

## **STREAM INVENTORY REPORT SUBSECTION**

### **Right Bank Tributary #5 to Olds Creek**

#### WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Right bank tributary #5 is a tributary to Olds Creek, tributary to the Noyo River, located in Mendocino County, California (Map 1). Right bank tributary #5 legal description at the confluence with Olds Creek is T18N R15W S13. Its location is 39°24'49" north latitude and 123°28'21" west longitude. Right bank tributary #5 is an ephemeral stream according to the USGS Burbeck/Northspur 7.5 minute quadrangles. Right bank tributary #5 drains a watershed of approximately 0.84 square miles. Elevations range from about 600 feet at the mouth of the creek to 1,100 feet in the headwater areas. Redwood and Douglas fir forest dominates the watershed. The watershed is entirely privately owned and is managed for timber production. Vehicle access exists via Irmulco Road off of Highway 20.

#### HABITAT INVENTORY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The habitat inventory of July 11-12, 2000, was conducted by Ethan Jankowski and Kasey Sirkin (WSP/AmeriCorps). The total length of the stream surveyed was 1,737 feet.

Flows were not measured on Right bank tributary #5.

Right bank tributary #5 is a G4 channel type for the entire 1,737 feet of stream surveyed. The suitability of G4 channel types for fish habitat improvement structures is as follows: Good for bank-placed boulders. Fair for plunge weirs, opposing wing deflectors, and log cover.

The water temperatures recorded on the survey days July 11-12, 2000, ranged from 57 to 59 degrees Fahrenheit. Air temperatures ranged from 58 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. This is a suitable water temperature range for salmonids, but water temperatures during warm summer months are lacking. For a more complete and accurate water temperature profile 24-hour temperatures would need to be monitored throughout the warm summer months.

Based on the total length of this survey, Level II habitat units consisted of 39% flatwater units, 34% pool units, and 14% riffle units. The pools are relatively deep, with 19 of the 34 pools having a maximum depth greater than 2 feet.

None of the 34 pool tail-outs measured had embeddedness ratings of 3 or 4. Three had a rating of 1. Cobble embeddedness of 25% or less, a rating of 1, is considered best for the needs of salmon and steelhead.

Twenty-five of the 33 pools had silt/clay or sand as the dominant substrate. This is generally considered unsuitable for spawning salmonids.

The mean shelter rating for pools was 43. The shelter rating in the flatwater habitats was 5. A pool shelter rating of approximately 100 is desirable. Log and root wad cover structure in the

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pool and flatwater habitats are needed to improve both summer and winter salmonid habitat. The mean percent canopy density for the stream was 81%. The percentage of right and left bank covered with vegetation was high at 83.5 % and 86.5%, respectively.

### BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY RESULTS

One site was electrofished on July 19, 2000, in right bank tributary #5. The units were sampled by Mendocino Redwood Company.

The first site sampled included habitat units 006-007, 146 feet from the confluence with Olds Creek. This site had an approximate length of 90 feet. The site yielded five young-of-the-year steelhead and five pacific giant salamanders.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Right bank tributary #5 should be managed as an anadromous, natural production stream.

### PROBLEM SITES AND LANDMARKS

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

Position

(ft):	Comments:
39'	Begin survey at confluence with Olds Creek.
447'	Four inch diameter culvert under Irmulco Road.
1,262'	Road on right bank follows creek.
1,737'	End of survey. Channel difficult to follow due to large flood plain full of vegetation and thick silt substrate. No fish observed for several hundred feet.