STREAM INVENTORY REPORT

Deer Creek

INTRODUCTION

A stream inventory was conducted during the summer of 1994 on Deer Creek to assess habitat conditions for anadromous salmonids. The objective of the habitat inventory was to document the habitat available to anadromous salmonids. After analysis of the information and data gathered, stream restoration and enhancement recommendations are presented.

WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Deer Creek is a tributary to the North Branch North Fork Navarro River, a tributary to the North Fork Navarro River, tributary to the Navarro River, located in Mendocino County, California (Figure 1). Deer Creek's legal description at the confluence with the North Branch North Fork Navarro River is T15N R15W S07. Its location is 39°10'51" North latitude and 123°32'35" West longitude. Deer Creek has approximately 1.1 miles of ephemeral stream according to the USGS Navarro 7.5 minute quadrangle. Deer Creek drains a basin of approximately 0.8 square miles. Elevations range from about 180 feet at the mouth of the creek to 1200 feet in the headwater areas. Redwood and Douglas fir forest dominates the watershed. The watershed is privately owned and is managed for timber production. Year round vehicle access exists via Masonite Road.

METHODS

See the North Branch North Fork Navarro River Stream Inventory Report.

HABITAT INVENTORY RESULTS

The habitat inventory of June 22, 1994 was conducted by Chris Bysshe and Jeff Strayer (CCC). The survey began at the confluence of Deer Creek with the North Branch North Fork Navarro River. The total length of the stream surveyed was 185 feet. The survey was ended due to a boulder cascade that is a suspected barrier to anadromous fish.

Deer Creek is a B3 channel type for the 185 feet surveyed. B3 channels are steep, narrow, cascading, step-pool streams; with high energy/debris transport capabilities, associated with depositional soils; and a cobble channel.

The water temperature on the survey day was 58 degrees Fahrenheit. The air temperature was 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

In the 185 feet surveyed, six habitat units were identified; four riffles and two pools. Both pools had a maximum depth of less than two feet.

The total canopy was 97 percent. Seventy-seven percent was composed of deciduous trees, and 23% was composed of coniferous trees.

DISCUSSION

Deer Creek is a A3 channel type for the 185 feet surveyed. A3 channel types are generally not suitable for fish habitat improvement structures.

The water temperature on the survey day, 58° Fahrenheit is good for fish. To make any further conclusions, temperatures need to be monitored for a longer period of time through the critical summer months, and more extensive biological sampling needs to be conducted.

The mean percent canopy for the survey reach was 97%. This is a high percentage of canopy, since 80 percent is generally considered desirable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

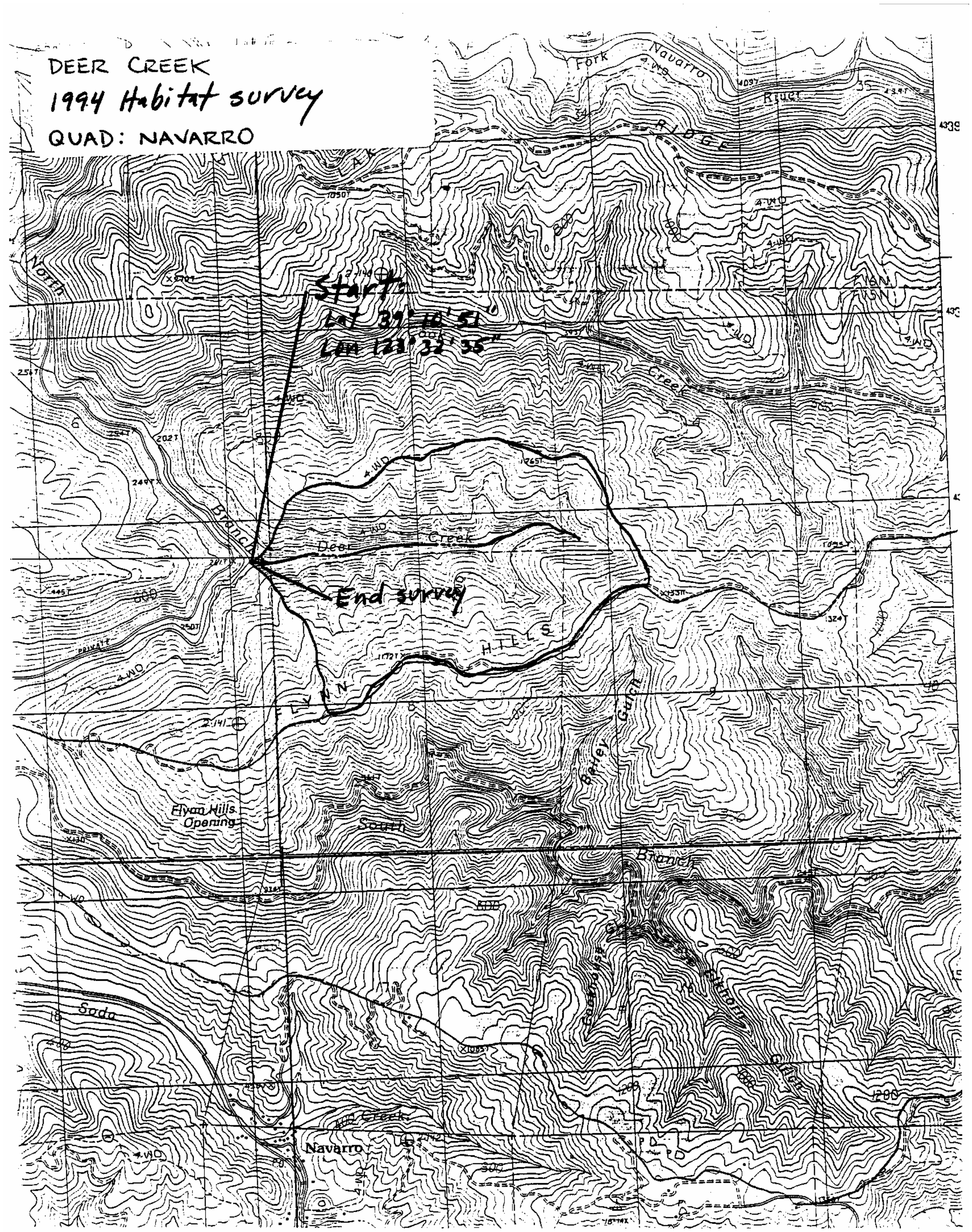
1) Deer Creek should be managed as an anadromous, natural production stream. Although only 185 feet of the stream is accessible to anadromous salmonids, the water provided to the North Branch North Fork Navarro River can supply a cool water refuge to steelhead and coho salmon in the warm summer months.

PROBLEM SITES AND LANDMARKS

The following landmarks and possible problem sites were noted. All the distances are approximate and taken from the beginning of the survey reach.

Position (ft):	Comments:
0'	Begin survey at the confluence with the North Branch North Fork Navarro River. Channel type is A3.
185'	Boulder cascade. End of the anadromous reach.

Deer Creek


DEER CREEK
1994 Habitat survey
QUAD: NAVARRO
Start:
Lat 39° 10' 51"
Lon 123° 32' 35"
End survey
Deer Creek
Navarro
Flynn Hills Opening
South Branch
Soda
Bailey Gulch