



## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

### FIELD NOTE

#### Dry Dock Gulch

Author: M. Groff, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

#### WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Dry Dock Gulch is a tributary to Big River, which drains to the Pacific Ocean. It is located in Mendocino County, California (Map 1). Dry Dock Gulch's legal description at the confluence with Big River is T17N R17W S26. Its location is 39.3001 degrees north latitude and 123.7292 degrees west longitude, LLID number 1237280393001. Dry Dock Gulch is a second order stream and has approximately 0.9 miles of blue line stream according to the USGS Mathison Peak 7.5 minute quadrangle. Dry Dock Gulch drains a watershed of approximately 0.7 square miles. Elevations range from about 10 feet at the mouth of the creek to 500 feet in the headwater areas. Mixed conifer forest dominates the watershed. The watershed is entirely within Mendocino Headlands State Park and is managed for recreation. Vehicle access exists via Big River Road, east of Mendocino, CA.

J. Lee and T. Brown (AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project) conducted a habitat inventory survey on June 23, 2015 on Dry Dock Gulch in accordance with the methods outlined in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual* (Flosi et al, 1998). The water temperature and air temperature during the survey period were 64 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively. The crew surveyed approximately 1,127 feet and identified five habitat units: a pool, a dry unit, a culvert, an unsurveyed marsh and a run. The channel above Habitat Unit #005 was dry for over 1,000 feet, so the crew did not continue to survey.

Habitat Unit #	001	002	003	004	005
Habitat Type	Pool	Dry	Culvert	Marsh	Run
Length (ft)	17	5	40	1,000	65

The slope of the Dry Dock was determined to be 1.1%; it was measured 133' of stream using a hand level and stadia rod. The channel type was determined to be an E4. E4 channels are low gradient, meandering riffle/pool streams with low width/depth ratios and little deposition. They are very efficient and stable with a high meander width ratio and gravel-dominant substrates. E4 channels are good for bank-placed boulders and fair for opposing wing-deflectors.

Big River Road crosses the channel 22' upstream from Dry Dock Gulch's confluence with Big River (Habitat Unit #003). The crossing is a 3' diameter x 40' long corrugated metal culvert with a smaller, overflow culvert parallel to it (Photo 1). The slope of the culvert is 1%. There is a 4.8' high plunge at the culvert's outlet. The channel was dry below the culvert at the time of the survey (Habitat Unit #2).

A left bank tributary was observed in the 1,000 foot long dry section upstream of Habitat Unit #5. The tributary has a slope of approximately 2% and may be accessible to salmonids.



Photo 1: Outlet of culvert (Habitat Unit #3)



Photo 2: View downstream of confluence with Big River

## REFERENCES

Flosi, G., Downie, S., Hopelain, J., Bird, M., Coey, R., and Collins, B. 1998. *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, 3rd edition. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.