

Appendix D:

Summary of Fisheries and Habitat Surveys for Elk River Tributaries

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Regional Water Quality Control Board

BRIDGE CREEK:

A DFG Stream Survey was conducted on 9/8/83 from the mouth to 1.25 miles upstream. Three unidentified salamanders were observed at - 1 - one site, but no fish. It was recommended that Bridge Creek should not be considered as a viable anadromous spawning or rearing stream due to unsuitable habitat.

No known spawning surveys have taken place on this stream, however, stream inventories were conducted during the summers of 1990 and 1994. On 8/7/90, three sites were electrofished. The first site, a lateral scour pool 21' above the mouth, yielded 23 coho salmon ranging from 42-97mm, 3 coastal cutthroat ranging from 40-45mm, and 20 stickleback. The second site, a trench pool below a culvert at 270' above the mouth, yielded nine coastal cutthroat trout ranging from 42-52mm. The last site, a mid-channel pool above the culvert at 736' above the mouth yielded eight coastal cutthroat trout between 40-57mm. On 6/22/94, three sites were electrofished. The first, a plunge pool 434' above the mouth, yielded one 79mm steelhead, 20 coho between 40-63mm, and one 102mm coastal cutthroat trout. The second site, a mid-channel pool 802' above the mouth, yielded 19 coho between 41 and 51mm. The last site, a mid-channel pool 1,446' above the mouth, yielded 15 coho ranging from 3-55mm, two coastal cutthroat from 84 and 93mm, and one Pacific giant salamander.

On 4/10/98, a memorandum was sent to Glen J. Newman (Chief Coast/Cascade Region, CDF) from the CDFG Region 1 regarding the focused PHI report for THP #1-97-489-HUM, SCOPAC, Bridge Creek Tributary to North Fork Elk River. Within this document, it states that current coho habitat on Bridge Creek ends approximately 0.25mi below the downstream end of the plan boundary, and that cutthroat habitat is present in all Class 1 reaches as identified by the RPF in the Plan. Chinook salmon and steelhead are not known to use any portion of Bridge Creek above the haul road crossing. This document has further statements about fish migration barriers, habitat locales, fish distribution, and numerous sediment references.

A stream inventory was conducted from 6/6/05 to 6/8/05. This survey did not include a biological inventory, though salmonids were observed throughout the survey. Frequent log debris accumulations, most retaining sediment, were noted throughout the survey reach. No fish seen above log debris accumulation at 2,860 feet from confluence with North Fork Elk River; possible barrier. Survey ended at 3,017 feet from confluence with North Fork Elk River due to no fish observed past possible barrier described above.

BROWNS GULCH:

A field note was produced by CDFG for a survey on 1/5/82 that attempted to assess the value of this creek to anadromous salmonids. Twenty-five live and one coho salmon carcass were observed in the first 250' above the mouth.

A stream inventory was conducted on 6/13/05. Metal culvert in good condition under main haul road noted at 200 feet from confluence with North Fork Elk River. Survey ended 553 feet from confluence with North Fork Elk River due to dry units. The next unit was dry for 84 feet.

CLAPP GULCH:

A field note was produced by CDFG for a survey on 7/14/83 that attempted to assess the value of this creek to anadromous salmonids. The stream was surveyed from the mouth to a point 1000' upstream, and no fish were observed. The survey ended at this point due to the complete lack of any suitable spawning or rearing habitat.

DOE CREEK:

A DFG Stream Survey was conducted on 9/7/83 from the mouth to 1.25 miles upstream. Fish were not observed.

No known spawning surveys have taken place on this stream, however, a stream inventory was conducted during the summer of 1994. Two young of the year salmonids were observed during the habitat survey portion of the inventory approximately 1700' above the mouth. On 6/24/94, a site roughly 169' above the confluence consisting of two mid-channel and one plunge pools was electrofished, but no fish were sampled. Numerous Pacific giant salamanders were observed.

A stream inventory was conducted from 8/9/2005 to 8/10/2005. Several log debris accumulations retaining sediment throughout survey reach. Log debris accumulation 1,363 feet from confluence with North Branch North Fork Elk River noted as possible barrier to coho salmon. Log debris accumulation at 2,197 feet from confluence with North Branch North Fork Elk River noted as possible barrier. Survey ended 3,192 feet from confluence with North Branch North Fork Elk River due to numerous log debris accumulations and no fish observed since possible barrier at 2,197 feet.

DUNLAP GULCH:

A field note was produced by CDFG for a survey on 1/5/82 that attempted to assess the value of this creek to anadromous salmonids. "Fish would have access to only about 100' of stream, but none were seen. Gravel was too small for spawning, and the stream was too narrow and short for use by anadromous fish."

A stream inventory was conducted from 6/14/05 to 6/28/05. Metal culvert noted 124 feet from confluence with North Fork Elk River, bottom covered with silt/gravel/cobble. Log debris accumulations retaining silt to gravel noted frequently throughout survey reach. Log debris accumulation at 569 feet from confluence with North Fork Elk River noted as probable barrier to salmonids. Fish observed upstream were likely resident trout. At 716 feet from confluence with North Fork Elk River possible old railroad remnants were noted in the channel for 180 feet, with cut logs spanning the channel from bank to bank. At 970 feet from the confluence with North Fork Elk River large woody debris was noted, possibly due to an historic bridge. A few plunges in the water due to logs spanning the channel were noted. Survey ended 2,448 feet from confluence with North Fork Elk

River due to numerous log debris accumulations and water going subsurface for at least the next 250 feet.

HILL GULCH:

A field note was produced by CDFG for a survey on 7/14/83 that attempted to assess the value of this creek to anadromous salmonids. There is no mention of salmonids being present in the 700' of stream surveyed from the mouth upstream.

LAKE CREEK:

A field note was produced by CDFG for a survey on 9/12/83 that attempted to assess the value of this creek to anadromous salmonids. No fish were observed in the survey section from the mouth to 0.5mi upstream due to the absence of spawning gravels as well as the continual mud and silt sources.

No known spawning surveys have taken place on this stream, however, a stream inventory was conducted during the summer of 1994. Three sites were electrofished on 6/27/94 and 6/28/94. The first site was a mid-channel pool 79' above the mouth and yielded one 100mm steelhead, 31 coho between 45 and 70mm, three coastal cutthroat trout between 77 and 85mm, one 50mm three-spine stickleback, and one Pacific giant salamander. The second site, a run/mid-channel pool combination 140' above the mouth, yielded 6 coastal cutthroat trout between 43 and 97mm. The last site, a series of mid-channel pools 6100' above the mouth yielded 13 coastal cutthroat trout between 38 and 111mm.

A stream inventory was conducted from 6/6/05 to 6/7/05. Log debris accumulations were noted frequently throughout the sampling reach. Survey ended 1,925 feet from the confluence with North Fork Elk River. Though juvenile salmonids (likely coastal cutthroat trout) were present beyond this point, the channel was full of log debris with little visible water, making the stream too difficult to survey further.

LINE CREEK:

No known spawning surveys have taken place on this stream, however, a stream inventory was conducted during the summer of 1994. Three sites were electrofished on 7/5/94. The first, a low gradient riffle approximately 442 feet from the mouth, yielded two steelhead (84 and 196mm), eight coho ranging between 48 and 70mm, four Pacific Giant salamander, and one tailed frog. The second, a log-formed backwater pool 2,209' above the mouth, yielded four steelhead between 36 and 119mm and two Pacific giant salamanders. The last site, a high gradient riffle-run series located 3,330' above the mouth, yielded numerous Pacific giant salamander but no fish.

A stream inventory was conducted from 6/27/05 to 6/30/05. Log debris accumulations retaining sediment were frequent throughout the survey reach. Log debris accumulation 1,518 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River noted as possible barrier to coho salmon. Starting at 3,125 feet from the confluence with South Fork Elk River, the stream gradient was >10%. The survey ended 3,638 feet from the confluence with South Fork Elk River due to high stream gradient.

LITTLE NORTH FORK ELK RIVER:

A stream inventory was conducted from 8/15/05 to 8/16/05. A slide blocking stream flow was noted at 343 feet from the confluence with North Branch North Fork Elk River, described as evidence of old road crossing. Several log debris accumulations retaining sediment were noted, as well as several sites of bank erosion. A log debris accumulation at 1,356 feet from the confluence with North Branch North Fork Elk River was noted as a possible barrier, as no fish were seen above it. The survey was ended 2,258 feet from the confluence with North Branch North Fork Elk River due to several log debris accumulations and the fact that no fish had been observed since the log debris accumulation at 1,356 feet.

LITTLE SOUTH FORK ELK RIVER:

A stream inventory was conducted from 6/9/05 to 6/15/05. Several large debris accumulations were observed in the survey reach. An accumulation at 682 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River was noted as a possible barrier to coho salmon. At 1,220 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River, bio-inventory methods were switched to bank observation due to difficulty climbing through the large log debris accumulations with the backpack electrofisher. No fish observed upstream of log debris accumulation at 1,872 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River. Continued survey approximately 1,000 feet past this point and channel was dry. Survey ended at 3,758 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River due to steep gradient, approximately 16% over 220 feet.

McCLOUD CREEK:

A field note was produced by CDFG for a survey conducted on 5/24/72 to obtain information about the creek and its potential as an anadromous fishery. The creek was surveyed from the mouth to a point 1mi upstream. No fish, redds, or spawning areas were observed, and it was observed that this creek was not capable of supporting an anadromous fishery due to the siltation problem.

On 10/17/83, a stream survey was conducted on McCloud Creek for the mouth to a point 0.5mi upstream to assess the value of the creek to anadromous salmonids. One 1" unidentified fish was observed, but it was suggested that the creek is only capable of supporting a small, non-anadromous fish population due to heavy siltation. "Rearing habitat was of fair quality and degraded by much small debris." A few frogs and salamanders were observed.

A stream inventory was conducted from 6/29/05 to 7/6/05. Frequent log debris accumulations retaining sediment were noted throughout the survey reach. 869 feet from the confluence with South Fork Elk River a log debris accumulation was noted as a possible barrier to fish, as no fish were seen above this point. The survey ended 3,795 feet from the confluence with South Fork Elk River due to numerous log jams and overall poor quality of habitat, including 40 feet of dry unit above the last log jam. Notes indicate

that after the first 850 feet, the channel was filled with deep silt and not suitable for spawning.

McWHINNEY CREEK:

A stream inventory was conducted on 6/6/05. There were two log debris accumulations in the survey reach, both associated with a debris flow 300' tall x 100' wide x 20' deep 604 feet from the confluence with North Fork Elk River. Sediment backup in this area was impeding flow for the next 200 feet. The survey was ended at this point due to the large log debris accumulations associated with the debris flow.

NORTH FORK ELK RIVER:

A stream inventory was conducted from 6/30/05 to 10/19/05. Though a biological inventory was not included in this survey, fish were observed throughout the survey. 1+ or bigger salmonids observed at 61,047 and 62,967 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River. Log debris accumulations were noted frequently throughout the survey, most of which were not retaining sediment. Erosion on right bank noted at 54,004 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River. Erosion on left bank noted at 58,726 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River. Several plunges over boulders, bedrock and logs were noted, ranging from 2.5 feet to 9 feet. Log debris accumulation at 63,686 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River noted as first possible barrier, as no fish were observed above this point. Later log debris accumulations also noted as possible barriers. At 75,325 feet from confluence with South Fork Elk River, the stream gradient was measured at 14%. Survey was ended at 74,455 feet due to high stream gradient, numerous log debris accumulations, and no fish observed since the log debris accumulation at 63,686 feet.

RAILROAD GULCH:

On 11/7/83, a stream survey was conducted on Railroad Gulch for the mouth to a point 0.25mi upstream to assess the value of the creek to anadromous salmonids. No fish were observed due to "muddy water," although a few frogs and salamanders were noted above the forks. It was thought by surveyors to be possibly fish bearing, but "of limited use due to lack of spawning gravel, siltation, and debris obstructions."

SHAW GULCH:

A field note was produced by CDFG for a survey on 7/14/83 that attempted to assess the value of this creek to anadromous salmonids. The stream was surveyed from the mouth to a point 1mi upstream. It was determined that the general characteristics (such as sand and silt dominant substrate, unstable banks, and few aquatic insects) made the stream unsuitable for anadromous spawning and rearing. No fish were observed.

TOM GULCH:

On 9/21/83, a stream survey was conducted on Tom Gulch for the mouth to a point 0.75mi upstream (the forks) to assess the value of the creek to anadromous salmonids. One unidentified fish, about 1" long, was observed about 805' above the mouth.