THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

File form No_____ **Date:** October 5, 1976

NAME: MC CLURE CREEK **COUNTY:** Mendocino

STREAM SECTION: Partial **FROM:** mouth **TO:** to a point 2.7 miles upstream **LENGTH:** 2.7 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: Mill Creek **TWP:** 15 N **R:** 12 W **SEC:** 27

OTHER NAMES: None known **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian River

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - McClure Creek was surveyed on foot and by car by Alan Baracco on October 5, 1976 from the mouth to a point 2.7 miles upstream.

LOCATION – McClure Creek is located east of Ukiah near the town of Talmage. It originates in the Maayacamas Mountains and flows westerly into Mill Creek thence the Russian River. The stream is 7.5 miles in length and has a drainage of 7.5 square miles.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS – McClure Creek provides winter flows to the Russian River and provides valuable spawning and nursery habitat for steelhead trout.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed – The lower two miles of the basin is in agricultural production, mainly grapes. The upper area is composed of steep to moderately steep slopes vegetated in oak, brush species, and a few conifers with bay, madrone and wild grape near the stream.

Altitude – Mouth, 590 feet MSL; headwaters, 2,960 feet MSL; upper end of survey area, 840 feet MSL.

Width – The streambed varied between 10 and 100 feet in the survey area, averaging 30 feet.

Flow – The stream was dry on the date of the survey from the mouth to unnamed tributary N-l. Above this point surface flow was continuous and was visually estimated at less than 0.1 cfs. Unnamed tributary N-l was dry.

Velocity – Moderate to slow in the area with flow.

Gradient - Mouth to unnamed tributary N-l, 0.9 feet/100 feet; from unnamed tributary N-l to the upper survey limit, 3.0 feet/100 feet.

Bottom – From the mouth to unnamed tributary N-l the bottom was composed of 10% rubble, 30% gravel, 30% sand and 30% silt. From unnamed tributary N-l to the upper survey limit the bottom was composed of 10% bedrock, 10% boulders, 20% rubble, 40% gravel, 10% sand and 10% silt. Areas suitable for steelhead spawning were scattered throughout the survey area, and made up approximately 40% of the streambed in the area adjacent to unnamed tributary N-l.

Barriers – The upper limit for anadromous fish is created by a 20-foot high bedrock falls (see photos) located 2.7 miles from the mouth in the NE 1/4 of Section 23, T 15 N, R 12 W. No other barriers were observed except for two flashboard dams, one located upstream of unnamed tributary N-l and the other located 1.2 miles upstream from the mouth. These dams are not in place during the winter months.

Diversions – Water is diverted at the above mentioned dams for irrigation and frost protection of nearby vineyards.

Pollution – Some pollution was observed due to use of the streambed by cattle.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS – Juvenile steelhead trout were observed from unnamed tributary N-l upstream to the 20-foot falls. Fish were most abundant (20/100 feet) immediately above the flashboard dam above unnamed tributary N-l and averaged 10% yearlings and 90% young-of-the-year. The one-half mile of stream below the falls contained only yearling-sized steelhead (5/100 feet). Low water conditions in the winter of 1975-76, one of the driest on record, probably limited migration of adult steelhead into this area, hence no young-of-the-year steelhead were seen. No fish were observed above the falls. Juvenile steelhead were the only fish species observed; however, California roach and prickly sculpin may be present in the lower portion of the stream.

RECREATIONAL USE – The area is used by deer hunters in season. Fishing use is extremely light.

OWNERSHIP – The lower 3 miles of the stream is privately owned and posted against trespass. The upper part of the drainage is part of the Cow Mountain ~~National Recreation Area~~ (Planning Unit) administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

IMPROVEMENTS – The diversions at the flashboard dams should be screened to exclude juvenile steelhead.

GENERAL ESTIMATE – McClure Creek provides good habitat for the small steelhead population utilizing the area below the falls. The population is limited by low flows during the summer period.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT – McClure Creek should be managed for its anadromous resource. Low summer flows should be maintained for instream needs and access of adult steelhead should be maintained up to the falls.

SKETCH MAP – Attached.[sic]

REFERENCES – U.S.G.S. Map, 7 1/2' series, Ukiah Quad., 1958 and Cow Mountain Quad., 1958.