

Memorandum

: Don La Faunce

Date: October 9, 1980

REF 90624

From : **Department of Fish and Game- Yreka Fisheries Unit**

Subject: 1980 Dillon Creek Summer Steelhead Survey

Dillon Creek, long thought to be inaccessible to salmon and steelhead, was surveyed during the week of August 24 for summer steelhead on the strength of reports of large fish in the vicinity of Copper Creek. The survey crew, comprised of one U.S.F.S employee and one C.F.&G. employee, started on Copper Creek immediately downstream from Medicine Creek and proceeded downstream to Cedar Creek, about three miles above the mouth. The following week a crew of two C.F.&G. employees finished the lower three miles. A total of 236 steelhead were seen (see attached map for distribution) Dillon Creek above the confluence of Copper Creek and the entire North Fork remains unsurveyed. Much of the area surveyed was in deep bedrock gorges where the only way through was by swimming. In several places were chutes and falls judged by the surveyors to be impassable to steelhead, yet they were present above. The only certain barrier was an eight-foot falls one-half mile up Copper Creek. At this point 30 steelhead had congregated. Several were seen attempting to ascend the falls, but none were successful.

Dillon Creek drainage is in a near-pristine condition and doesn't appear to have suffered from the 1964 flood as did Wooley and Clear creeks. This might account for the high density (30 fish/mile) when compared to Clear Creek (14 fish/mile) and Wooley Creek (11 fish/mile).

Water temperature at 1000 hrs. near Copper Creek was 56°F and 64°F at 1600 hrs. The North Fork was 1°F warmer.

I intend to make a more complete survey next summer.

David W. Rogers
Fishery Biologist

DWR:kl

Attach.

KLT-VJ

1980 DILTON CREEK
Summer SH Survey

