THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM NO:..... DATE:.....

NAME.....RANCHERIA CREEK.....**COUNTY**..... Mendocino .....

STREAM SECTION…Entire…. **FROM**.....Headwaters…. **TO**…..mouth... **LENGTH**…approx.44.miles....

TRIBUTARY TO.....Navarro River.....**TWP**…14N…**R**…14W…**SEC.**…19.....

OTHER NAMES.....Navarro River…..**RIVER SYSTEM**…… Navarro River ……

SOURCES OF DATA……personal observation and Jim Crowdus, F&G Asst.……..……...

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - This entire stream was surveyed by Dick Moore and Bob Keller on the following days: Aug. 30,31, Sept. 4, 5, 6, and 7, 1962. This stream survey was conducted on foot.

LOCATION - This stream heads approximately 15 air miles southeast of Boonville. It flows in a northwesterly direction to enter the Navarro River approximately 5 miles northwest of Boonville.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - - Rancheria Creek is one of the four major tributaries to the Navarro River. It provides access to important tributaries to Rancheria Creek. It also provides fair spawning and nursery area.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin - Rancheria Creek is located in the inter-coastal redwood forest area. The headwater section has loose gravelly soil, open valley, providing good sheep pasture. The large middle section is a steep-sided, V-Shaped canyon with redwood brush and grass association. Soil is bedrock and loose gravelly soil. Lower section contains a gorge of approximately 9 miles, with very steep sides, with redwood heavy brush. This area has a mild gradient and bedrock stream bed. Headwaters section contains wide meandering stream bed. The long middle section has a wide stream bed with excessive sand gravel overburden and some meandering. Stream side vegetation consist of brush, alder and some redwood. Stream side vegetation limited because of high winter runoff and abrasive action of overburden.

Altitude - - Headwaters 1075 ft., mouth 210 ft.

Gradient - Averaged 0.9 ft. per 100. Slightly steeper at gorge area.

Width - - Riffle averaged 20 ft. ranged from 10 to 40 ft. Pools averaged 25 ft., ranged 20 to 60 ft.

Depth - Riffles averaged 3 inches, ranged 1/2 inch to 8 inches. Pools averaged 8 inches, ranged 3 inches to 1% ft.

Flow - Estimated flow of 3/4 cfs at Beebe Creek; estimated 3/4 cfs at Camp Creek, estimated 1.25 cfs downstream from Minnie Creek; estimated at 2% cfs downstream from Dago Creek; estimated 3 cfs downstream from Ham Canyon.

Velocity - - Sluggish in grassy headwaters section downstream to Beebe Creek. Sluggish to slow in midsection from Beebe Creek to Cold Springs Creek, slow in lower gorge area from Cold Springs Creek downstream to Navarro River.

Bottom - Rapid headwater section was composed of -approximately 80% gravel-sand, and 20% boulder and rubble with some bedrock. Bottom in midsection was mostly bedrock overlain with gravel, sand overburden to a depth in excess of 3 ft. and an average width of 125 ft., range 100 ft. to 200 ft. Bottom in gorge area was almost entirely bedrock with occasional gravel bars present, or areas of gravel overburden.

Spawning Areas - Old spawning redds indicate evidence of concentrated spawning in widely scattered areas. Redds present were 25 per 100 ft. in some areas. Good spawning areas appear limited due to extensive overburden in stream bed. Good spawning area less than 10%; poor spawning area in excess of 40%.

Pools - Average 25 ft, in width, approximately 100 ft. long, 8 inches deep. Long, meandering pool-riffle areas are common in the stream with exception of gorge area. Pools in area upstream from gorge composed 90% of stream with 10% riffle. Gorge area has good pool development with 50% pool, 50% riffles.
Shelter - Poor upstream from gorge area. Summer flow utilizes approximately 1/4 of stream bed area. Little or no shelter in area of extensive overburden. The gorge area has good to excellent shelter composed of boulders, undercut banks, overhanging terrestrial plants and some logs.
Barriers - No barriers were noted in this stream. Several "island" log jams were noted as indicated on barrier survey map attached.
Diversions - Three diversions were noted. Approximately 2 miles upstream from Beebe Creek a 15-HP pump with 4-inch intake pipe and 6-inch aluminum sprinkler pipe is used to irrigate approximately 40 to 60 acres of pasture. At mouth of Anderson Creek a 20-HP pump with a 4-inch intake and 6-inch irrigation pipe is used to irrigate approximately 40 to 60 acres of pasture. Approximately 1% miles upstream from the confluence of Anderson Creek, a domestic diversion pumps approximately 1/4 HP.
Temperatures - Temperature variation between August 30 and Sept. 7, was water 60° F. to 74°F.; air 68°F. to 80°F. The high reading at 1550 hours at mouth of Horse Creek 74° F. water, 80° F, air. Low reading Sept. 31, 1030 hours upstream from Camp Creek 60° F. water, 68° F. air.
Food – Caddis fly and diptera were extremely abundant in headwater in excess of 100 per square foot of rock. Mayfly nymphs average 5 per square feet in headwater section. In area of gorge, caddis fly average 10+ per square foot in riffles, mayflies 5+ per square feet, snails and other aquatic insects also present. Young snails present.
Aquatic Plants - Very rare except for a lemon-colored free floating colonial algae approximately 1/3 inch in diameter.
Winter Conditions - Extreme: variation in flow in this stream. Maximum winter flow can exceed 18 ft. at gaging station on bridge where Mountain View Road crosses Rancheria Creek.
Pollution - No pollution observed, however, several tributaries to Rancheria Creek have undergone recent logging with extensive silt and slash present in stream bed.
Springs - Few springs were present approximately 1 per 1 mile.
FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Fish population estimated as follows: roach 95%, RT-SH 2.5%, suckers 2.5%. 50% of the roach were approximately 1 inch; 50% approx. 2 to 3% inches. RT-SH 95% 2-3 inches, range 8 inches. Suckers 95% 2-3 inches ranged to 8 in. Roach are very abundant with good propagation and success. Some dead and dying roach were noted in stream bed. Fin rot and anchor worms were present on these roach. RT-SH were concentrated. Propagation and condition of RT-SH appears good. Success appears fair to good. Roach are present in stream section (200-500 per 100 ft.). RT-SH from 0+ to 100 fish per 100 ft. average 20 fish per 100 ft.
OTHER VERTEBRATES - Wood ducks, blue herons, sheep, raccoon, deer, skunks, possum, frogs, crayfish, newts, snakes.
FISHING INTENSITY - Not known. This stream open during trout season, closed during steelhead season. Fishing intensity believed slight.
OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - Hunting, camping and summer camp activities. A boys' camp is located near headwater and Deer Camp is located in midsection.
ACCESSIBILITY - This stream is accessible by several routes. Headwater section approached by Diamond D Ranch road approximately 3% miles southeast of Yorkville. Rancheria Creek parallels State Highway 128 from Yorkville-Beebe Creek area downstream for 5 miles. Midsection of Rancheria Creek accessible via Mountain View road approximately 4.8 miles from Boonville. For access travel 4.3 miles northwest of Boonville on Highway 128 to small stud mill. Turn right then proceed 5.6 miles to log bridge crossing Rancheria Creek. Secondary roads at all points of access should be checked prior to entering area.
OWNERSHIP - Numerous owners in this area; headwater section owned and managed by sheep ranchers, middle and lower section owned by small logging industry.
PAST STOCKING - Not known.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Rancheria Creek is a major tributary of the Navarro River. The headwater section is grass sheep range, mid and lower sections contain a V- to semi V-shaped canyons with secondary growth redwood. Stream bed contains an excess of overburden with fluctuation in winter flows. Fish utilize this stream for access to tributaries "or spawning and nursery. Rancheria Creek contains some spawning and nursery area. Poor shelter, higher temperatures and little shade appear to be limiting factors to steelhead-rainbow trout. Rancheria Creek contains scattered areas of good spawning. Good spawning in less than 10% of stream, poor spawning in less than 40% of stream. Rainbow trout steelhead concentrated in spawning areas up to 100+ per 100 ft. of stream, average less than 20 per 100 ft. of stream.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Recommend the stream be managed for SH-RT. Recommend large log jams present at the convenience of those responsible for the job. Recommend periodic checks on current logging on Rancheria Creek and tributaries. Recommend minimum flow release be adopted for Rancheria Creek.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - US Geological survey map Boonville 15-minute series 1959 and Ornbaun 15-minute series, year not stated.

R. Moore/cd 11-5-62

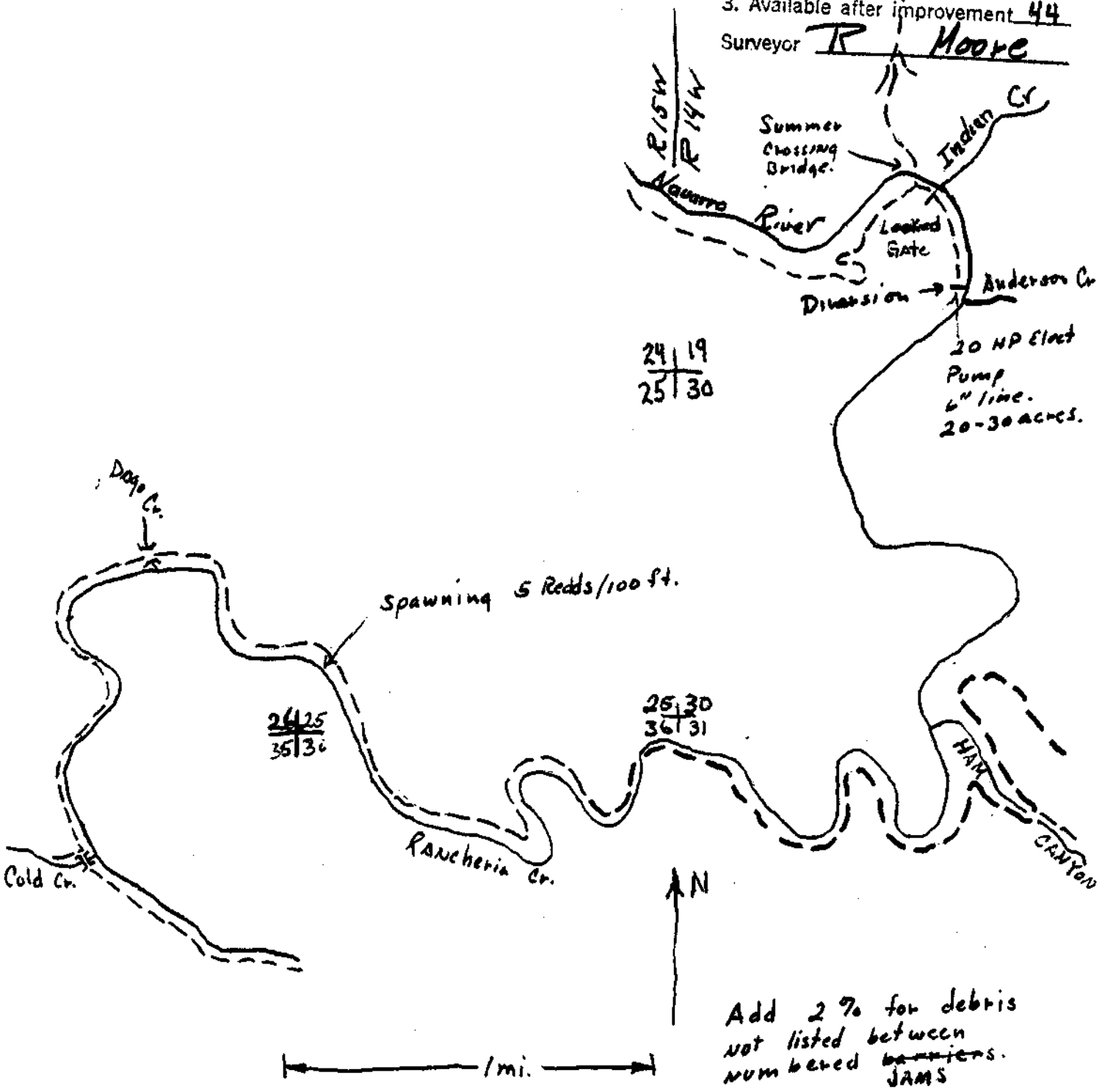
Rancheria Creek

T 14N R 14W S-19

Spawning and Nursery Area in miles

1. Now satisfactory for SH & SS 42.5
2. To be improved 1.5
3. Available after improvement 44

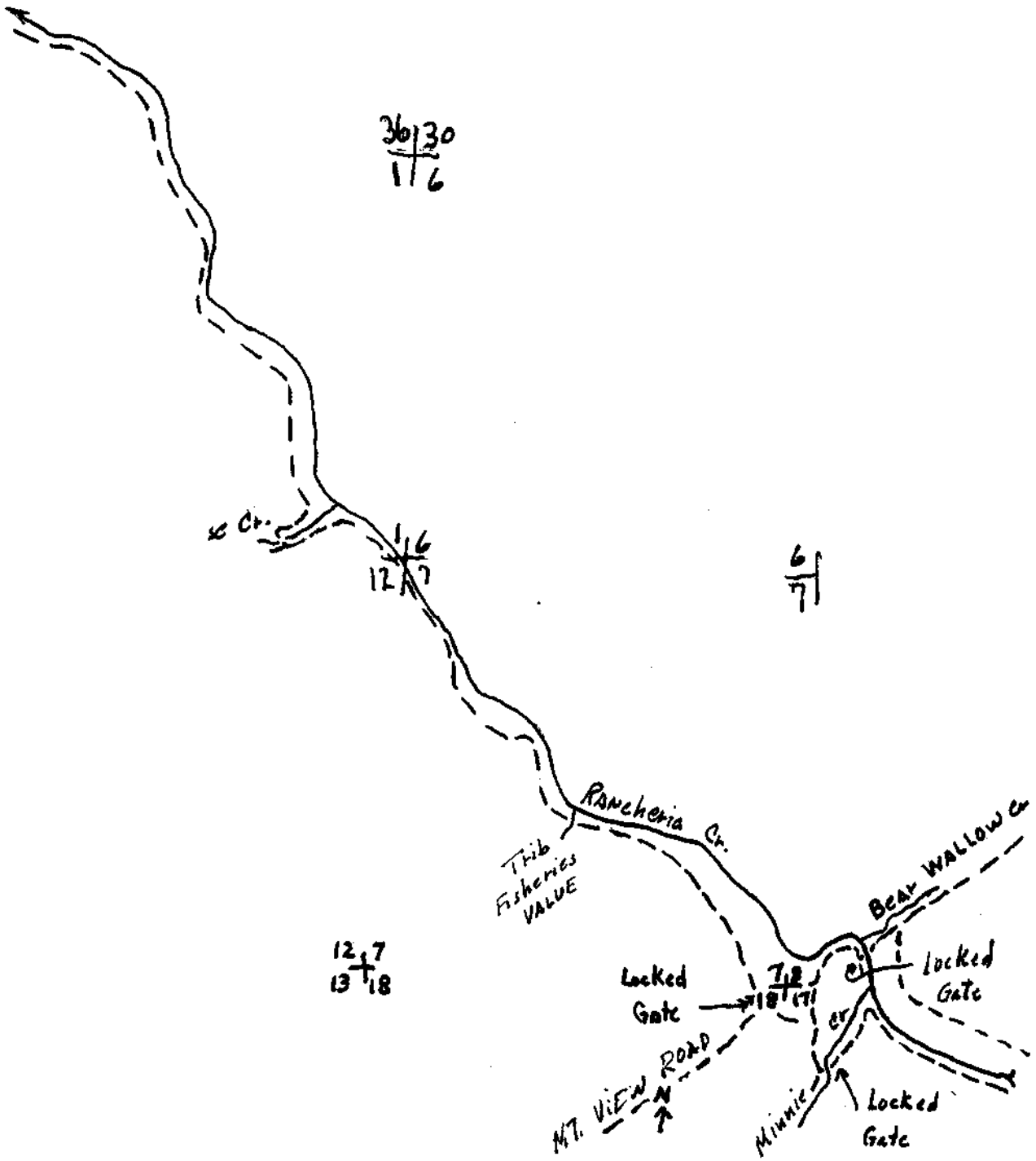
Surveyor R Moore



Add 2% for debris not listed between numbered ~~barriers~~ JAMS.

RANCHERIA CREEK

T14N R14W SEC. 19



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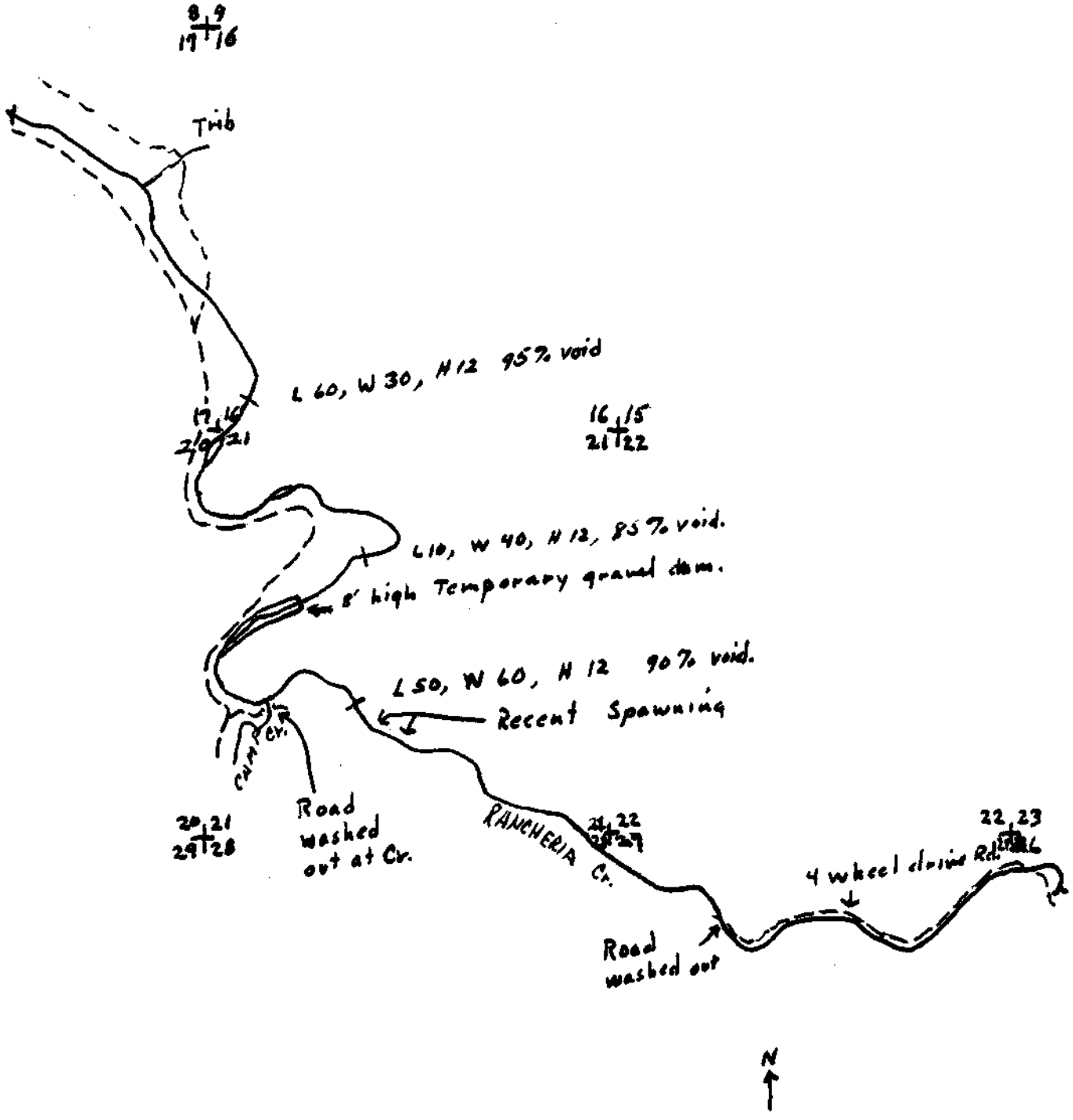

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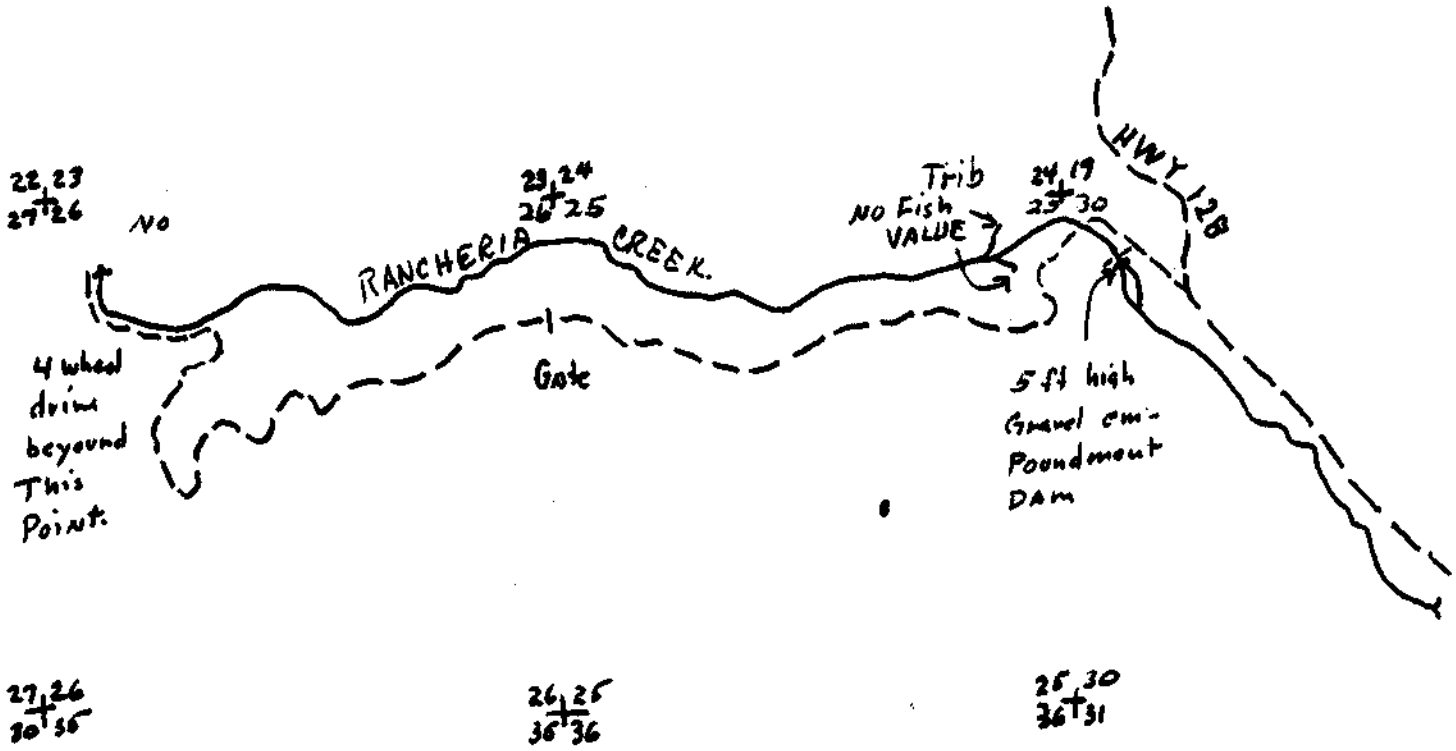

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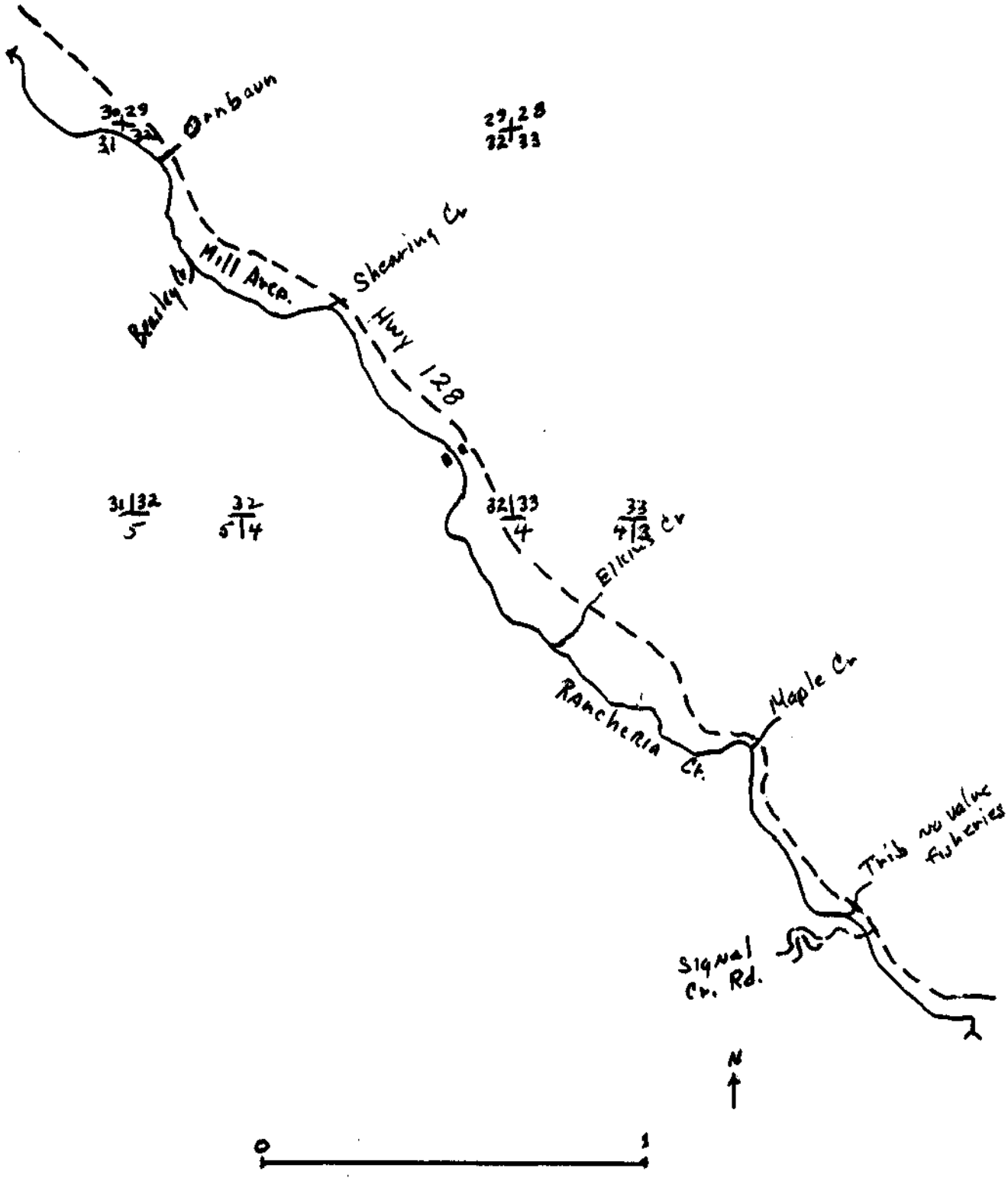

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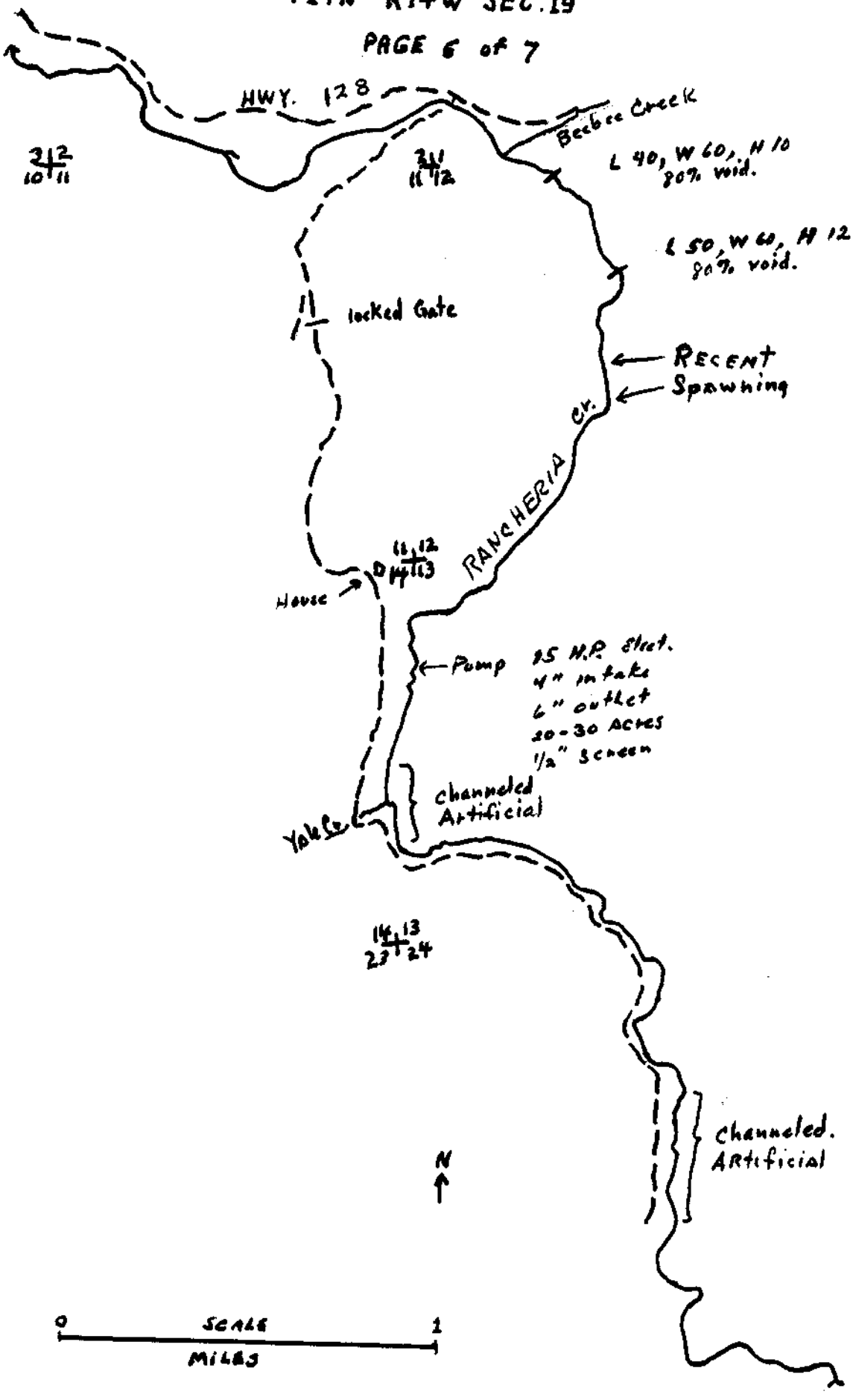

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