

To : Stanshaw Creek File

July
31, 2000

From: Siskiyou Fisheries Unit

Subject : Coho Presence in Stanshaw Creek, Near Somes Bar, California

An electro-shocking survey of Stanshaw Creek earlier this year (May 25, 2000) turned up only juvenile steelhead. This survey (See May 30 file report in Stanshaw Creek file, Yreka, Ca.) was prompted by a water rights application which had been filed by Mr. Doug Cole who owns and operates the Marble Mountain Ranch. Mr. Cole filed for a permit which would allow him to divert a total of 3.0 cubic-feet-per-second of water from Stanshaw Creek for power generation and domestic use. The water would be diverted down an existing ditch which has operated since the latter 1860's. The purpose of the May survey was to evaluate the aquatic resources supported by Stanshaw Creek and the minimum flow needed to protect these resources. A report that juvenile coho were visually spotted in lower Stanshaw Creek by Karuk tribal representatives in July prompted another look to confirm the validity of the reported sightings.

On July 26, 2000 I made a brief electro-shocking survey in lower Stanshaw Creek beginning from the large pool located immediately below the discharge end of the twin concrete box culverts traversing beneath State Highway 96. Several juvenile steelhead were captured most of which were young of the year (about 2-3 inches in length). Approximately 150 feet below this pool a single juvenile coho was captured thereby confirming the presence of coho in this stream. Several other juvenile coho were visually sighted by Mr. Toz Soto and Mr. Ron Reed using a facemask (i.e. within the same 250-foot reach I electro-shocked). Others present during the electroshocking survey included Jane Vorpagel (DFG-ES III), Konrad Fisher (landowner) and his caretaker Michael David Fellows, Mr. Doug Cole (landowner (Konrad Fisher's neighbor who diverts water from Stanshaw Creek for domestic use and power generation) and his neighbor Neil Tauzer, and Mr. Chuck Glasgow, Ms. Margaret Tauzer, and Tim Broadman (all from NMFS), and Mr. Rob Miller, Ms. Yoko Mooring and Ross Swenerton (all of the State Water Board), Mr. Dennis Hood (Fisheries Biologist, Private Consultant) and Mr. Ron Reed and Toz Soto (fisheries biologists from the Karuk tribe). About half of those present were shown the captured coho.

Water clarity was very good and the stream temperature in Stanshaw Creek was 17°C (63°F) in the early afternoon. Earlier in the day Stanshaw Creek at Mr. Coles Ditch heading was 12°C (53.6°F). Klamath River was 24°C (76°F). The total dissolved solids was measured at 72 µS using a Cole-Parmer (TDSTestr 3 w/automatic temperature compensation). Flow in Stanshaw Creek was estimated at approximately 1.5 cubic-feet-per-second.

Settings on the backpack electro-shocker unit (Smith-Root Model 12) were 300 volts with a wavelength frequency setting of 90 cycles-per second. A single pass was made at various small shallow pool locations until a coho was captured. Once the coho was found electro-shocking was terminated.

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