

FORSYTHE CREEK	MENDOCINO
From mouth to upper fish limit	12 miles.
West Fork Russian River	T.16N., R.12W., Sec. 16.
No other names known.	Russian River System.
Personal observation.	

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION : Forsythe Creek surveyed on foot from mouth to upper fish limits, about 12 miles, on July 12 and 13, 1972, by Steven C. Durkee and Robert R. Klamt.

LOCATION : Forsythe Creek enters the West Fork of the Russian River about 1 mile north of the point where State Highway 20 crosses the Russian River going east from U.S. 101.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS : Forsythe Creek and its tributaries contribute summer and winter flow to the Russian River system and potentially extends SH spawning and nursery grounds for that system about 25 miles.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION :

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin : Forsythe Creek, within its 12 mile course, exhibits two alternating types of streambed. From the headwaters to [just above] Walker Valley and from below Walker Valley to the confluence of Mill Creek, Forsythe Creek flows through areas of bedrock canyon. Within these areas the average gradient is 260 ft/mile and falls and boulder obstructions are common. Within Walker Valley and from Mill Creek down to its mouth, Forsythe Creek flows through a wide flood plain. With an average gradient of 20 ft/mile in these two areas the stream has a meandering channel with a deep gravel bed. The dominant vegetation for the immediate drainage of Forsythe Creek is Oak-Grassland, however cultivated pasture and vineyards are found in Walker Valley and along the lower reaches.

Altitude : At mouth, 640ft.; at upper fish limits, 1600ft.

Gradient : Overall, 80ft/mile; canyon areas, 260ft/mile; floodplain areas, 20ft/mile.

Width : Average, 4-5ft.; range, 2-15ft.

Depth : Average, 4 inches; range 1-36 inches.

Flow : Upper fish limits, ¼cfs.; above Mill Creek confluence, 1cfs.; At mouth, 1 cfs. [(Note: Flow may become intermittent in lower section later in Summer.)]

Velocity : Moderately rapid.

Bottom : Upper fish limits: Basketball-sized and larger - ½, baseball-sized to golfball-sized - ¼, pea-sized, sand, silt - ¼. At mouth of Mill Creek: Baseball and basketball-sized - ½, golfball and marble-sized - ¼, peas-sized, sand, and silt - ¼. At mouth of Forsythe Creek: golfball and marble-sized - ½, pea-sized - ¼, sand and silt - ¼.

Spawning Area : About 2/3 overall,

Pools : Pool to riffle ratio - 1:1.

Shelter : Undercut banks, logs, and boulders.

Barriers : a) 4 areas of litter, b) 2 bedrock and boulder falls, c) 1 compact log jam.

Diversions : ~~Four~~ Five diversions, [with 2-inch intakes.]

<u>Temperatures</u> :	<u>Air T.</u>	<u>Water T.</u>	<u>Weather</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>Time</u>
At mouth	82°F.	80°F.	Clear	720	1415
Confluence of Mill Creek	73°F.	74°F.	Clear	800	0940
Upper fish limit	73°F.	69°F.	Clear	1520	1520

Food : Caddisfly, mayfly, stonefly, beetle, and diptera larvae.

Aquatic Plants : Juncus, Nutgrass, Equisetum, Liverwort, and algae.

Winter Conditions : 2-3 feet above summer level.

Pollution : Livestock excrement.

Springs : Few noted.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS : Squawfish, Roach, Rainbow Trout, Steelhead, Sucker.
 Size: SH - 1-3 in. RT - 1-3 in. 5-7 in. Abundance: SH - 30/100ft. RT - small,
 20/100ft. large, 2/100ft. (Note: Roughfish in Forsythe Creek far outnumbered the
 game species mentioned.)

OTHER VERTEBRATES : Frogs, Tadpoles, and Salamanders.

FISHING INTENSITY : Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES : None known.

ACCESSIBILITY : Forsythe Creek is accessible from the Reeves Canyon Road as well
 as many roads in Walker Valley, It is also accessible from U.S. 101 by climbing
 down into the canyon.

OWNERSHIP : Unknown.

POSTED OR OPEN : Posted.

IMPROVEMENTS : None.

GENERAL ESTIMATE : Forsythe Creek has 12 miles of potential SH spawning and
 nursery grounds. Very little of this total is usable however due to several
 factors. With its low gradient for most of its length, the creek exhibits a
 wide, meandering bed, with very sluggish water flow, exposed to sunlight a great
 deal. This same bed offers little shelter and this combined with com-petition
 from the large numbers of rough fish present seems to have diminished the
 streams SH nursery capabilities. SH spawning suffers from the highly packed
 nature of the gravel bed in most of the stream channel. Only the bedrock areas
 of Forsythe Creek are of real value to SH and management of these areas is made
 difficult by the slide prone nature of the canyon at these points. It would
 appear that the main value of Forsythe Creek is in terms of access, by adult SH,
 to Seward and Mill Creeks.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT : Efforts should be taken when necessary to insure seasonal
 fish passage to those parts of the Forsythe Creek system that are of SH spawning
 and nursery value.

SKETCH MAP : Attached.[sic]

REFERENCES : U.S.G.S. 15 minute series (Willits, Potter Valley & Ukiah Quads.) 1961.
 Scale - 1:62500

BARRIERS AND DIVERSIONS

- 1 - Bedrock and boulder falls, 50
ft. high and 100 ft. long.
- 2 - 50 yards of litter.
- 3 - Fallen oak trees.
- 4 - 100 yards of litter.
- 5 - Log jam, 6'x45'x75'
- 6 - Fallen oak trees.
- 7 - Bedrock and boulder falls, 30
ft. high and 100 ft. long.
- 8 - Diversion, [2 - inch intake.]
- 9 - Diversion. "
- 10 - Diversion. "
- 11 - Diversion. "
- 12 - Diversion. "