STREAM INVENTORY REPORT SUBSECTION

Right Bank Tributary #6 to Olds Creek

WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Right bank tributary #6 is a tributary to Olds Creek, a tributary to the Noyo River, located in Mendocino County, California (Map 1). Right bank tributary #6 legal description at the confluence with Olds Creek is T18N R14W S18. Its location is 39°24′26″ north latitude and 123°27′43″ west longitude. Right bank tributary #6 is an ephemeral stream according to the USGS Burbeck/Northspur 7.5 minute quadrangle. Right bank tributary #6 drains a watershed of approximately 0.76 square miles. Elevations range from about 600 feet at the mouth of the creek to 1,800 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 June 27-28, 2000, was conducted by Ethan Jankowski and Rhonda Weidenbeck (WSP/AmeriCorps). The total length of the stream surveyed was 3,359 feet.

Flows were not measured on right bank tributary #6.

Right bank tributary #6 is an G4 channel type for the entire 3,359' 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 June 27-28, 2000, ranged from 58 to 64 degrees Fahrenheit. Air temperatures ranged from 59 to 76 degrees Fahrenheit. This is a moderate 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 47% riffle units, 41% flatwater units, and 13% pool units. The pools are shallow, with only 8 of the 30 pools having a maximum depth greater than 2 feet.

Eighteen of the 27 pool tail-outs measured had embeddedness ratings of 3 or 4. None 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 of the 25 pool tail-outs measured had gravel or small cobble as the dominant substrate. This is generally considered good for spawning salmonids.

The mean shelter rating for pools was 31. 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 pool and flatwater habitats are needed to improve both summer and winter salmonid habitat.

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The mean percent canopy density for the stream was 75%. The percentage of right and left bank covered with vegetation was moderate at 59% and 65%, respectively.

BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY RESULTS

No sites were electrofished on right bank tributary #6.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Right bank tributary #6 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:
0'	Begin survey at confluence with Olds Creek.
634'	Road crosses creek.
1,510'	Log debris accumulation measures 8'L x 10'W x 5'H and is creating a 3' plunge.
1,626'	Log debris accumulation measures 5'L x 10'W x 4'H and contains 5 pieces large woody debris.
1,701'	Log debris accumulation measures 18'L x 8'W x 4'H and contains 5 pieces large woody debris.
2,102'	Tributary enters on right bank. Tributary was not flowing at the time of survey.
3,035'	Railroad track crosses above creek.
3,359'	End of survey due to 13' chute of bedrock followed by extremely rough terrain.