

STREAM SURVEY

NAME PUDDING CREEK COUNTY Mendocino

STREAM SECTION FROM Entire TO LENGTH 27 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO Pacific Ocean Twp. 18 N R. 18W Sec. 1

OTHER NAMES RIVER SYSTEM... Pudding Creek

SOURCES OF DATA Personal survey and discussion with several local residents

- EXTENT OF OBSERVATION
Includ Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
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- GENERAL DESCRIPTION**
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - Two days of walking out the entire stream and its tributaries by H. E. Pintler on May 27 - 28, 1957.

LOCATION - Rises about 10 miles east of Fort Bragg and flows in a meandering manner into the Pacific Ocean about 1/2 mile north of Fort Bragg.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - An entirely separate stream system similar to other nearby coastal streams.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Watershed - Flows thru a narrow, steep-sided valley throughout most of its length, in typical coast range country. The lower 1/4 of the stream is more nearly of gorge type.

Immediate Drainage Basin - A steep, narrow canyon with clay and gravelly soil and some humus on slopes. Area largely logged over but with no cultivation. Vegetation is mostly redwood and alder with some Douglas fir and underbrush. The shade is excellent. The main stream length is about 17 miles, not including Little Valley Creek which is reported in a separate survey.

Altitude (Range) - Sea level to 1,225'

Gradient - The stream gradient itself is moderate without much cascading except in the upper parts of the tributary.

Width - Average width is estimated at 10 ft. with a range up to 30 ft.

Depth - Average depth is estimated at 18" with a range up to 4 ft.

Flow (Range) - Estimated at an average of 10 c.f.s. on this date, with a range up to 18 c.f.s. (greater in winter)

Velocity - Rapid except for headwaters which are cascading.

Bottom - Predominantly gravel and rubble, with some bedrock in the lower section and some mud or clay in the upper end.

Spawning Areas - Estimated to have an average of about 30%, although depth of water in part of the lower section prevented complete observation and the percentage perhaps should be higher. Spawning areas appeared to be of excellent quality.

Pools - Good pool development. The lower section contains almost continuous pools up to 20' X 50' and up to 4' or more in depth. The upper part has numerous small pools suitable for fish shelter.

Shelter - Good in the form of pools and holes. Some under cut banks. Little or no vegetative shelter.

Barriers and Diversions - There is one barrier in the form of a low dam located immediately upstream from the State Highway One road crossing, This dam is equipped with a suitable fish ladder. One other barrier exists which could at some water stages presumably stop fish migration. This is an immense 200 ft. long log jam

between the above-mentioned dam and the Northwestern Pacific Railroad tunnel. Although anadromous fishlife was relatively abundant above this jam, it is recommended that the jam be removed if this stream is to be used for silver salmon propagation and egg collecting.

Diversions -

Temperature - As of this date, temperatures range only from 53° F. to 57° F. in the water. On August 9, 1948, Shapovalov recorded a water temperature of 60° in the vicinity of T-R-2.

Food - Excellent in the dam pond with fresh water shrimp particularly abundant. Food also good in the stream with many chironomid larvae and other invertebrates on the bottoms of most of the rocks in the stream.

Aquatic Plants - Practically none observed.

Winter Conditions - During the winter there are rather high flows in this stream but only a small amount of scouring appears to occur.

Pollution - None observed.

Springs - Several small springs which are sources for some of the small tributary streams exist on both sides of the center section of the stream.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Juvenile steelhead were present but rather scarce in the main stream. In the pools in the larger tributaries from 3 to 10 young steelhead could be seen in each of the pools inspected. Four steelhead of about 22" in length were observed at station #5 located at Le Valley's cabin just upstream from the mouth of T-L-S. Although juvenile silver salmon were not seen in any of the tributaries they did appear abundant in those portions of the main stream where they could be identified. It appears that spawning of steelhead and silver salmon in this stream quite successful and that the fish thrive well. Sticklebacks were found to be very abundant in small schools in Little Valley Creek and its tributaries.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Only a few frogs and salamanders were observed throughout the drainage.

FISHING INTENSITY - This stream is closed by law to winter fishing except at the mouth below the dam. Summer fishing pressure is light to medium. On the date of the survey only 4 anglers were observed and these were all in the area near the railroad tunnel,

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - None known.

ACCESSIBILITY - The stream is almost completely accessible by vehicle for its entire length, except for the smaller tributaries. Access is via the Union Lumber Company roads which are not barred most of the time, except for special reasons.

OWNERSHIP - Most of the drainage is owned by the Union Lumber Company with two or three private individuals owning small ranches.

POSTED OR OPEN - Pudding Creek is posted by both private owners and the Union Lumber Company but the Union Lumber Co. can be entered upon for fishing upon request for permission at the Company office.

IMPROVEMENTS - None noted.

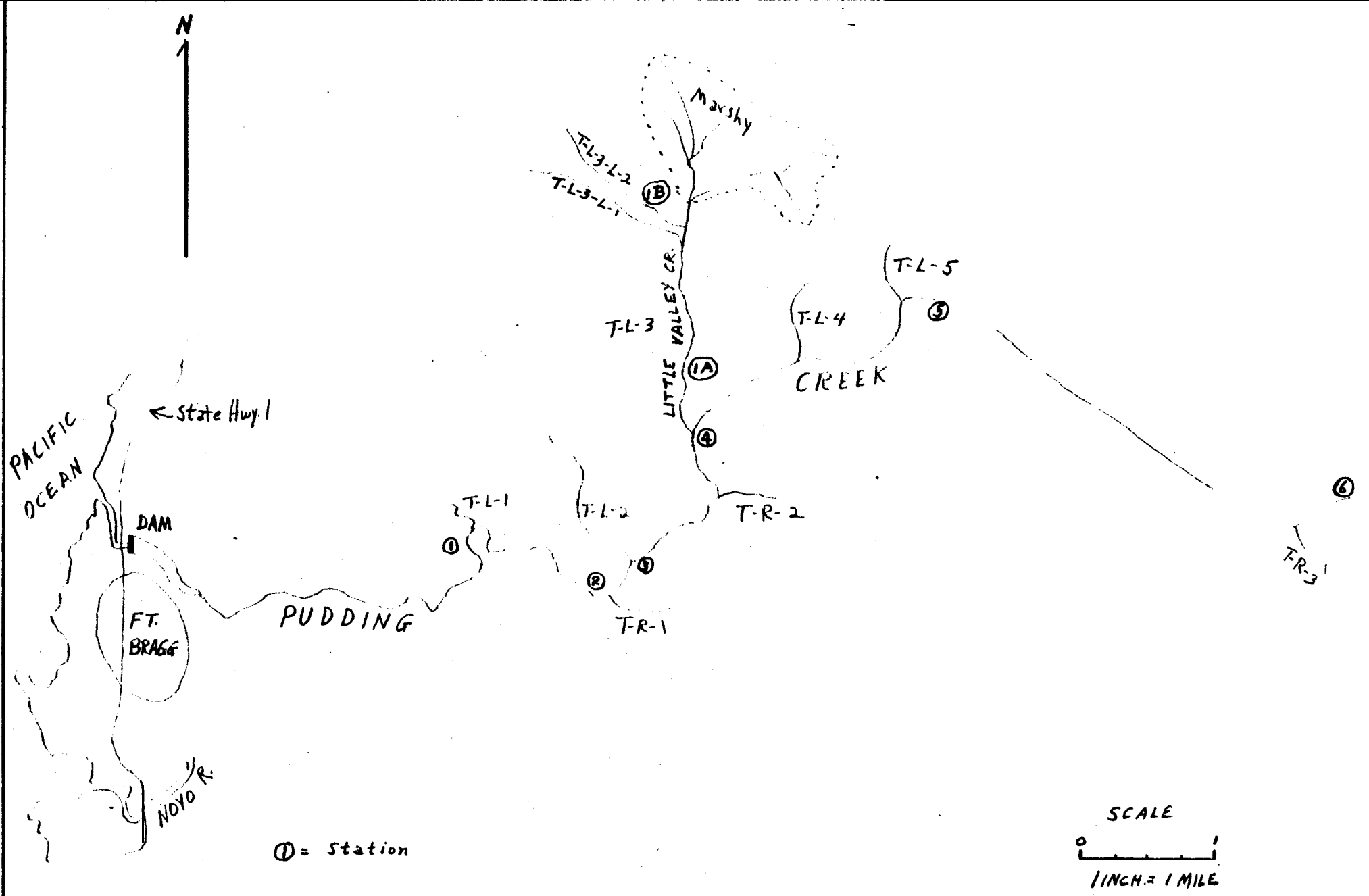
PAST STOCKING - Not known. The only records of past stocking are for 9/9/48 when 6,000 rainbow trout at 4.8 per oz. and marked adipose were planted and on Sept. 23, 1938, 10,400 steelhead at 22.5 per oz. were planted.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - This is a better than average north coastal stream which appears to support a good population of silver salmon as well as steelhead. The spawning areas are excellent and fairly abundant. Access is excellent and this is a good stream on which to work as well as to fish. Some stream improvement work could easily be done in various sections of the upper part and on Lost Valley Creek.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT -

- Use this stream for a silver salmon spawn taking and attendant experimental work as desired.
Close the stream to all fishing the year around.
Experiment with simple stream improvement devices as time permits.
4. Make arrangements with the D-J Stream Improvement Crew to see whether or not removal of the log jam in the lower section is feasible. *note*
 5. Be sure to permit ample ~~statement~~ ^{space} for maintenance of a run, if eggs are taken.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - Maps used were the State Division of Forestry maps for Mendocino County; north half 1949, and south half 1950 revision. There was very little material on this creek in the file.



PUDDING CREEK DRAINAGE, MENDOCINO COUNTY