

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Big Bar Ranger District
Canyon Creek
Surveyed August 15,16,17,and 20,1990
Surveyors: Paul Zedonis and Terry Rhiner

REF 90440

Adult summer steelhead and spring chinook salmon survey

Canyon Creek was surveyed from Canyon Creek Falls downstream to the mouth. The surveyed areas are located on the attached map. On August 21, mainstem discharge below Clear Gulch was 15.7 cfs. This value was determined by using a Marsh/McBirney flow meter.

Section A

Only rainbow trout and brown trout were observed in this section, except for one brook trout which was located below the lower falls. This section of the river is characterized by having unusually large boulders in the channel, along with a section having subsurface flow (the Sinks).

Section B

The first fish observed were located below Ripstein Gulch. A total of five adult spring chinook salmon and one summer steelhead were observed in this section. All adults were observed in pools. In one pool, three fish were observed; one adult steelhead and two adult chinook. One of the chinook had a lamprey scar and another was adipose fin clipped. Juvenile chinook and klamath smallscale suckers were first observed in this section.

Section C

One adult chinook jack was observed in this entire section. Water clarity was poor (approx. 2.5 m) below the Big East Fork because of mining in this tributary. The water temperature of this tributary was estimated to be 10 degrees F cooler than the mainstem. Water clarity slowly got better as we proceeded downstream. Speckled dace were first observed just below Big East Fork.

Section D

A total of four adult salmon and five summer steelhead were observed. All of these fish were located in pools. One summer steelhead was seen in a suction dredge hole where thermal stratification had occurred.

Section E

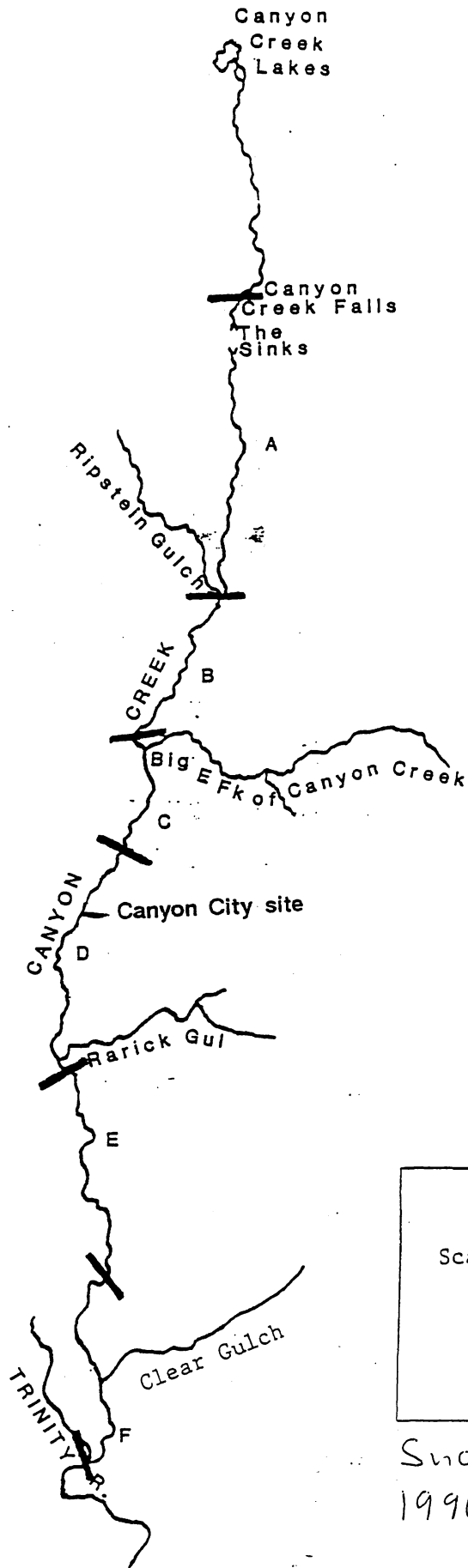
A total of two adult spring chinook and seven summer steelhead were observed. All of these fish were located in pools.

Section F

A total of three chinook salmon and two summer steelhead were observed. One of the three salmon was considered a jack. All fish were located in pools.

Summary

A total of 15 adult steelhead and 13 spring chinook adults were observed in the entire drainage. Of the chinook, three of these fish were adipose fin clipped and two were considered jacks. Spring chinook were in general small (3-5 LBs), however, two were observed that would have exceeded eight pounds. Summer steelhead were in general small (2 pounds). All fish were observed below Ripstein Gulch. The habitat above this location appeared to contain enough cover in the form of boulders, but lacked deep pools and overhanging vegetation. Water temperature ranged from 61 to 71 degrees Fahrenheit during the day.



LEGEND

Scale 1/2" = 1 mile

Survey Termination Points

A-F: Section Break Points

Klamath Smallscale Suckers

Dace

Brown Trout

Snorkel Survey Reaches
1990 to 1995 and 1998.

L. Everest 2/16/99