

KIMSEY, 1952

J. B. KIMSEY

ARCATA, CALIF

BUREAU OF FISH CONSERVATION

JANUARY 7, 1952

MAY CREEK, HUMBOLDT COUNTY

The photographs submitted for December 1951 from Coast District - 5 should make a good basis for enforcing our new anti-logging debris law.

I understand that shortly after Murphy and Smedley made their investigation in May 1951, Captain Lahr made arrangements with the owners to clear the situation up. That they have only noncommittally complied is made clear by the photographs. It appears that only a token attempt was made to provide a passage under the second cold deck and no effort at all was expended upon cleaning up the stream. Mongold tells me it appears the logs are being dragged down the stream bed itself in some places. What particularly irks me is that after they were allegedly warned they then built a second cold deck across the stream.

May Creek is only a small tributary to Prairie Creek and may be not considered important by anyone other than biologists, but it appears from De Witt's investigations that these small creeks are the primary spawning areas and brood streams for Cutthroat Trout. On a field test of our small battery shocker we collected what appeared to be fingerling CT in the creek between the U.S. Highway 101 crossing and the logging operations. I observed SS spawning in a stream smaller than this one about 3 miles up the highway from the May Creek crossing.

I am instructing Elton Bailey to investigate the lower section of May Creek carefully to determine just what fish species are affected. This information to be used in the event Patrol takes action.

Both Steve Smedley and myself have discussed the matter several times with Captain Lahr. The last time I mentioned it was about January 2, 1952 at which time he said several of his wardens were working on it.

As I mentioned in the first paragraph - maybe this is our opportunity to make a case on his new law that will stick.

J. B. KIMSEY  
Asst. Fisheries Biologist

Bailey, CA. Fish/Game 1952  
Survey + Photos

NAME OF STREAM May Creek, Humboldt County

REMARKS—GENERAL ESTIMATE—RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

An excellent tributary to Prairie Creek.  
Suitable for use by CT, SS, and SH. Even  
after heavy rains, the creek remains clear.  
The cold deck and logging debris are estimated  
to cut off at least two thirds of the stream  
otherwise available to anadromous fishes. The  
majority of the stream, except for the pool  
sections and area damaged by logging, has a  
gravel bottom ideal for salmonid spawning. The  
mild winter conditions should make for extreme-  
ly successful hatching of eggs.  
Management recommended is to have cold deck  
removed, and logging debris cleared up.

NAME OF SURVEYOR Bailey & Mongold

**STREAM SURVEY**

NAME OF STREAM May Creek CO. Humboldt

DATE 1/8/52 EXTENT OBSER. Walked out stream  
from mouth to a point approximately 2 - 2 1/2 mi.  
upstream.

TRIB. TO Prairie Creek

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS. E. side of Prairie Creek-  
to Redwood Creek to Pacific Ocean.

WATERSHED & IMMED. DRAINAGE BASIN (Type: Terrain; Soil; Cultivation; Vegetation; Shade)

Heavy Redwood forest, loose porous soil, un-  
cultivated, extremely well shaded except for  
logged off area. Principle vegetative types are  
redwood, sword fern, thimbleberry, salal, fir.

WIDTH 3 to 5 feet

DEPTH 4 to 12 inches . Some pools up to four-  
feet deep.

FLOW Estimated at 8 cfs 1/8/52

VELOCITY Avg. 2 ft. per second

BOTTOM (Bedrock, Boulder, Rubble, Gravel, Sand, Mud, Silt, Organic Debris)

Predominantly a gravel bottom.

SPAWNING AREAS Extensive. Except for the pool  
area and where logging debris has accumulated,  
the entire stream examined appears ideal for  
spawning use by CT, SS, and SH doubtful about KS.

POOLS Numerous- 2 to 4 feet deep. Covered with  
shade. Many pools caused by naturally fallen  
huge redwood trees.

SHELTER Excellent due to overhanging banks and  
vegetative growth.

NAME OF STREAM May Creek, Humboldt County  
 BARRIERS & DIVERSIONS A cold deck of huge redwood log owned by the Arcata Redwood Company completely blocks the upstream migration of fish. Much logging debris above and below this cold deck also is clogging the stream.

FOOD

Plecoptera, Coleoptera samples found in good numbers.

STATION DATA

STATIONS	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
Location of Station	<u>Mouth</u>	<u>1 mi. fr. mouth</u>	<u>2 mi. up</u>
Width	<u>4'</u>	<u>3 to 4 ft.</u>	<u>4 ft.</u>
Depth	<u>3'</u>	<u>4 to 8"</u>	<u>6"</u>
Bottom	<u>Silt</u>	<u>Gravel</u>	<u>Gravel</u>
Spawn. Area	<u>None</u>	<u>Extensive</u>	<u>Extensive</u>
Flow	<u>8 cfs</u>	<u>6 cfs</u>	<u>4 cfs</u>
Velocity	<u>T C (R) S</u>	<u>T C (R) S</u>	<u>T C (R) S</u>
Stream Condition	<u>Good</u>	<u>Clear</u>	<u>Clear</u>
Water Temp.	<u>45° F</u>	<u>45° F</u>	<u>45° F</u>
Air Temp.	<u>44° F</u>	<u>44° F</u>	<u>44° F</u>
Time and Date	<u>1/8/52-1P</u>	<u>1/8/52-2P</u>	<u>1/8/52-3P</u>
Weather	<u>Cloudy</u>	<u>Cloudy</u>	<u>Cloudy</u>

STATIONS	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6
Location of Station			
Width			
Depth			
Bottom			
Spawn. Area			
Flow			
Velocity	<u>T C R S</u>	<u>T C R S</u>	<u>T C R S</u>
Stream Condition			
Water Temp.			
Air Temp.			
Time and Date			
Weather			
Altitude			

NAME OF STREAM May Creek, Humboldt County  
 FISH PRESENT: Species SS, CT, SH (?)

Size 2 adult SS around 30" noted 1/8/52

Abundance

Success

Condition

Nat. Propagation Excellent

Other Remarks Two small salmonids were seen (est. 3 1/2 inches long) one above, and one below the cold deck barrier. They were thought to be CT. Numerous attempts with a small hand seine took no fish anywhere along the stream. On Sep 14, 1951 several CT around 3" long were collected with an electrical shocker near the U.S. 101 bridge.

FISHING INTENSITY: Light

ACCESSIBILITY & REMARKS ON ROUTE (Road or Trail, Mileage & Time)

U.S. Highway 101 crosses the creek approximately 100 yds below the S. boundary of Prairie Creek State park. The Private road of the Arcata Redwood Company leads upstream. The creek is approximately 2 miles N. of the Prairie Cr. Fish Hatchery. Enters Prairie Cr. est. 250 yds. below

ADDITIONAL DATA (Aquatic Plants, Winter Conditions, Pollution, Springs, Other Stream Features, Other Recreational Use, Ownership, Posted or Open, Past Stocking, Other Names, Names and Accuracy of Maps, Sketch Map, Photograph, Other References.)

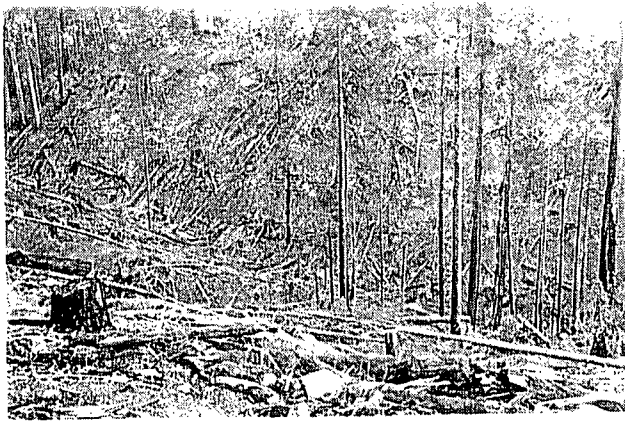
No aquatic plants noticed. Mild winter conditions, due to porous soil and heavy vegetation. Unpolluted except for logging debris, many springs along stream, Arcata Redwood Co. owns much of watershed and have it posted, has not been stocked in the past. Stream flows the year around. Calif. Div. of Forestry N 1/2 Humboldt Co., 1949 map shows stream accurately.



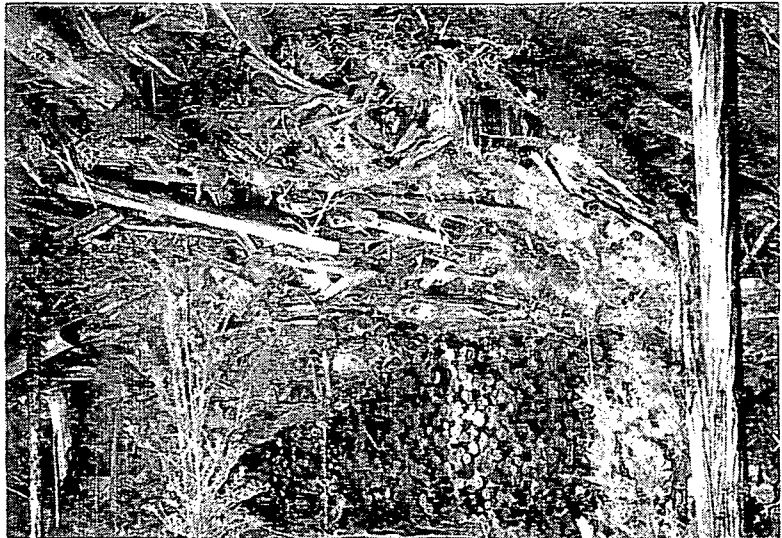








*Photographs of logging operations in the hills of North Carolina*





9/21/62



Person standing in  
thicket of trees and  
brush.



Steep, rocky embankment  
with sparse vegetation.



Person standing on  
rocky ledge with  
dense brush in background.



Rocky embankment with  
large rock in foreground.

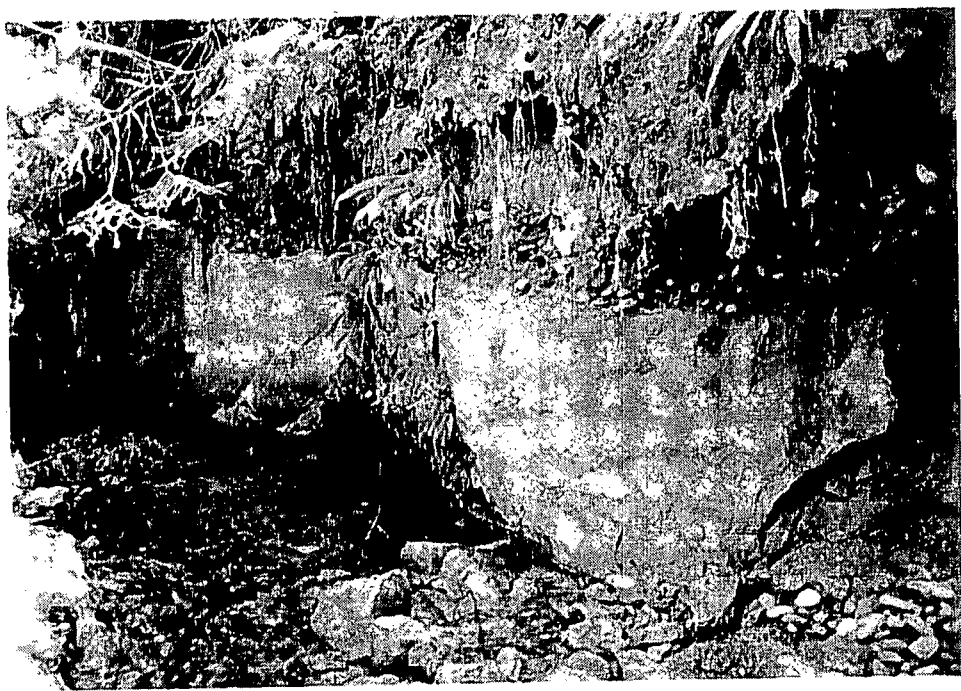


Dense thicket of bare  
tree branches and  
brush.



Downstream of the dam, the  
ground is covered with  
fallen branches and leaves.

Stream flowing through  
the woods.



Close-up of a tree trunk  
showing roots and bark.