



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Six Rivers
National
Forest

1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 442-1721 text (TTY)
(707) 442-1721 voice

91085

File Code: 2670

Date: September 9, 2002

To Interested Parties:

Every year Six Rivers National Forest Fisheries department conducts adult summer steelhead snorkel survey on the Mad River. Note: No dive survey occurred in 1999 and 2001 due to lack of personnel. In previous years (1982-2000), three index reaches (Anderson Ford to Deer Creek) that make up 12.8 miles were normally surveyed. However, due to river access problems through private property, the index reaches could not be surveyed. This year 14 miles of river above the index reaches were surveyed with a two or three person team starting from the Mad River Campground and ending at Anderson Ford. This years survey took place on Thursday, September 5th. A total of 3 adult steelhead and 26 "1/2 pounders" (14" – 18") were observed.

		<u>Miles</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>1/2 Pounders</u>
Reach 1	Mad River Campground to Lamb Creek	4.0	0	6
Reach 2	Lamb Creek to Hunter's Camp	2.8	1	7
Reach 3	Hunter's Camp to Rattlesnake Bridge	2.8	1	3
Reach 4	Rattlesnake Bridge to Anderson Ford	4.4	1	10

This total is consistent with previous yearly totals. The number of adult summer steelhead seen in this area is low due to a low-flow anadromous barrier some 32.3 miles below Ruth Reservoir at Bug Creek. Only a select few summer steelhead are able to make it around this barrier. Furthermore, the steelhead that do make it above the barrier are susceptible to illegal fishing pressures. One of this year's surveyors confirmed talking to a "local" fisherperson who admitted to catching a "couple nice sized steelhead" just a few days before the survey day.

Resident rainbow trout, suckers and Western Pond turtles were also seen in the 14 miles surveyed. The average water temperature during these dives was 15 °C (59 °F) and visibility was considered "good". Approximate river flow through the surveyed reaches was 68 cfs.

Six Rivers National Forest will continue to monitor the Upper Mad River in the years to come to help determine the extent of adult summer steelhead populations.

If you have any questions related to these surveys, contact Jerry Boberg (707) 441-3669.

/s/ Jerry Boberg
Fish and Watershed Program Manager

