STREAM INVENTORY REPORT

Little North Fork Elk River

INTRODUCTION

A stream inventory was conducted from August 15 to August 16, 2005 on Little North Fork Elk River. The survey began at the confluence with North Branch North Fork Elk River and extended upstream 0.4 miles.

The Little North Fork Elk River inventory was conducted in two parts: habitat inventory and biological inventory. The objective of the habitat inventory was to document the habitat available to anadromous salmonids in Little North Fork Elk River. The objective of the biological inventory was to document the presence and distribution of juvenile salmonid species.

The objective of this report is to document the current habitat conditions and recommend options for the potential enhancement of habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Recommendations for habitat improvement activities are based upon target habitat values suitable for salmonids in California's north coast streams.


WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Little North Fork Elk River is a tributary to North Branch North Fork Elk River, a tributary to North Fork Elk River, a tributary to Elk River, a tributary to Humboldt Bay, which drains to the Pacific Ocean. It is located in Humboldt County, California (Map 1). Little North Fork Elk River's legal description at the confluence with North Branch North Fork Elk River is T04N R01E S36. Its location is 40.6881 degrees north latitude and 124.0119 degrees west longitude, LLID number 1240119406879. Little North Fork Elk River is a first order stream and has approximately 1.0 mile of blue line stream according to the USGS McWhinney Creek 7.5 minute quadrangle. Little North Fork Elk River drains a watershed area of approximately 0.7 square miles. Elevations range from about 460 feet at the mouth of the creek to 2,100 feet in the headwater areas. Redwood forest and Douglas fir forest dominate the watershed. The watershed is entirely privately owned and is managed for timber production. Vehicle access exists via the Elk River Road Exit (exit 702) on Highway 101.

METHODS

The habitat inventory conducted in Little North Fork Elk River follows the methodology presented in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual* (Flosi et al, 1998). The California Conservation Corps (CCC) Technical Advisors and Watershed Stewards Project/AmeriCorps (WSP) Members that conducted the inventory were trained in standardized habitat inventory methods by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). This inventory was conducted by a two-person team.

Little North Fork Elk River

Map 1
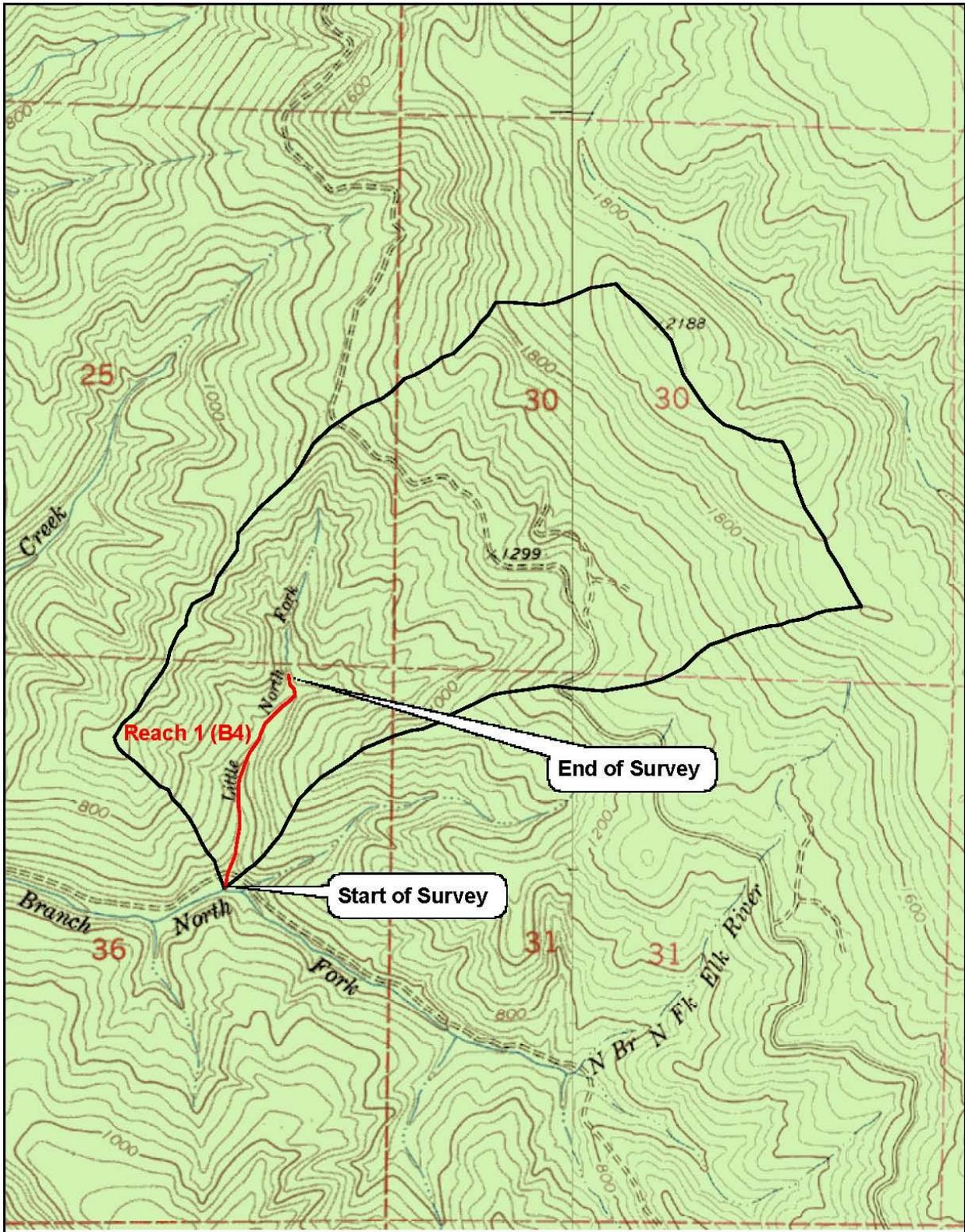
Little North Fork Elk River

SAMPLING STRATEGY

The inventory uses a method that samples approximately 10% of the habitat units within the survey reach. All habitat units included in the survey are classified according to habitat type and their lengths are measured. All pool units are measured for maximum depth, depth of pool tail crest (measured in the thalweg), dominant substrate composing the pool tail crest, and embeddedness. Habitat unit types encountered for the first time are measured for all the parameters and characteristics on the field form. Additionally, from the ten habitat units on each field form page, one is randomly selected for complete measurement.

HABITAT INVENTORY COMPONENTS

A standardized habitat inventory form has been developed for use in California stream surveys and can be found in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*. This form was used in Little North Fork Elk River to record measurements and observations. There are eleven components to the inventory form.

1. Flow:

Flow is measured in cubic feet per second (cfs) near the bottom of the stream survey reach using a Marsh-McBirney Model 2000 flow meter.

2. Channel Type:

Channel typing is conducted according to the classification system developed and revised by David Rosgen (1994). This methodology is described in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*. Channel typing is conducted simultaneously with habitat typing and follows a standard form to record measurements and observations. There are five measured parameters used to determine channel type: 1) water slope gradient, 2) entrenchment, 3) width/depth ratio, 4) substrate composition, and 5) sinuosity. Channel characteristics are measured using a clinometer, hand level, hip chain, tape measure, and a stadia rod.

3. Temperatures:

Both water and air temperatures are measured and recorded at every tenth habitat unit. The time of the measurement is also recorded. Both temperatures are taken in degrees Fahrenheit at the middle of the habitat unit and within one foot of the water surface.

4. Habitat Type:

Habitat typing uses the 24 habitat classification types defined by McCain and others (1990). Habitat units are numbered sequentially and assigned a type identification number selected from a standard list of 24 habitat types. Dewatered units are labeled "dry". Little North Fork Elk River habitat typing used standard basin level measurement criteria. These parameters require that the minimum length of a described habitat unit must be equal to or greater than the stream's mean wetted width.   All measurements are in feet to the nearest tenth. Habitat characteristics

are measured using a clinometer, hip chain, and stadia rod.

5. Embeddedness:

The depth of embeddedness of the cobbles in pool tail-out areas is measured by the percent of the cobble that is surrounded or buried by fine sediment. In Little North Fork Elk River, embeddedness was ocularly estimated. The values were recorded using the following ranges: 0 - 25% (value 1), 26 - 50% (value 2), 51 - 75% (value 3) and 76 - 100% (value 4). Additionally, a value of 5 was assigned to tail-outs deemed not suitable for spawning due to inappropriate substrate like bedrock, log sills, boulders or other considerations.

6. Shelter Rating:

Instream shelter is composed of those elements within a stream channel that provide juvenile salmonids protection from predation, reduce water velocities so fish can rest and conserve energy, and allow separation of territorial units to reduce density related competition for prey. The shelter rating is calculated for each fully-described habitat unit by multiplying shelter value and percent cover. Using an overhead view, a quantitative estimate of the percentage of the habitat unit covered is made. All cover is then classified according to a list of nine cover types. In Little North Fork Elk River, a standard qualitative shelter value of 0 (none), 1 (low), 2 (medium), or 3 (high) was assigned according to the complexity of the cover. Thus, shelter ratings can range from 0-300 and are expressed as mean values by habitat types within a stream.

7. Substrate Composition:

Substrate composition ranges from silt/clay sized particles to boulders and bedrock elements. In all fully-described habitat units, dominant and sub-dominant substrate elements were ocularly estimated using a list of seven size classes and recorded as a one and two, respectively. In addition, the dominant substrate composing the pool tail-outs is recorded for each pool.

8. Canopy:

Stream canopy density was estimated using modified handheld spherical densiometers as described in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*. Canopy density relates to the amount of stream shaded from the sun. In Little North Fork Elk River, an estimate of the percentage of the habitat unit covered by canopy was made from the center of approximately every third unit in addition to every fully-described unit, giving an approximate 30% sub-sample. In addition, the area of canopy was estimated ocularly into percentages of coniferous or hardwood trees.

9. Bank Composition and Vegetation:

Bank composition elements range from bedrock to bare soil. However, the stream banks are usually covered with grass, brush, or trees. These factors influence the ability of stream banks to withstand winter flows. In Little North Fork Elk River, the dominant composition type and the dominant vegetation type of both the right and left banks for each fully-described unit were selected from the habitat inventory form. Additionally, the percent of each bank covered by

Little North Fork Elk River

vegetation (including downed trees, logs, and rootwads) was estimated and recorded.

10. Large Woody Debris Count:

Large woody debris (LWD) is an important component of fish habitat and an element in channel forming processes. In each habitat unit all pieces of LWD partially or entirely below the elevation of bankfull discharge are counted and recorded. The minimum size to be considered is twelve inches in diameter and six feet in length. The LWD count is presented by reach and is expressed as an average per 100 feet.

11. Average Bankfull Width:

Bankfull width can vary greatly in the course of a channel type stream reach. This is especially true in very long reaches. Bankfull width can be a factor in habitat components like canopy density, water temperature, and pool depths. Frequent measurements taken at riffle crests (velocity crossovers) are needed to accurately describe reach widths. At the first appropriate velocity crossover that occurs after the beginning of a new stream survey page (ten habitat units), bankfull width is measured and recorded in the appropriate header block of the page. These widths are presented as an average for the channel type reach.

BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY

Biological sampling during the stream inventory is used to determine fish species and their distribution in the stream. Fish presence was observed from the stream banks in Little North Fork Elk River. In addition, six sites were electrofished using a Smith-Root Model 12 electrofisher. These sampling techniques are discussed in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data from the habitat inventory form are entered into Stream Habitat 2.0.19, a Visual Basic data entry program developed by Karen Wilson, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Game. This program processes and summarizes the data, and produces the following ten tables:

- Riffle, Flatwater, and Pool Habitat Types
- Habitat Types and Measured Parameters
- Pool Types
- Maximum Residual Pool Depths by Habitat Types
- Mean Percent Cover by Habitat Type
- Dominant Substrates by Habitat Type
- Mean Percent Vegetative Cover for Entire Stream
- Fish Habitat Inventory Data Summary by Stream Reach (Table 8)
- Mean Percent Dominant Substrate / Dominant Vegetation Type for Entire Stream

Little North Fork Elk River

- Mean Percent Shelter Cover Types for Entire Stream

Graphics are produced from the tables using Microsoft Excel. Graphics developed for Little North Fork Elk River include:

- Riffle, Flatwater, Pool Habitat Types by Percent Occurrence
- Riffle, Flatwater, Pool Habitat Types by Total Length
- Total Habitat Types by Percent Occurrence
- Pool Types by Percent Occurrence
- Maximum Residual Depth in Pools
- Percent Embeddedness
- Mean Percent Cover Types in Pools
- Substrate Composition in Pool Tail-outs
- Mean Percent Canopy
- Dominant Bank Composition by Composition Type
- Dominant Bank Vegetation by Vegetation Type

HABITAT INVENTORY RESULTS

The habitat inventory of August 15 to August 16, 2005 was conducted by I. Mikus and S. McSmith (WSP). The total length of the stream surveyed was 2,258 feet.

Stream flow was not measured on Little North Fork Elk River.

Little North Fork Elk River is a B4 channel type for 2,258 feet of the stream surveyed. B4 channels are moderately entrenched riffle dominated channels with infrequently spaced pools, very stable plan and profile, stable banks on moderate gradients with low width /depth ratios and gravel dominant substrates.

Water temperatures taken during the survey period ranged from 54 to 56 degrees Fahrenheit. Air temperatures ranged from 55 to 61 degrees Fahrenheit.

Table 1 summarizes the Level II riffle, flatwater, and pool habitat types. Based on frequency of occurrence there were 33% riffle units, 32% flatwater units, 32% pool units, and 3% unsurveyed units (Graph 1). Based on total length of Level II habitat types there were 47% flatwater units, 27% riffle units, 25% pool units, and 1% unsurveyed units (Graph 2).

Seven Level IV habitat types were identified (Table 2). The most frequent habitat types by percent occurrence were 22% mid-channel pool units, 19% low gradient riffle units, and 18% step run units (Graph 3). Based on percent total length there were 37% step run units, 17% mid-channel pool units, and 16% low gradient riffle units.

A total of 32 pools were identified (Table 3). Main channel pools were the most frequently encountered, at 78%, and comprised 88% of the total length of all pools (Graph 4).

Little North Fork Elk River

Table 4 is a summary of maximum residual pool depths by pool habitat types. Pool quality for salmonids increases with depth. Four of the 32 pools (12%) had a residual depth of two feet or greater (Graph 5).

The depth of cobble embeddedness was estimated at pool tail-outs. Of the 32 pool tail-outs measured, four had a value of 2 (13%); six had a value of 3 (19%); 20 had a value of 4 (63%); and two had a value of 5 (6%); (Graph 6). On this scale, a value of 1 indicates the best spawning conditions and a value of 4 the worst. Additionally, a value of 5 was assigned to tail-outs deemed not suitable for spawning due to inappropriate substrate such as bedrock, log sills, boulders, or other considerations.

A shelter rating was calculated for each habitat unit and expressed as a mean value for each habitat type within the survey using a scale of 0-300. Riffle habitat types had a mean shelter rating of 19, flatwater habitat types had a mean shelter rating of 16, and pool habitats had a mean shelter rating of 81 (Table 1). Of the pool types, the scour pools had the highest shelter rating at 94. Main channel pools had a mean shelter rating of 77 (Table 3).

Table 5 summarizes mean percent cover by habitat type. Large woody debris is the dominant cover types in Little North Fork Elk River. Graph 7 describes the pool cover in Little North Fork Elk River. Large woody debris is the dominant pool cover type followed by undercut banks.

Table 6 summarizes the dominant substrate by habitat type. Graph 8 depicts the dominant substrate observed in pool tail-outs. Gravel was observed in 75% of pool tail-outs, and a silt/clay substrate type was observed in 12% of pool tail-outs.

The mean percent canopy density for the surveyed length of Little North Fork Elk River was 98%. The mean percentages of hardwood and coniferous trees were 8% and 92%, respectively. Two percent of the canopy was open. Graph 9 describes the mean percent canopy in Little North Fork Elk River.

For the stream reach surveyed, the mean percent right bank vegetated was 90%. The mean percent left bank vegetated was 97%. The dominant elements composing the structure of the stream banks consisted of 73% sand/silt/clay, 18% cobble/gravel, 5% boulders, and 3% bedrock (Graph 10). Coniferous trees were the dominant vegetation type observed in 87% of the units surveyed. Additionally, 12% of the units surveyed had hardwood trees as the dominant vegetation type, and 1% had brush as the dominant vegetation (Graph 11).

BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY RESULTS

Six sites were electrofished for species composition and distribution in Little North Fork Elk River on October 26, 2005. Water temperatures taken during the electrofishing period ranged from 54 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit. The sites were sampled by T. Tollefson (DFG), H. Sgalitzer, and E. Degenstein (WSP).

Little North Fork Elk River

The sample reach consisted of the first 2,258 feet of stream. The reach sites yielded one young-of-the-year steelhead/rainbow trout (SH/RT), one age 1+ SH/RT, and five young-of-the-year coho. In addition four Pacific giant salamanders were also captured.

The following chart displays the information yielded from these sites:

Date	Site #	Hab. Unit #	Hab. Type	Approx. Dist. from mouth (ft.)	Coho	SH/RT	
					YOY	YOY	1+
Reach 1 Channel Type B4							
10/26/05	1	004	4.2	158	5	0	0
10/26/05	2	015	4.2	380	0	0	0
10/26/05	3	022	4.2	509	0	0	1
10/26/05	4	031	4.2	651	0	0	0
10/26/05	5	034	4.2	693	0	0	0
10/26/05	6	039	4.2	789	0	1	0

DISCUSSION

Little North Fork Elk River is a B4 channel type for the entire 2,258 feet of stream surveyed. The suitability of "B" channel types for fish habitat improvement structures is as follows: excellent for plunge weirs, boulder clusters, bank placed boulder, single and opposing wing-deflectors and log cover.

The water temperatures recorded on the survey days August 15 to August 16, 2005 ranged from 54 to 56 degrees Fahrenheit. Air temperatures ranged from 55 to 61 degrees Fahrenheit. To make any further conclusions, temperatures need to be monitored throughout the warm summer months, and more extensive biological sampling needs to be conducted.

Flatwater habitat types comprised 47% of the total length of this survey, riffles 27%, and pools 25%. The pools are relatively shallow, with only four of the 32 (12%) pools having a maximum residual depth greater than two feet. In general, pool enhancement projects are considered when primary pools comprise less than 40% of the length of total stream habitat. In first and second order streams, a primary pool is defined to have a maximum residual depth of at least two feet, occupy at least half the width of the low flow channel, and be as long as the low flow channel width. Installing structures that will increase or deepen pool habitat is recommended.

Little North Fork Elk River

Four of the 32 pool tail-outs measured had embeddedness ratings of 1 or 2. Twenty-six of the pool tail-outs had embeddedness ratings of 3 or 4. Two of the pool tail-outs had a rating of 5, which is considered not suitable for spawning. Cobble embeddedness measured to be 25% or less, a rating of 1, is considered to indicate good quality spawning substrate for salmon and steelhead. Sediment sources in Little North Fork Elk River should be mapped and rated according to their potential sediment yields, and control measures should be taken.

Twenty-five of the 32 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 81. The shelter rating in the flatwater habitats was 16. A pool shelter rating of approximately 100 is desirable. The amount of cover that now exists is being provided primarily by large woody debris in Little North Fork Elk River. Large woody debris is the dominant cover type in pools followed by undercut banks. Log and root wad cover structures in the pool and flatwater habitats would enhance both summer and winter salmonid habitat. Log cover structures provide rearing fry with protection from predation, rest from water velocity, and also divide territorial units to reduce density related competition.

The mean percent canopy density for the stream was 98%. In general, revegetation projects are considered when canopy density is less than 80%.

The percentage of right and left bank covered with vegetation was 90% and 97%, respectively. In areas of stream bank erosion or where bank vegetation is sparse, planting endemic species of coniferous and hardwood trees, in conjunction with bank stabilization, is recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Little North Fork Elk River should be managed as an anadromous, natural production stream.

2) The limited water temperature data available suggest that maximum temperatures are within the acceptable range for juvenile salmonids. To establish more complete and meaningful temperature regime information, 24-hour monitoring during the July and August temperature extreme period should be performed for 3 to 5 years.

3) Inventory and map sources of stream bank erosion and prioritize them according to present and potential sediment yield. Identified sites should then be treated to reduce the amount of fine sediments entering the stream.

4) Active and potential sediment sources related to the road system need to be identified, mapped, and treated according to their potential for sediment yield to the stream and its tributaries.

5) There are several log debris accumulations present on Little North Fork Elk River that are retaining large quantities of fine sediment. The modification of these debris accumulations is desirable, but must be done carefully, over time, to avoid excessive

Little North Fork Elk River

sediment loading in downstream reaches.

COMMENTS 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):	Habitat unit #:	Comments:
0	001	Start of survey at the confluence with North Brach North Fork Elk River.
158	004	First electrofishing site, five coho captured.
302	010	2.3' high plunge.
343	013	Left bank slide blocking flow. Evidence of old road crossing.
364	014	Dry left bank tributary. 3' high plunge.
380	015	Second electrofishing site.
403	016	Right bank erosion.
447	019	Left bank erosion site measures 30' long x 8' high.
509	022	Third electrofishing site.
566	027	Log debris accumulation (LDA) measures 5' high x 11' wide x 2' long. It is composed of three pieces of large wood and is retaining sediment. 3' high plunge.
651	031	Fourth electrofishing site.
693	034	Fifth electrofishing site.
789	039	Sixth electrofishing site.
1,356	062	LDA measures 5' high x 30' wide x 14' long. It is composed of 11 pieces of large wood and retaining sediment. No fish were observed above the LDA.
1,397	064	Right bank erosion site measures 40' high x 25' long.
1,429	065	Right bank seep/spring.

1,452	066	Right bank erosion.
1,464	067	Right bank erosion. 3.5' high plunge.
1,809	086	LDA measures 5.5' high x 12' wide x 8' long. It is composed of four pieces of large wood and two root wads. Sediment is being retained.
2,258	100	End of survey, due to several large LDA's and no fish observations since the LDA at 1,356'.

REFERENCES

Flosi, G., Downie, S., Hopelain, J., Bird, M., Coey, R., and Collins, B. 1998. *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, 3rd edition. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.

McCain, M., D. Fuller, L. Decker and K. Overton. 1990. Stream habitat classification and inventory procedures for northern California. FHC Currents. No.1. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

Rosgen, D.L., 1994. A Classification of Natural Rivers. Catena, Vol 22: 169-199, Elsevier Science, B. V. Amsterdam.

Little North Fork Elk River

<u>LEVEL III and LEVEL IV HABITAT TYPES</u>

RIFFLE
Low Gradient Riffle	(LGR)	[1.1]	{ 1}
High Gradient Riffle	(HGR)	[1.2]	{ 2}

CASCADE
Cascade	(CAS)	[2.1]	{ 3}
Bedrock Sheet	(BRS)	[2.2]	{24}

FLATWATER
Pocket Water	(POW)	[3.1]	{21}
Glide	(GLD)	[3.2]	{14}
Run	(RUN)	[3.3]	{15}
Step Run	(SRN)	[3.4]	{16}
Edgewater	(EDW)	[3.5]	{18}

MAIN CHANNEL POOLS
Trench Pool	(TRP)	[4.1]	{ 8 }
Mid-Channel Pool	(MCP)	[4.2]	{17}
Channel Confluence Pool	(CCP)	[4.3]	{19}
Step Pool	(STP)	[4.4]	{23}

SCOUR POOLS
Corner Pool	(CRP)	[5.1]	{22}
Lateral Scour Pool - Log Enhanced	(LSL)	[5.2]	{10}
Lateral Scour Pool - Root Wad Enhanced	(LSR)	[5.3]	{11}
Lateral Scour Pool - Bedrock Formed	(LSBk)	[5.4]	{12}
Lateral Scour Pool - Boulder Formed	(LSBo)	[5.5]	{20}
Plunge Pool	(PLP)	[5.6]	{ 9 }

BACKWATER POOLS
Secondary Channel Pool	(SCP)	[6.1]	{ 4 }
Backwater Pool - Boulder Formed	(BPB)	[6.2]	{ 5 }
Backwater Pool - Root Wad Formed	(BPR)	[6.3]	{ 6 }
Backwater Pool - Log Formed	(BPL)	[6.4]	{ 7 }
Dammed Pool	(DPL)	[6.5]	{13}

<u>ADDITIONAL UNIT DESIGNATIONS</u>
Dry	(DRY)	[7.0]
Culvert	(CUL)	[8.0]
Not Surveyed	(NS)	[9.0]
Not Surveyed due to a marsh	(MAR)	[9.1]

Little North Fork Elk River

Appendix A

Large Woody Debris (LWD) Riparian Inventory

Elk River Watershed
Humboldt County
August 2005

BACKGROUND

The importance of large woody debris (LWD) in the development of a stream's morphological and biological productivity has been well documented. It strongly influences stream habitat characteristics and biotic composition. Large woody debris is often the structural element associated with pool formation and is considered one of the major elements that create complex fish habitat vital for juvenile salmonid survival. Habitat complexity is particularly important for coho salmon and steelhead trout juveniles because these salmonids remain in the stream for at least one year before migrating to the ocean.

Large woody debris inventories describe the present relative abundance of LWD elements providing, or with the potential to provide, fish habitat within the stream channel. Large woody debris inventories also describe the relative abundance of "recruitable" LWD. Recruitable LWD is the large wood existing out of the stream channel that has a high potential of entering the stream channel in the future.

METHODS

Prior to conducting the LWD inventory, the stream was habitat typed employing the methods described by Flosi, et al (1998). The Little North Fork Elk River habitat typing survey delineated 1 stream reach. The start and end points for the LWD inventory reaches correspond to stream reach start and end points of the habitat survey.

Large woody debris inventory methods, data recording forms, and database structure are described in Flosi, et al (1998). Large woody debris minimum size criteria was 12-inches in diameter and 6 feet in length. Root wads had the 12-inch minimum diameter criteria but had no minimum length requirement. Diameter and length categories consisted of the following:

Diameter Category	Length Category
1. 1-2 feet	1. 6-20 feet
2. 2-3 feet	2. Over 20 feet
3. 3-4 feet	
4. Over 4 feet	

Little North Fork Elk River

Condition or status categories included:
- a) dead and down
- b) dead and standing
- c) perched for imminent delivery to the stream channel
- d) live coniferous trees
- e) live broadleaf trees (a.k.a. deciduous/hardwood)

The sampling strategy consisted of selecting a random starting point near the beginning of the LWD survey reach, and then systematically sampling 200 foot sections out of every 1,000 feet of stream length surveyed. The first 1,200 feet of the LWD survey reach was segmented into 200 foot sections and consecutively numbered 1 through 6. One of these six 200 foot sections was randomly selected as the beginning of the *first* sample section. After conducting the inventory survey in the initial 200 foot section, surveyors proceeded upstream 800 feet and surveyed the next 200 feet as the *second* sample section. The *third* sample section began 800 feet upstream of the end of the second sample section and the next 200 feet were surveyed, and so on. Systematic sampling continued upstream until the end of the LWD survey reach. This method produced a sampling level of approximately 20 percent. For channel type reaches that were less than 1000 feet, the entire reach was surveyed.

RESULTS

*Tables 1 and 2 are located at the end of this report.

Figure 1. Large Woody Debris Inventory for Little NF NB NF Elk River, Humboldt County, California 2005.
Expressed in Number of Pieces Per 100 linear Feet of Stream Channel.

| STREAM	REACH	CHANNEL TYPE	TOTAL LENGTH	DEAD DOWN	DEAD STANDING	PERCHED	--LIVE TREES-- CONIFER	BROADLEAF	TOTAL
				Number of pieces per 100 linear feet of stream out of channel on right and left banks					
Little NF NB NF Elk	1	B4	2258	5.3	0.3	0.3	16.5	1.3	23.7
				Number of pieces per 100 linear feet of stream within the bankfull channel					
Little NF NB NF Elk	1	B4	2258	9.5	0		0	0	9.5
				Number of pieces per 100 linear feet of stream out of channel on right and left banks and within the bankfull channel					
Little NF NB NF Elk	1	B4	2258	14.8	0.3	0.3	16.5	1.3	33.2
				Percentage of LWD pieces found out of channel on right and left banks					
Little NF NB NF Elk	1	B4	2258	22.362869	1.2658228	1.2658228	69.62025	5.485232068	100
				Percentage of LWD pieces found within the bankfull channel					
Little NF NB NF Elk	1	B4	2258	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
				Percentage of LWD pieces found out of channel on right and left banks and within the bankfull channel					
Little NF NB NF Elk	1	B4	2258	44.6	0.9	0.9	49.7	3.9	100

The Little North Fork Elk River LWD inventory consisted of 1 inventory reach.

Reach 1, a B4 channel type extended upstream approximately 2,258 feet from the mouth. This reach contained 23.7 pieces of LWD on both the right and the left banks per 100 linear feet of stream. In descending proportions, the condition of the pieces were 69.6% live coniferous, 22.3

Little North Fork Elk River

% dead and down, 5.5% live broadleaf, 1.3% dead and standing, and 1.3% perched (Figure 1). Within the bankfull channel, Reach 1 contained 9.5 pieces of LWD per 100 linear feet of stream. The conditions of the pieces were 100% dead and down and 0% live coniferous, 0% live broadleaf, 0% dead and standing, and 0% perched. The total number of pieces per 100 linear feet for both the banks and bankfull channel were 33.2, of which 49.7% were live coniferous, 44.6% were dead and down, 3.9% live broadleaf, 0.9% dead and standing, and 0.9% perched. Of the pieces in Reach 1, 60.6% were in LWD size category of 1-2 foot in diameter, 27.3% were in the 2-3 foot category, 7.6% were in the 3-4 foot category and, 4.5% were in the >4 foot category (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Percent of LWD according to diameter size class and stream reach
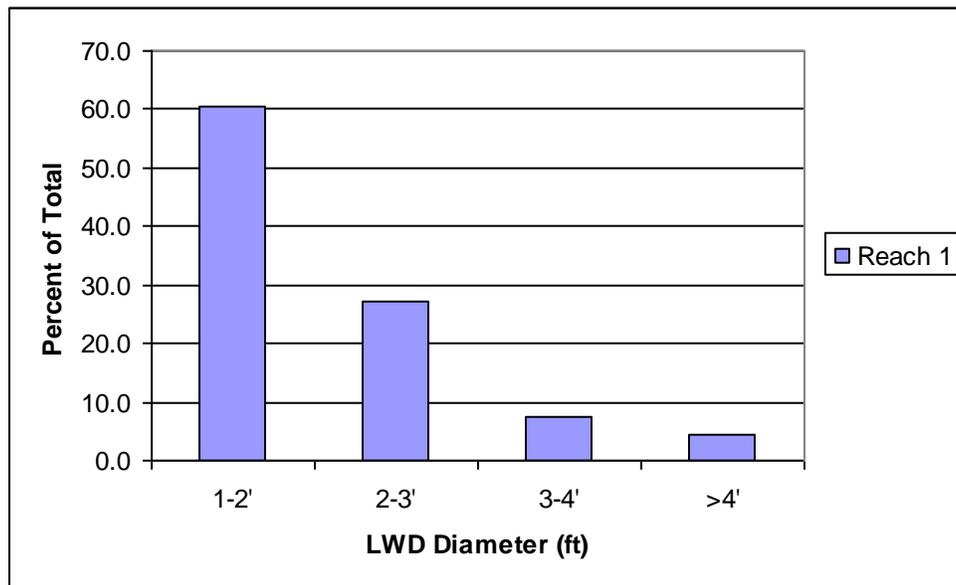
DISCUSSION

One goal of conducting LWD inventories is to provide data that, along with fish population and habitat type data, will enable resource managers to characterize the quality of available and potential fish habitat. Although, the relationship between the number, size, and type of LWD pieces per 100 feet, and quality of fish habitat has not been fully established, it is generally accepted that LWD in the stream channel plays a vital role in contributing to the quality of fish habitat. Large woody debris within the bank zone is the source for future instream LWD and addresses the issue of LWD recruitment to the stream channel. Information in this report will enable resource managers to identify areas lacking in LWD, subsequently leading to planning and prioritizing prescriptions for improvement. This information will also be useful in detecting changes in LWD relative abundance with relation to land use practices or riparian zone restoration projects.