

Klamath National Forest  
Yreka, California 96097

REF90608

2630 Management of Habitat

August 16, 1972

## Woolley Creek - Summer Salmonids

District Rangers: Ukonom and Salmon River District

On July 17, 18, 19 and 20, 1972, California Department of Fish and Game personnel and myself surveyed Woolley Creek from its mouth to the South Fork except for a two mile stretch between Bridge and Haypress Creeks. Purpose of the survey was to inventory the Woolley Creek populations of spring run king salmon and of the spring group of summer steelhead. During the survey, both king salmon and steelhead were observed.

Both steelhead and king salmon were distributed from one mile below the South Fork to the mouth of Woolley Creek. A definite barrier to upstream fish movement exists at a point about 1/2 mile below the South Fork in the form of an eight foot falls. Woolley Creek above this point contains only fair salmon and steelhead spawning areas. Barrier removal is not recommended.

The Klamath smallscale sucker was observed from 1/2 mile below Deer Lick Creek to the mouth of Woolley Creek.

The following table shows the number of summer salmonids observed in the three, most complete, Woolley Creek surveys of record.

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1972</u>
Spring group of summer steelhead	45	28	45
Spring run king salmon	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	74	58	95

The variation in numbers of summer salmonids observed during these three years probably reflects only the natural fluctuations inherent in populations of these organisms. However, the habitat of these fish is very susceptible to change and possible degradation, and the fish themselves are extremely vulnerable to illegal harvest. Therefore, future surveys should be completed periodically (every 2-5 years) to determine any trends in population structure that may develop. These surveys should be a cooperative effort between the USFS and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Cool water temperatures are vital to the maintenance of summer salmonids in Wooley Creek. Tributaries to Wooley Creek, although of lesser flow than Wooley Creek, were always cooler than Wooley Creek and helped to keep Wooley Creek water temperatures down. For instance, during this survey Haypress Creek at its mouth was always 6° to 7° F cooler than Wooley Creek immediately above the mouth of Haypress Creek. A similar situation existed at the mouth of Bridge Creek.

Neither Wooley Creek, nor any of its tributaries showed the least signs of turbidity, another important aspect of summer steelhead habitat.

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cc: California Dept. of F&C  
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