

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM No.

Date September 26, 1967

NAM E Kass Creek

COUNTY Mendocino

STREAM SECTION entire FROM mouth TO headwaters

LENGTH 2.75 mi.

TRIBUTARY TO South Fork, Noyo River Twp. 18N R. 17W Sec. 14

OTHER NAMES Not known RIVER SYSTEM Noyo River

SOURCES OF DATA Personal observation and interview with Dennis Tavaris, Union Lumber

- 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
 - Velocity (Range)
 - Bottom
 - Spawning Area
 - 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 - Surveyed by foot from mouth at South Fork, Noyo River, to point 0.25 miles above northeast fork in headwaters, a point marked by abandoned logging landing at end of streamside road, a total distance of 2.75 miles. Survey made by E. R. Y. Primbs on 24 August 1966.

LOCATION - Kass Creek flows into the South Fork, Noyo River, at the bridge crossing of Kass Creek by the Union Lumber Company's South Fork, Noyo River, Road, which crossing is 5 miles on the Noyo River Road from Union Lumber Co's. gate at Fort Bragg. A streamside road up Kass Creek and a 4 ft. high Log-soil bridge over Kass Creek marks this location.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Provides the Noyo River system with 1.13 miles of excellent spawning grounds for silver salmon only.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin - Size: 3.0 sq. miles; Kass Creek flows from springs issuing from Riley Ridge and along its entire course approximately southwest; logged by Union Lumber Co., during 1964-65 at which time a streamside road was constructed; U-shaped canyon with steep 60° slopes; canyon floor 100 ft. wide; stream shade is 85% from trees, brush, and narrow canyon effect: willow, red alder, redwood, elder, tan bark oak, California bay are common; poison oak, blackberry, thistle,

thimbleberry, broeken fern, skunk cabbage, nettle, horsetail and Oregon grape provide close surface cover along bank.

Altitude - At mouth 80 ft., at upper fish value 320 ft.

Gradient - 142 ft. per mile to upper fish value.

Width - Average 3 ft. with range from 2 ft. to 30 ft.

Depth - Average 10 inches with range from 1 inch to 7 ft.

Flow - 0.40 c.f.s. at mouth; 0.03 c.f.s. at old settlement.

Velocity - Sluggish

Bottom - Boulders 5%, fine rubble 20%, coarse gravel 40%, fine gravel 35%,

Spawning areas - 50% of winter bed, average 4 ft. wide, (23,760 sq. ft.), good.

Pools - Summer stream composed of continuous series of sluggish pools, divided by under-surface flow.

Shelter - Fair: debris, overhanging vegetation.

Barriers - (1) - 17 small to moderate log jams. (2) - soil dam formed in construction of road. A great quantity of slash on stream banks may wash into streambed and form barriers in the future.

Diversion - None observed

Temperatures - Measured maximum: At old settlement - 1530, 8/24/66: air 64°, water 57°; weather fair, wind 6 m.p.h.; altitude 240 ft.

Food - Type: three genera of caddis fly larvae (Leptocelka, Ochrotrichia, and Limnephilus); and stone fly nymphs. Abundance: moderate numbers.

Aquatic plants - liverworts, moss, algae and iron bacteria in moderate quantities.

Winter conditions - Suitable for spawning: 2 ft. - 3 ft. maximum.

Pollution - Some silt in streambed from erosion of streamside road.

Springs - Only 2 observed along entire course.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS -

1. Silver Salmon and Steelhead - The following parr were netted, identified, and examined before release in representative samples:

	<u>Actual count</u>	<u>Size</u>		<u>Condition</u>
		<u>Range</u>	<u>Average</u>	
Salmon	408	1½"-3"	1-3/4"	Well proportioned but slow growth
Steelhead	0	-	-	--
Total	408			

2. Other Fish Netted and Identified - Three-spine stickleback: actual count 24.

The stream is currently producing an estimated 6,800 silver salmon and no steelhead. The salmon population is below optimum for spawning and about optimum for nursery. Summer mortality should be slightly above average.

OTHER AQUATIC VERTEBRATES - yellow legged frogs.

FISHING INTENSITY - not known

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - deer hunting

ACCESSIBILITY - Accessible from mouth to headwaters by streamside road, which may be entered by one of three routes: (1) The Kass Creek road joins at the mouth of Kass Creek, the Union Lumber Co's., South Fork, Noyo River Road, which junction is 5 miles from the Union Lumber Co's., gate at Fort Bragg. The gate to this road may be locked.

(2) - The South Fork, Noyo River Road may also be reached from the Fort Bragg-Willits Rd. (Highway 20) at the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp, where a gate is also located.

The junction of Kass Creek Road with the South Fork, Noyo River Road, is 5½ miles northeast on the South Fork, Noyo River, road from the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp. The Parlin Fork Conservation Camp Rd. is 11.2 miles east of Fort Bragg on Highway 20. (3) Kass Creek Road may also be entered in the headwater area by a road extending one mile from the Ranch on Noyo River. The Ranch Road joins with Oak Street, Fort Bragg, 1.25 miles from the Ranch on the Ranch Road and 4 miles east of Fort Bragg on Oak Street. At this junction Pudding Creek Road and the Sherwood Road also enter Oak Street. No locked gate governs passage on this route.

OWNERSHIP - Small section at mouth owned by Daniels; main body of stream by Union Lumber co., headwater area owned by Aborigine.

POSTED OR OPEN - posted

IMPROVEMENTS - (1) - Clearance of 17 small to moderate log jams from mouth to northeast fork in headwaters, a total distance of 2.25 miles, (2) - Clearance of soil dam ¾ mi. upstream from mouth.

PAST STOCKING - Not known

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Kass Creek has suffered considerable damage from logging and road building operations. Slash and debris from logging have formed barriers, which interfere with movement of adults and parr, while road building and erosion therefrom have resulted in large deposits of gravel in streambed, causing considerable undersurface summer flow. Notwithstanding, these detrimental modifications, the stream is currently producing a fair number of silver salmon, which, however, are manifesting slow growth. Extensive good spawning gravels are available, but apparently not fully utilized, because of the barriers. The stream has very little value for nursery, because of the entrapment of the parr in small, sluggish pools, the temperature of which, however, not being critical because of cool coastal climate and vegetation coverage of stream.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Kass Creek should be managed for silver salmon spawning and nursery: (1) - The 17 log jams and soil dams should be removed to ease adult and parr movement and to enhance summer flow.

SKETCH MAP- See attached

REFERENCES AND MAPS -

1. U.S.G.S. (Comptche, 1960), 15' series
2. Jackson State Forest Map, California Division of Forestry, (1964); scale 1/31,680.

Edward R. J. Primbs
25 August 1966

Fort Bragg (Oak St.) (1 mile)

Kayo River

California Western Pk

To: Fort Bragg (2.25 Miles)

Union Lumber Co's Kayo River Rd

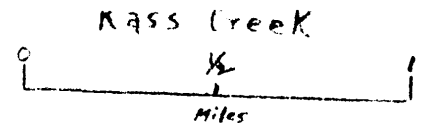
11/12
14/13

Owner: Union Lumber

Pond (100's, 2' deep)
Soil Bgn
From Road Building

Owner: Daniels

South Fork Mayo River



Scale: 1/31, L80
T18N, R17W, Sec 14



1. Stream Classification	I
2. Now Satisfactory S.A.S.S.	0.25 Mi.
3. To Be Improved	2.00 Mi.
4. Available After Improvement	2.25 Mi.

E.B.J.F.

To: Patin Park Conservation Camp (2.5 Miles)

