

**THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
Department Of Fish And Game**

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM No. _____

Date March 5, 1968

NAME.....Signal Creek.....**COUNTY**.....Mendocino.....
STREAM SECTION...entire **FROM**mouth.....**TO**head waters..... **LENGTH**...5 miles..
TRIBUTARY TO...Garcia River.....**TWP**...12N... **R**...15W...**SEC**...26....
OTHER NAMES...Unknown.....**RIVER SYSTEM**.....Garcia.....
SOURCES OF DATA.....Personal observation - G.A. Miller.....

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

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION – Walked from mouth upstream 1/4 mile. Drove along stream on logging road to headwaters, stopping occasionally to check conditions. 21 August 1967, 1000 – 1200.

LOCATION – Mouth: Twp. 12N, R 15W, Section 26. Approximately 3 miles south and 10 miles east of the town of Pt. Arena. The mouth is located 100 yds. south west of Hollow Tree Lumber Company, Mill D.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS – Good contribution to summer flow of the Garcia River, at the mouth 2.8 cfs at 1000 21 August 1967. The fisheries value is of major importance as it is one of the larger tributaries to the Garcia River.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin – The stream heads south of Zeni Ridge and north west of Signal Ridge. It flows westerly and enters the Garcia River directly southwest (100 yds.) of the Hollow Tree Lumber Company. The canyon is U-shaped throughout and has relatively poor soil – thin and rocky.

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin – The basin is covered with second growth of Douglas fir, madrone and tanbark oak with manzanita growing in open places. There is little streamside vegetation and no shade from trees on the streambed.

Altitude – Heads: Approximately 1600 ft., mouth: 320 ft.

Gradient – Averages 260 ft. per mile. Steeper in upper 3 miles (350-400 ft. / mile).

Width – Average: 3-4 ft., range: 2-12 ft.

Depth – Average: 4"-5", range: 2"-42".

Flow – Mouth: 2.8 cfs; range: approximately 1.0-3.0 cfs.

Velocity – Fairly rapid throughout the stream.

Bottom – Mostly rubble and gravel with some bedrock. Sand and silt in bottom of larger pools.

Spawning Areas – Good, approximately 50% of the streambed could be used as spawning areas.

Pools – Pool development is fair probably 20% of the streambed. The pools are small, averaging 4 ft. x 8 ft. x 36" deep.

Shelter – Fair from logs and rubble. Very little from streamside vegetation.

Barriers – A few minor log jams were seen in the lower 2½ miles of streambed. These could be potential barriers if they were not removed.

Diversions – None seen.

Temperatures – Air: 79°F, water 63°F. 1010 – 21 August 1967. Clear and calm.

Food – Fair from caddis worms and stonefly larvae. Some flying insects were seen (caddis flies and stone flies).

Aquatic Plants – Filamentous green algae in slower portions of stream. Some brown algae observed.

Winter Conditions – Quite severe as evidenced by debris and gravel deposits, some were seen as high as 6 feet, higher than present level. The stream only doubles in width since the valley is narrow.

Pollution – None seen.

Springs – None seen along stream.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS – There was a good number of SH-RT in the stream (approximately 35 per 100 ft.) to indicate that the stream is used as a spawning and nursery stream. there were also a few suckers(*Catostomus occidentalis*) present in the lower 1½ miles in the larger pools. The SH-RT ranged from 1½"-7", average – 3 inches. No fish were observed above the tributary 2½ miles upstream from the mouth.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs.

FISHING INTENSITY – Unknown

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - None known.

ACCESSIBILITY – Logging road parallels the stream from ¼ mile above the mouth to the headwaters. This road comes from the Hollow Tree Lumber Company, Mill D and runs east – west. It connects to Signal Ridge Road approximately 1¼ miles east of the headwaters.

OWNERSHIP - Hollow Tree Lumber Company.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted.

IMPROVEMENTS – None seen. Some log removal from the streambed should be executed to facilitate upstream-downstream passage of larger fish during low water.

PAST STOCKING - None known.

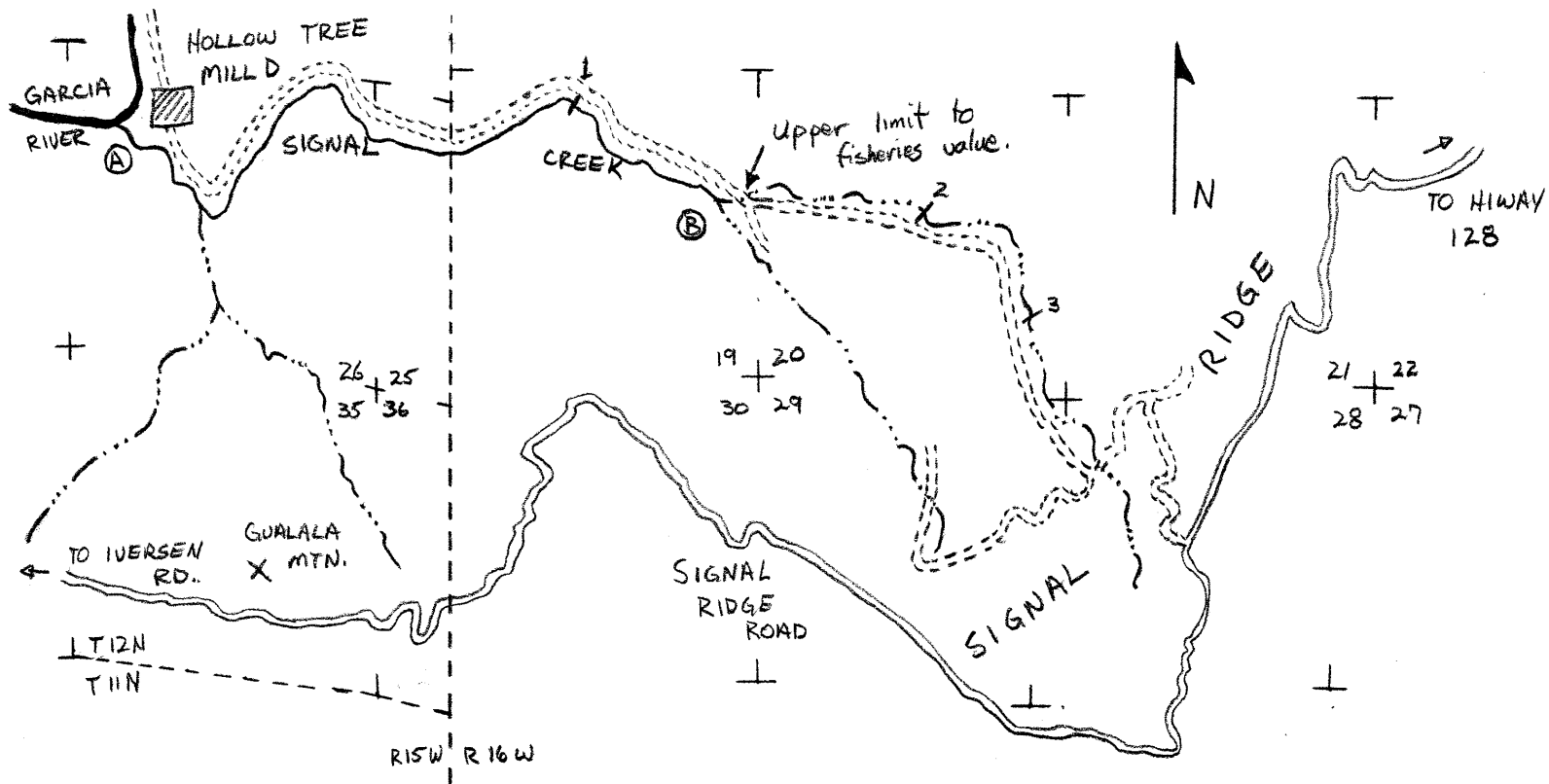
GENERAL ESTIMATE – This stream serves as a good fisheries stream for steelhead (and possibly salmon). The summer flow is sufficient to support a large population of juvenile fish. During higher water, upstream passage of larger spawning fish should be relatively easy since there are no major obstructions in the streambed. Stream side cover was destroyed by heavy logging.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT – To ensure that this stream remains as good a stream as it is, some log removal should be undertaken. Also, if there were an increase in shelter available, the stream could support a larger fish population. If fast growing alder or willow were planted (either by man or naturally) along the stream the available shade and shelter would increase. This would also help to lower water temperatures that would stabilize a good trout-salmon stream.

SKETCH MAP - Attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS – USGS Ormbaun Valley Quad. 1960

Gerald Holman
Assistant Fishery Biologist
Region 3



SIGNAL CREEK

T 12 N R 15 W Sec. 26

