Only one species of fish was observed, that being roach. The size ranged 2-4". There were 3-5 per pool. Only two pools were observed that had fish. Their condition is considered good. Natural propagation would be termed just that. The only two pools of roach observed were located approximately 1½ miles above the main forks of the Dago Creek.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs, salamanders, snakes, squirrels, deer, raccoons and sheep were common throughout this area.

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - The only other recreational use thought of for this area could be hunting.

ACCESSIBILITY - There are two routes to this area. I would suggest the second route. The first route consists of Highway 128 north from Boonville Standard station approximately 4.3 miles, a small shake mill will be observed on the west side of the road. This road is called Craig Mill Road. This is a dirt road and in extremely rough shape. After leaving Highway 128, proceed 7.4 miles out this road and you will cross Dago Creek. At this point there is a bridge and severe damage will be noticed and observed. The second route is as follows: Proceed on Highway 128 from the town of Philo to a point 9 miles north to Elk Road. This road leads west. Turn west on Elk Road and continue 1.2 miles to a dirt road to your left. Take this road and continue 2 miles to Dago Creek Ridge landing, then bear right down the hill 1.3 miles to the main Dago Creek forks. This fork then places you .2 mile above the Craig Mill Road Bridge crossing on Dago Creek. There are several logging roads in the vicinity, which one can get thoroughly confused on. It is

my recommendation to follow these general roads listed to the designated spots and then walk for the rest of the area. There is an access road, an old logging road, continuing up the west branch of Dago Creek, which is passable by vehicle only a short distance. The road may be followed for considerable distance by foot, however.

OWNERSHIP - The following owners will be listed, however, it is suggested that the master ownership list be observed and read for complete listing of owners and addresses.

1. Philo Lumber Company
2. Chansler/Wester Company - This is the Chansler Wester Oil Co.
3. J. Higgins Lumber Company
4. The Anderson Company

POSTED OR OPEN - The entire area is heavily posted.

IMPROVEMENTS - No man made improvements were observed in this entire drainage.

PAST STOCKING - Past stocking records were not available, so it must be considered as unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - The extensive logging damage in recent and past years has rendered this stream almost useless to anadromous fish life. The main Dago Creek from the road crossing upstream up to the landing/turn around, approximately 1.9 miles, is a continuous log jam, heavily silted-in area. Landing and clearings have been created at many places throughout the stream as well as all tributary confluences. The amount of material stacked up is fabulous. The main creek is no longer. It is just a wide path used by logging trucks and skid trails by tractors.

ADDITIONAL DATA - 1) Access locks combinations: to Signal Ridge Road locked gate - 3031 combination lock. All other Philo Lumber Company locks presently using 3425 combination. Present logging and immediate prior logging has been conducted by the Philo Lumber Company and a Mr. Tucker. The water for the most part in the middle and lower main Dago branch is very dark to black from the heavily damaged areas around log jams. Area from the main Dago Creek branch landing and road turn-around upstream is not too heavily damaged other than the old logging damage observed. There is heavy silted-in areas approximately 1.3 miles upstream from the mouth, which widen out into a more opened V shaped canyon with some pools fairly wide and long, generally found behind the large dammed up areas of log jams and boulders. It is estimated that in these heavily silted-in areas the original stream bed was 30' below present level. Present logging is now being extended to continue upstream from the previously mentioned landing and turn around road. Men are in the area falling trees at this time. The west branch has been heavily damaged by recent logging within the last two years by Mr. Tucker and the Philo Lumber Company.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT -

1. An extensive and drawnout cleanup program will be necessary in order that this stream may be cleaned out to be classed as usable by anadromous fish.
2. Any future logging should be conducted under strict guidance under Fish and Game laws and the Good Forestry Practice Regulations. This should entail strict observance of the laws governing no tractors or materials to be allowed in the stream.
3. After complete clean out of the stream and a chance to rehabilitate the area, the Department should restock with yearling steelhead/rainbow trout and/or silver salmon to re-establish a run of anadromous fish.
4. This stream, Dago Creek, could then be managed as an anadromous fish spawning and nursery area.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - Maps used were: 1.) USGS 15 minute series 1959, Boonville. 2.) California Department of Water Resources 7½ - minute series 1959. Other references were from local ranchers, logging men and managers, and by personal observation and data taken.

# Dago Creek

T 14 N R 15 W S 26

- 1 (4)
- 2 (70 X 10 X 8 - 70%)
- 3 (50 X 12 X 10 - 70%)
- 4 (4)
- 5 (10)
- 6 (12)
- 7 (20)
- 8 (15)
- 9 (50 X 10 X 4 - 90%)
- 10 (6)
- 11 (20)
- 12 (15)
- 13 (16)
- 14 (16)
- 15 (100 X 30 X 20 - 70% - 20' deep (Banner))
- 16 (12)
- 17 (20)
- 18 (100 X 10 X 4 - 99%)
- 19 (200 X 30 X 7 - 95%)
- 20 (60 X 8 X 2 - 90%)
- 21 (16)
- 22 (36)
- 23 (10)
- 24 (76 X 10 X 12 - 95%) 12' deep (Banner)
- 25 (60 X 10 X 3 - 95%)
- 26 (500 X 30 X 6 - 99%)
- 27 (80 X 36 X 3 - 95%)
- 28 (30)
- 29 (100 X 40 X 6 - 98%)
- 30 (120 X 40 X 4 - 98%)
- 31 (100 X 35 X 6 - 99%)
- 32 (200 X 40 X 5 - 99%)
- 33 (75 X 25 X 6 - 98%)
- 34 (40) (Craig Rd. Bridge)
- 35 (100 X 40 X 5 - 98%)
- 36 (150 X 30 X 6 - 99%)

- 39 (200' X 20 X 5 - 99%)
- 40 (75 X 25 X 6 - 95%)
- 41 (35)
- 42 (20)
- 43 (15)
- 44 (30)
- 45 (15)

46 - (1.4 mile X 60' X 15' 99%)

37 TRIB-Headwaters-(300' X 60 X 20' - 99%)

38 Side Trib-(300 X 60 X 20' - 99%)

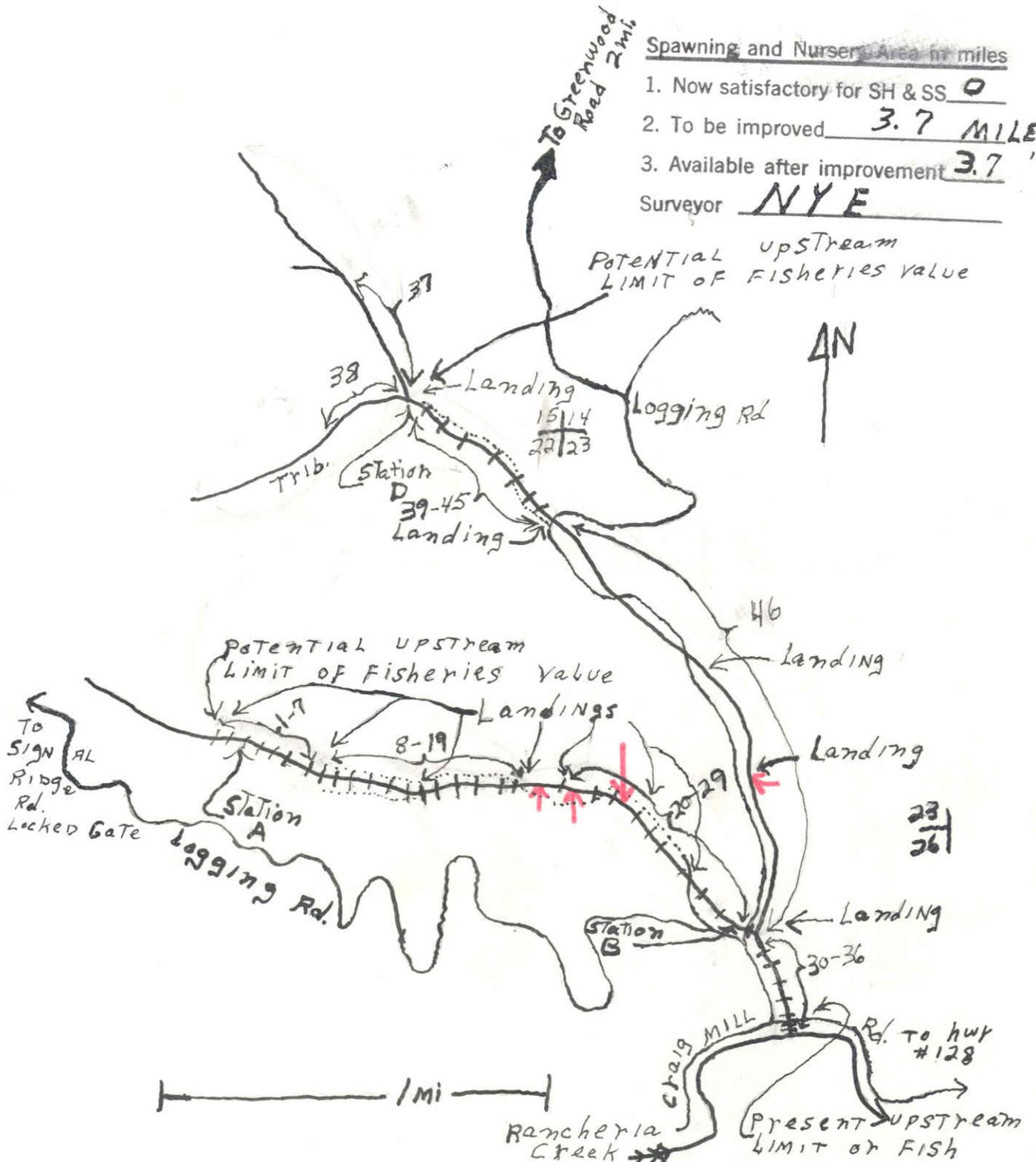
# Dago Creek

T 14N R-15W S 26

Spawning and Nursery Area in miles

1. Now satisfactory for SH & SS 0
2. To be improved 3.7 MILES
3. Available after improvement 3.7 "

Surveyor NYE



Add 2% For debris between Jams NOT LISTED

*Janis '84*