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**UNITED STATES - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL STREAM SURVEY REPORT**

DATE 12 JULY 1974
SURVEYOR Jeffrey L. Kershner

Stream..... Indian Creek, North Fork.....**County**.....Mendocino.....
Station.....Log jam 200yds upstream from mouth to ¼ mile upstream fish barrier 1½ mi.

TRIBUTARY TOIndian Creek..... **RIVER SYSTEM**.....Navarro River.....
LOCATION (STREAM MOUTH)..... **TWP**.....15N..... Range...14W... **Section**..36.....

Stream width (average) 10 ft. today, 25 ft. in winter
Turbidity (visibility in feet) 10+ ft. (in clear range)

Temperature: air 75° F, Water 64° F Time 1200 Flow 2-3 cfs

| SUBSECTION | FISH SPECIES | GRAVEL | | | POOLS | |
|------------|--------------|--------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | | GOOD | MARGINAL | TOTAL | SQ. YARDS | DEPTH |
| 0.00-0.25 | ----- | 30 | 45 | 75 | 130 | 16" |
| 0.25-0.50 | RT | 25 | 30 | 55 | 105 | 15" |
| 0.50-0.75 | RT | 15 | 20 | 35 | 60 | 15" |
| 0.75-1.00 | RT | 35 | 25 | 60 | 15 | 12.5" |
| 1.00-1.25 | RT | 40 | 40 | 80 | 45 | 12" |
| 1.25-1.50 | RT? | 25 | 10 | 45 | 35 | 18" |
| Total | | 170 | 180 | 350 | 390 | 14.5" |

5% of section in pools
moderate gradient (1.0 to 2.5%)
8% average stream area shaded

Streamside cover was 2nd growth and herbaceous

Fish species, directly observed, were residential rainbow, 1 ½ to 6".

Limiting factors

Barriers (type) Logjam, 6-8ft.. Not passable. Correction needed.

Numerous logjams and slides on BLM land acting as barriers or obstacles.

Access – Masonite Rd. to Rose Cr. turnoff Approx. 5 mi. to Rose cr. Bridge. Take right fork to Alaska Ridge road 5 mi. to creek.

Additional Comments: A large logjam found at the mouth of the N. Fork of Indian Cr. prevents fish from using this tributary as a spawning area.

0.00-0.25 The survey was started from an impassable jam 200 yds. upstream from the junction of the N. fork and the fork of Indian Cr. found on BLM land. Streamside vegetation was poor throughout this section due to logging. No fish were found in this section but insects, frogs, and newts were numerous in this area. Spawning gravel and rearing habitat were poor, the combination of a logjam (5' high and 12' wide) and slide area (40 yds. long) proved to be a third barrier to migrating fish. The stream went underground here and surfaced 65 yds. upstream.

0.25-0.50 Resident rainbow trout were observed in this area of the stream. These fish were found mainly in the pool areas with adequate cover. Vegetation in this area improved providing more shade to the creek. Logging damage was still evident in that slides were caused due to erosion. Spawning gravel was marginal. Benthic invertebrates were fairly plentiful and could provide a good food source.

0.50-0.75 A large slide (50 yds.) and logjam dominate the beginning of this section. The pools above and below the jam provide good cover and hold numerous salmonids. Habitat along the stream continues to be marginal at best and small slides that enter the creek are frequent. Rubble continues to be the main component of the stream bottom with spawning gravel poor throughout the section. A small jam at the end of this section provides an obstacle to fish migration. Stream width above this jam is reduced to 3-4 ft.

0.75-1.00 A small intermittent tributary enters the creek approx. 50 yds. from the start of this section. A large brush pile and jam dominate the first 100 ft. and steep canyon walls make access difficult. Flows in this section are minimal (.10 ft. per sec.) and average stream width is 6 in. The main creek above this point continues much as before. Vegetation does improve in this area and with the increased cover, more fish are found in the shallow areas. Toward the end of this section spawning gravel quality improves markedly. This area could provide a fair nursery ground.

1.00-1.25 Depending on stream height a log jam at the beginning of this section may prove to be a barrier to migrating fish. There is possible access upstream to the left side of this obstacle. Above this, stream width narrows to 1-2 ft. Rubble becomes the primary bottom type due to slide activity in this area. Logging practices in this area left no cover. Resident salmonids were found mostly in the deeper covered pools.

1.25-1.50 A logjam at the beginning of the section provides a 6 ft. barrier to migrating fish. The pool area below here has a good section of spawning quality gravel but its small size limits it for fish production. Above this barrier the stream narrows to 1-1.5 ft. Streamside vegetation is better in this section but bottom type (rubble) and flows are marginal. Possibly 1 salmonid was observed in this area so the barrier may be the upstream limit of fish. Water temperature was 64 degrees.

The N. Fork of Indian Creek could provide an adequate spawning and nursery ground to migrating salmonids. Poor logging practices have severely limited the potential of the stream to a marginal resident salmonid fishery. Erosion from uncovered stream sides probably contributes a heavy silt load during winter rains. This would also reduce the usefulness of the stream for spawning. Reseeding of areas adjacent to the stream and removal of the slides and logjams would solve the main problems. In order to be effective, cooperation from private landowners (Masonite) must be obtained.