

FIELD NOTE
Big Oat Creek
Sonoma County

8/9/65

LOCATION OF MOUTH - Township 8 North, Range 12 West, Section 13.

Big Oat Creek flows into Ward Creek .3 mile north of a point on Fort Ross Road which is approximately 2 miles west of Montgomery School at Cazadero. A private road, joining the Fort Ross Road approximately 1 mile west of Montgomery School and leading to two summer homes, provides access to Ward Creek approximately .9 mile east of mouth of Big Oat Creek, Ward Creek being easily passible on foot.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FIRST .8 MILE FROM MOUTH

1. Stream Flow--Summer at mouth .3 cfs; flow on the ground above landslide .6 mile upstream from mouth; below landslide flow generally broken by and cascading over boulders; gradient of flow 375 feet per mile.
2. Streambed--Bedrock 10 per cent, boulder 60 per cent, coarse rubble 15 per cent, fine rubble 5 per cent, coarse gravel 5 per cent, fine gravel 5 per cent (coarse and fine gravel deposit above landslide .6 mile upstream from mouth 200 feet long, 15 feet wide).
3. Drainage Basin--No current logging; 40 per cent vegetation coverage, primarily California laurel, 40 per cent shade, precipitous slopes 70 degrees.
4. Barriers--Partial, one log jam and one landslide.
5. Water Quality--Temperature: 62 degrees Fahrenheit while air 76 degrees Fahrenheit; water clear.
6. Fish--Only two fingerlings seen.
7. Food--None seen.

GENERAL ESTIMATE--Big Oat not suitable for spawning or nursery by SH-SS. Removal of one log jam and landslide not warranted.

REASONS: No fishery value.

1. Primarily no cascading flow, steep gradient.
2. Alders prevelant, spawning gravel negligible.
3. Food scarcity.
4. Not currently being populated by SS-SH although barriers are only partial.

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