

# Memorandum

To : Survey Files

Date: June 11, 1974

From : Department of Fish and Game - Region 2

Subject: Little Stony Creek, Colusa County

Little Stony Creek, upstream from East Park Reservoir, is about 13 miles long. The lower three miles of stream dries into scattered pools during the summer. Lower Sullivan Creek, a tributary, goes dry during dry years while tributary Trout Creek flows year-round. Little Stony Creek is paralleled by a good dirt road up as far as the confluence of Trout Creek. Only the very headwaters of Little Stony, Trout and Sullivan creeks contain trout during the summer. The remainder of the stream becomes too warm with maximum daily temperatures frequently reaching 80° to 85° F. Minimum stream flows in Little Stony Creek range from 0.10 to 0.50 cfs. during the late summer. With the exception of some coniferous forest in the headwaters, most of the watershed consists of Chamise-Chaparral. Scattered cottonwood, willows and oaks and a few pine border the stream but provide little shade. The streambed consists of gravel and rubble and is relatively free of silt. Algae is abundant at times. Pools averaging 2 to 4 feet deep occur at frequent intervals. There is one national forest campground on the stream. Little Stony Creek during the late 1960's was planted several times a year with catchable trout. The allotment was discontinued in 1970. Poor water conditions and lack of use were deciding factors.

Rough fish are extremely abundant in Little Stony Creek and occur upstream to a point about two miles above the confluence of Trout Creek. Rough fish also occur within the lowermost one mile of Trout and Sullivan creeks.

On August 23, 1972, a 100-foot section of Little Stony Creek located one mile downstream from the confluence of Sullivan Creek was sampled with rotenone. The following fish were collected:

7 large squawfish 12"-20"  
95 small squawfish 4"-8"  
20 suckers 6"-9"  
No game fish  
Total weight of fish 12 lbs.  
Estimated biomass in pool - 360 lbs./surface acre.  
Flow - 0.3 cfs, Water - 81° at 1715.  
Fry were not counted.

Little Stony Creek was chemically treated on October 10, 1972 with 30 gallons of Pronoxfish. Estimated stream flow was 2 cfs. Rainbow trout up to 10 inches long were observed in Little Stony Creek about two miles upstream from the confluence of Trout Creek, where gradient and shade increase. Squawfish, suckers, roach and sculpin which are abundant downstream are not common in the trout area.

Trout Creek, the largest tributary to Little Stony Creek was found to contain nongame fish as far upstream as the mouth of Perrington Creek. Following chemical treatment of this 1.7 mile reach of stream about 100 rainbow trout up to 12 inches long and numerous squawfish, sculpin and roach were observed. Eight of the trout observed exceeded 9 inches.

Sullivan and Little Sullivan Creek were reported to contain trout in the upper reaches. However, no flow could be detected in the upper portions of these two streams when surveyed from the air during August of 1972.

A barrier exists on the Sullivan Creek about 0.7 miles above the confluence with Little Stony Creek. Below the barrier the stream possesses scattered pools containing roach, suckers and squawfish, but no trout. No fish were observed above the barrier. The stream was chemically treated below the barrier.

Frenzel Creek is a small well-shaded tributary to Little Stony Creek. The lower-most one-fourth mile was treated in 1972. Several dozens 3-5" rainbow trout were observed but no nongame species appeared to be present.

During the October 1972 chemical treatment, Little Stony Creek downstream from the highway was dry except for a small water-filled trench located near the power line crossing. This water, when treated, yielded not only squawfish, roach, and suckers but also bluegill and tule perch revealing that the latter was present in the East Park Reservoir drainage.

Despite low late summer and fall stream flows and high water temperatures, Little Stony Creek above the highway does possess some good pools capable of supporting warm water game fish. A creek-loving centrarchid such as the redeye bass should be considered as a candidate for the stream.



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cc: Mendocino National Forest

EG:ilw