

MEN-500
N.F. Noyo River

STREAM SURVEY

FILE FORM No....

Date September 29, 1967

NAME..... North Fork, Noyo River.. ..County... Mendocino

STREAM SECTION.....entire.....FROM.....mouth..... TO..... Headwaters..... Length6 mi

TRIBUTARY TO . Noyo RiverTwp 18N R...15W. Sec. 17.

OTHER NAMES.... Not known RIVER SYSTEM.....Noyo River.....

SOURCES OF DATA Personal observation and interview with Father Hopper and 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
- 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 - Surveyed by foot from mouth at Noyo River to 0.25 mile above mouth of Dewarren Creek, a total distance of 6 miles.

A separate survey is being made for the following tributaries: (1) Warble Gulch, (2) Hayworth Creek, (3) Middle Fork of Noyo Fork, (4) Dewarren Creek. Survey made by E. R. J. Primbs on 17 August 1966.

LOCATION - North Fork, Noyo River, flows into the Noyo River at Northspur, which is 2.75 miles west of Irmulco on the Northspur-Camp St. Albert Road. Irmulco is 5 miles west of the Fort Bragg-Willits Road, (Highway 20) on the Irmulco Rd. The Irmulco Road joins Highway 20 6.25 miles west of Willits on Highway 20. A railroad bridge of the California Western RR marks the mouth of the North Fork, Noyo River.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Provides the Noyo River system with summer and winter flow of good quality water and 3.63 miles of good spawning grounds and 5.75 miles of excellent nursery area for steelhead and silver salmon.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin - Size: 13 sq. miles, North Fork, Noyo River, flows principally from springs issuing in its headwaters and tributaries southeast for 3 miles and thence southwest for 2.75 miles; no current logging, although Baxter, Union Lumber, and Aborigine own land bordering stream; bowl-shaped valley with wide valley floor and steep 60°

slopes; stream banks are sheer 18 ft. high to Hayworth Creek, and 2 ft. high thereafter; stream shade 80% from trees and brush; tan bark oak, willow, redwood, red alder, big leaf maple, grand fir and Douglas fir common; poison oak, western thimbleberry, bracken fern, sword fern, and horsetail provide close surface cover along banks.

Altitude - At mouth 320 ft., at upper fish value 640 ft.

Gradient - 56 ft. per mile to upper fish value.

Width - Stream channel: 40 ft. wide at mouth, narrowing to 24 ft. above Gulch Seven, and to 10 ft. above Hayworth Creek. Summer flow: average 7 ft. with range from 5 ft. to 40 ft.

Depth - Average 4 inches with range from 2 inches to 4 ft.

Flow - 2.30 c.f.s. at mouth; 0.83 c.f.s. above Hayworth Creek.

Velocity - Moderately rapid.

Bottom - Fine rubble 15%; coarse gravel 55%; fine gravel 30%.

Spawning areas - From mouth to Hayworth Creek: 70% of winter bed, average 8 ft. wide, (110,880 sq. ft.) good but value reduced somewhat because of depth of winter flow.

From Hayworth Creek to Dewarren Creek 50% of winter bed, average 4 ft. wide (21,120 sq. ft.) excellent.

Pools - 50% of summer flow.

Shelter - Good: rubble, logs, undercut banks.

Barriers - No barriers from mouth to Hayworth Creek; 2 small log jams and an old collapsed bridge from Hayworth to Middle Fork of North Fork; 6 moderate log jams from Middle Fork to Dewarren Creek. All these barriers are stable and will increase in size by collection of debris moving downstream.

All these barriers are stable and will increase in size by collection of debris moving downstream.

Diversion - Pump and 5 inch pipe at streamside house above Gulch Five.

Temperatures - Measured maximum: above mouth of Hayworth Creek: 1600, 8/17/66:

Air - 86°; water - 69°; weather fair, wind 5 m.p.h., altitude 400 ft.

Food - Type: stone fly nymphs, may fly nymph, caddis fly larvae (Ochrotrichia), water beetle. Abundance: **Mayfly** and caddis fly are extremely **common**.

Aquatic plants - Liverworts and moss.

Winter conditions : Water level below **Hayworth** higher than optimum for spawning (5 ft. estimated), above **Hayworth** winter water land suitable for spawning (3 ft. estimated).

Pollution - none noted

Springs Confined to headwaters and tributaries. **One** observed at **Hayworth** Creek Road crossing of North Fork.

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	112	1-3/4"-3 1/2"	2 1/4"	Well proportioned highly variable in growth; some slow growth
Steelhead	<u>238</u>	1-1/4"-4"	2"	
Total	350			

2. Other Fish Netted and Identified

Three-spine stickleback - actual count 3

The stream is currently producing an estimated 11,200 silver salmon and 23,800 steelhead, both populations being under optimum for spawning and nursery. Summer mortality should be low. There is a tendency of the steelhead to home in the stream rather than migrate (some steelhead as large as 6" + were observed).

OTHER AQUATIC VERTEBRATES - Yellow-legged frogs, water snakes, California newts, neoturus.

FISHING INTENSITY - Not known

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Picnic areas for local residents

ACCESSIBILITY - Accessible from mouth to upper fishery value at Dewarren Creek by good streamside road, which may be entered either at the mouth by the Irmulco Road or in the headwater area by the Union Lumber Company's **Hayworth** Creek Road. The North Fork, Noyo River Road joins the Irmulco Road at Northspur, which is 7.75 mi. west of the Fort Bragg-Willits Road (Highway 20) on the Irmulco Road. The Irmulco Road joins Highway 20, 6.25 miles west of **Willits** on Highway 20. The **Hayworth** Creek Road joins the North Fork, Noyo River, Rd. one mile north of the mouth of **Hayworth** Creek on the North Fork, Noyo River Rd., 4.75 miles west of the junction, **Hayworth** Creek Road-North Fork, Noyo River Rd., the **Hayworth** Creek Road joins the Union Lumber Company-Sherwood Ridge Road. At this junction there is a locked gate (key at Union

Lumber Co.) The Hayworth Creek Road-Sherwood Ridge Road junction is 11½ mi. east on the Sherwood Ridge Road of the junction of Pudding Creek Road-Sherwood Ridge Road-Noyo Ranch Road, which junction in turn is 4 miles east of Fort Bragg on Oak Street.

OWNERSHIP - At mouth: Yarnash; in Marble Gulch area. Father Elliott Hopper; between Marble Gulch and Gulch Seven. J. H. Baxter Company at mouth of Hayworth Creek: Crumlin, Pickering and Shaw. Above Hayworth Creek, east side of stream, Aborigine. Above Hayworth Creek, west side of stream, Union Lumber Co.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted

IMPROVEMENTS - Clearance of 8 small to moderate log jams and remnants of old bridge at Hayworth Creek.

PAST STOCKING - Not known

GENERAL OWNERSHIP - The North Fork, Noyo River, is an extremely important nursery area for both silver salmon and steelhead, but because of its general winter depth has less significance for spawning. The North Fork has ample summer flow, of good quality water, suitable summer temperatures, adequate vegetation coverage, abundance of food and adequate velocity and breakage of water surface for increasing the dissolved oxygen content. The stream thus affords parr spawning in its tributaries a nursery area of high survival potential. For full development of this value, however, the current barriers, referred to above, should be removed to facilitate parr summer movement. Such clearance will also ease the migration of the adults to the spawning grounds in the North Fork, as well as the tributaries. All the barriers are confined to the section of the stream above the entrance of Hayworth Creek.

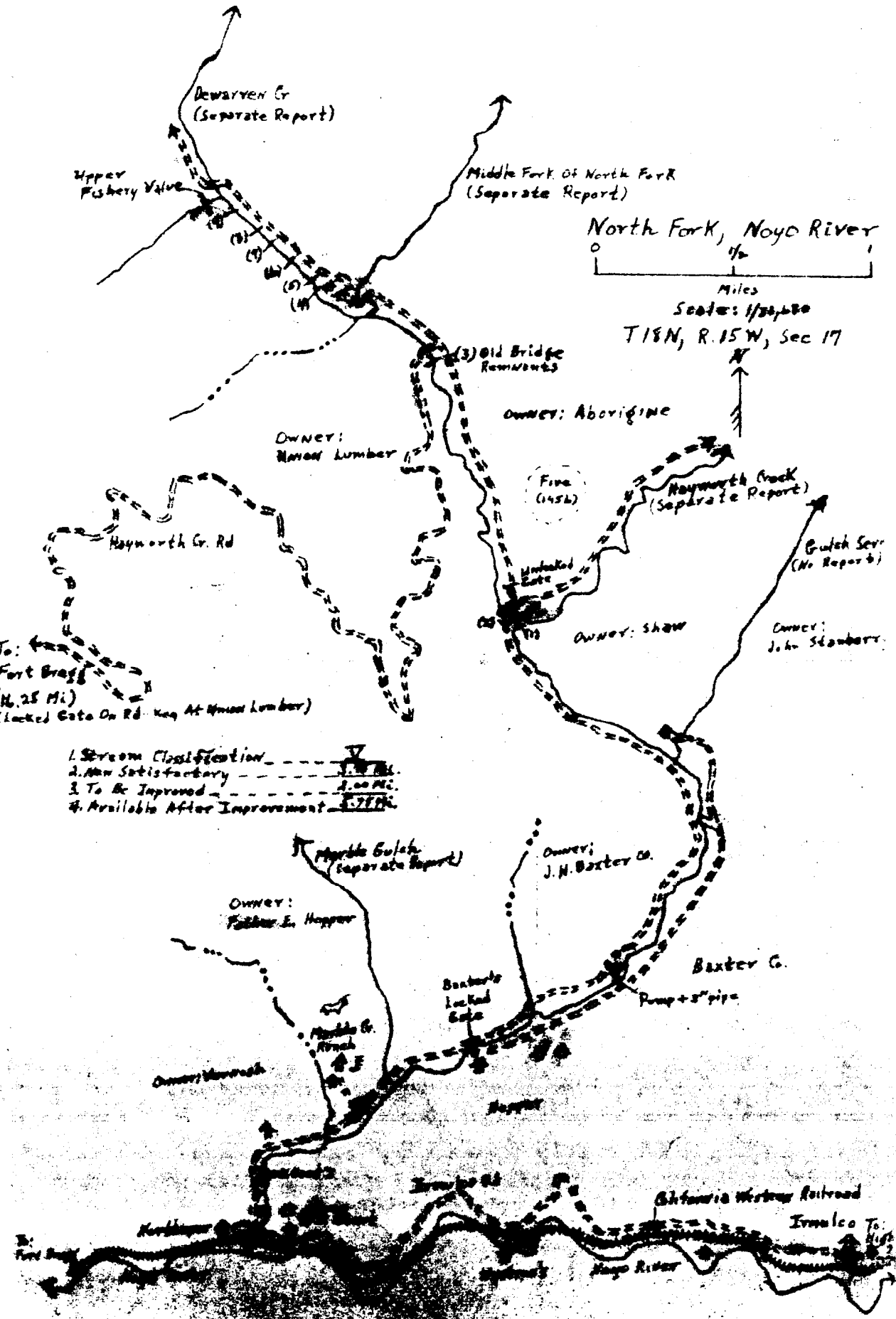
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - North Fork, Noyo River, should be managed for steelhead and silver salmon spawning and nursery. The 8 small to moderate log jams and remnants of old bridge should be removed to facilitate adult and parr traffic in stream.

SKETCH MAP - See attached

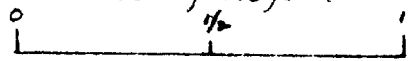
REFERENCES AND MAPS -

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

Edward R.J. Primbs
19 August 1966



North Fork, Noyo River



Miles
Scale: 1/20,000

T18N, R.15W, Sec 17



1. Stream Classification
 2. Now Satisfactory
 3. To Be Improved
 4. Available After Improvement



To: Fort Bragg
 (16.25 Mi)
 (Locked Gate On Rd. - No At Home Lumber)

To: Fort Bragg

To: Invalco