

STREAM SURVEY

Mouth: T. 7N., R. 8E., S. 8

FILE FORM No.

Date April 24, 1974

NAME....Pony Creek

COUNTY....Trinity.....

STREAM SECTION From mouth to 1st trail crossing then along on way to Pony Buttes LENGTH 3-1/2 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO East Fork of New River

Twp...37N ... R8E Sec. 4,8,9

OTHER NAMES None

RIVER SYSTEM.....NewRiver.....

SOURCES OF DATA..Personal observations of John Thomas & Carrol Powell, and references listed in survey.

4.5 total
3.5 surveyed

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Pony Creek is bounded on the west by Bake Oven Ridge, and on the east by the East Fork of New River. Its headwaters originates at the base of Pony Buttes at elevation 5,600 feet. The stream traverses a fairly steep canyon and travels about $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 miles where it joins the East Fork of New River at elevation 2,250 feet. Pony Creek has one fairly large tributary--Milk Creek. This stream was not checked during the survey. The elevation changes from the headwaters to the mouth of Pony Creek can be separated into four different areas:

- 1st mile--1,600' elev. change or 30 % grade (headwaters)
- 2nd mile-- 700' elev. change, or 13 % grade
- 3rd & 4th mile--400' elev. change, or 7 % grade
- 5th mile-- 250' elev. change, or 4 % grade (mouth)

The vegetation in the Pony Creek drainage consists mainly of Douglas fir. In the upper end of the drainage red fir becomes common; whereas, in the middle and lower parts of the creek, white fir and California black oak are present.

Near the stream banks are alder and maple from the upper parts of the creek to the mouth.

Gold mining activity began in the drainage in the 1850's. The entire stream bed from the mouth to the headwaters was continually mined for gold from this time through the 1890's. The creek was worked to bedrock for almost the entire drainage. This is still very obvious in the area around the mouth, at Lake City, and in the vicinity of the upper cabin (see map). Here are found large fields of boulders lying on either side of the stream course, and here the stream still runs mainly over bedrock. Six sample sites were chosen by the Geological Survey in 1969 and 1970 in Pony Creek. These samples showed that gold occurring in cents per cubic yard amounted to just traces below the mouth of Milk Creek to as much as 1.6 in the headwaters area. This Geological Survey report stated that the recorded production from placer operations in the East Fork and its tributaries totals 310 ounces of gold.

Pony Creek has a width of about 3 to 4 feet, with a mean depth of about 1 to 2 feet. The flow was estimated at 1.5 cfs during the survey. The stream bottom was composed of mainly bedrock, with some boulder, rubble and gravel present.

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	

Pools

There was a ratio of about 80 pools to 20 riffles. Most pools were in exposed bedrock. Some pools were seen as deep as 6 feet.

Shelter

Excellent shelter. Stream well shaded, and there is good cover for fish under banks and boulders.

Barriers

No barriers were noted in the surveyed area. The stream begins to get steep between Milk Creek and Lake City. There could be barriers in this section. The trail did not go close to the creek here.

Diversions

There was much evidence of old flumes and waterways along the sides of, the creek, but none are in working condition any more. It appears that these flumes haven't been used much past the turn of the century.

Temperatures

The following spot temperature checks were made:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Air</u>
Pony Cr. headwaters at cabin	7-30-73	12:503	63° F	90° F
E. Ek. just above Pony Cr.	8-2-73	08:50	63° F	63° F
Pony Creek near mouth	8-2-73	08:50	63° F	63° F
E. Fk. just below Pony Cr.	8-2-73	08:50	63° F	63° F

Air temperatures were comfortable usually until around 11:00 in the morning, then became extremely hot for the rest of the day. In leaving Pony Creek in the headwaters, heading for Pony Lake or Mullane Corral, it is advisable to carry water along this section as none is available along the way until you cross over into the East Fork drainage. Once you are over the divide there is a small spring by the trail about 1 to 1/2 miles beyond the divide.

Food

Mayfly, stonefly and caddis fly nymphs were noted. Fish seemed to be mainly feeding on flying terrestrial insects landing on the water surface. Food did not appear to be a limiting factor.

Aquatic Plants

None observed.

Winter Conditions

No notes were made on winter conditions.

Pollution

None observed.

Springs

None observed in drainage. See notes on Temperatures.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS

The stream contains mainly RT/SH fingerlings and yearlings 2 inches to 7 inches long. Their abundance, success and condition was good. There is a good possibility that the RT are resident rainbow above Lake City; however, no barriers were noted. Fishing intensity is very light in the stream. This is mostly concentrated at the trail crossings and in the vicinity of the mouth.

Accessibility

The following time checks were made while going to this area:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Accumulative Time</u>
Weaverville	0	0
Hawkins Bar	55 minutes	55 minutes
Denny	45 minutes	1 hr. 40 minutes
U.S.F.S. Corral	15 minutes	1 hr. 55 minutes
End of road and start of trail	5 minutes	2 hrs.
Start of trail (time by horse)	0	0
Whiskey Creek	23 minutes	23 minutes
Unknown tributary (cabin present)	17 minutes	40 minutes
"Whites Creek	15 minutes	55 minutes
Pony Creek trail junction	6 minutes	1 hr. 1 minute
Pony Creek	9 minutes	1 hr. 10 minutes.
Milk Creek	23 minutes	1 hr. 33 minutes
Lake City	15 minutes	1 hr. 48 minutes
Upper Pony Cr. at cabin (see map)	52 minutes	2 hr. 40 minutes

Ownership

All stream area along Pony Creek is inside the Trinity National Forest. That portion of the creek upstream from Lake City is inside the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area. The entire stream is open to public use.

Improvements

None.

Past Stocking

None.

General Estimate

This stream is one of three major tributaries of the East Fork of New River. It ranks second in importance next to the South Fork of the East Fork of New River. RT are present the full length of the stream. Most likely the majority of these fish are RT/SH. The fish population above Lake City could be resident RT, but no barriers were noted. The stream from Milk Creek to Lake City is rather steep, and there could be a barrier in this section. Since the trail left the stream in this area, this was not checked out. Future surveys of the drainage could determine this. All fish seemed to be in good condition. The stream is well shaded, and the banks appear to be stable. No soil movement in any great amount was noted along the entire stream.

Recommended Management

Continue to manage stream as a valuable rearing area for fingerling and yearling steelhead at least in the area of Lake City downstream, possibly the upper portion should be managed as a resident trout fishery. Future work in the drainage should involve a look at Milk Creek. This stream has never been checked.

References and Maps

U.S.F.S. Trinity National Forest Map
U.S.G.S. quads (15') for Ironside Mtn., Salmon Mtn. and Cecilville.
U.S.G.S. Survey Bulletin 1371-B, Studies Related to Wilderness Primitive Areas, Salmon-Trinity Alps, California, PP. B82-B86, U.S. Printing Office, Washington, 1972.
Personal communication with U.S.F.S. Big Bar District.

Photos

In Weaverville file of mouth of Pony Creek.



John L. Thomas
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EAST FORK OF NEW RIVER

This survey was conducted on 7/31 thru 8/2/73 by John Thomas (Assistant Fishery Biologist) & Carrol Powell (Forest Technician) Photos and negatives in Weaver-ville fisheries file. Area covered is Pony Lake, Mullane Corral Pond & E. Ek. New R. drainage.

