

RESOURCE PROJECT

**STREAM SURVEY**

FILE FORM No.....

Date April 2, 1979

NAME..... LITTLE NORTH FORK BIG RIVER.....COUNTY..... MENDOCINO.....

STREAM SECTION.....FROM..... Swamp (sec. 24).....TO..... East Branch Little North Fork.....LENGTH..... 3 mi......

TRIBUTARY TO..... Big River.....Twp..... 17N.....R..... 17W.....Sec..... 24,13,18.....  
 17

OTHER NAMES..... not known.....RIVER SYSTEM..... Big River.....

SOURCES OF DATA..... Personal observation and from local resident Niel McLean.....

<b>EXTENT OF OBSERVATION</b> Include Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>RELATION TO OTHER WATERS</b>
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</b>
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
<b>FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS</b>
<b>OTHER VERTEBRATES</b>
<b>FISHING INTENSITY</b>
<b>OTHER RECREATIONAL USE</b>
<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>
<b>OWNERSHIP</b>
<b>POSTED OR OPEN</b>
<b>IMPROVEMENTS</b>
<b>PAST STOCKING</b>
<b>GENERAL ESTIMATE</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>SKETCH MAP</b>
<b>REFERENCES AND MAPS</b>

Extent of Observation- Walked by Tinley Wongmo and Amy Newby of the Albion CEMR crew.

Location - This section of Little North Fork runs in a southwesterly direction joining the main stream at the Mendocino Woodlands campground 16 miles up Big River. It can be reached by taking Little Lake Road east from Mendocino 5.25 miles to the Mendocino Woodlands Road, then 3.5 miles into the camp where one needs to gain permission to enter.

Relation to Other Waters - Little North Fork provides nursery and spawning grounds for anadromous fish in the Big River drainage. It provides year round flow to Big River although the swamp area near its entrance to Big River is a thermal barrier during warmer parts of the year.

General description:

Watershed - This section is characterized by moderately steep terrain vegetated primarily with good canopy consisting of Redwoods, Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, Tan Oaks, with Alder, Willow, and Big Leaf Maple at streamside. The basin is V-shaped.

Altitude- Mouth, 75ft; East Branch Little North Fork, 250ft.

Gradient - Approximately 100ft/mile.

Width- 5ft to 20ft.

Depth - 6inches to 3ft with 6ft pools.

Flow - Fast continuous flow except for jam areas and swampy areas. At station A above jam #2, 50CFS.

Bottom - 95% gravel, mostly good spawning gravel with some silt from erosion of old road following stream. Riffles 50%, pools 45%, cascades 5%.

Spawning Areas - Suitable spawning areas for salmon and trout found throughout this stream.

Shelter - Good shelter caused by old logging debris and logs and overhanging banks. Resting pools intermittently up to 6ft deep all along stream.

Barriers - Log jam #1, 2 miles upstream from swamp, 40-50ft wide, 90ft long, 10ft high, appears to be a floater although further collection of upstream debris could make it impassable in near future. The jam causes water to divert into bank with some resultant erosion. Silt build-up on upper side of jam.

Log jam #2 is ½ mile from the first jam, 100ft long, 75ft wide, 6-8ft high, again it is barely passable for fish with further debris probable near future blockage. With removal of strategic pieces on upstream part of jam it could be fully passable and would stop further erosion and silt deposit into the stream.

Log jam #3 is 1/3 mile above 2<sup>nd</sup> jam, 40ft long, 30ft wide, 10ft high with passage under logs. Just above swampy area near fork with Big River were fallen logs causing some blockage.

Diversions - None noted except for island just less than 2 miles upstream from swamp causing river to divert into two sections for 20 yards.

Temperatures - Mainstream at Woodlands Camp #2 40° F. At East |Branch L.N.F., 46°F.

Food - Assorted larvae under rocks and flying insects.

Aquatic Plants - Few observed.

Winter Conditions - Stream was seen at time of moderately high flow. The entire section of stream observed was contained within the banks although there was evidence of higher flow earlier in the year. The flow was rapid except below jams.

Pollution - Silt enters stream in many places due to eroding old road and railway bed along streamside and by banks next to jams.

Fishes Present- None seen on this survey although a local resident says many salmonoids were seen in lower section the previous summer and fall. Two 4 inch fish seen at mouth of East Branch L.N.F. on previous survey. Excellent conditions and habitat.

Other Vertebrates - Deer, frogs, newts, beaver, heron, ducks.

Fishing Intensity - No indication although many groups use campsites during the year.

Other Recreational Uses - This is a camp area with 3 campgrounds at streamside with footpaths along riverbank and several bridges and many cabins built near stream.

Ownership - Mendocino Woodland Camp Association (sponsored by Parks and Beaches). Upper reaches of area surveyed owned by California Department of Forestry.

Improvements - In the section of the river running through campground there are places logs have been set across the stream creating low (1ft) fall, with small cut-out space for periods of low flow. These have improved flat bottom areas creating pools above and below logs.

Past Stocking - Not Known.

General Estimate - This is an excellent stretch of the river for spawning and nursery areas. It should receive high priority for stream management.

Recommended Management - This section of the Little North Fork should be managed for its anadromous fishing resources. The partial or complete removal of the three jams noted (along with removal of the large jam noted in report on section above East Branch Little North Fork) would enable easier passage and open sections of streams and tributaries for spawning.

Sketch Map - Attached.

References and Maps - USGS topographical map, Comptche Quadrangle, Series V795, (1960).

