STREAM INVENTORY REPORT

Roaring Gulch

INTRODUCTION

A stream inventory was conducted during the summer of 1995 on Roaring Gulch. The objective of the habitat inventory was to document the habitat available to anadromous salmonids in Roaring Gulch.

The objective of this report is to document the current habitat conditions, and recommend options for the potential enhancement of habitat for chinook salmon, 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

Roaring Gulch is tributary to Redwood Creek, tributary to the Pacific Ocean, located in Humboldt County, California (Map 1). Roaring Gulch's legal description at the confluence with Redwood Creek is T07N R03E S06. Its location is 41°01′51″ north latitude and 123°52′21″ west longitude. Roaring Gulch is a first order stream and has approximately 1.2 miles of blue line stream according to the USGS Hupa Mountain 7.5 minute quadrangle. Roaring Gulch drains a watershed of approximately 0.54 square miles. Elevations range from about 550 feet at the mouth of the creek to 2,840 feet in the headwater areas. Redwood/Douglas conifer forest dominates the watershed. The watershed is privately owned and is managed for timber production.

METHODS

The habitat inventory conducted in Roaring Gulch follows the methodology presented in the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual* (Flosi and Reynolds, 1991 rev. 1994). The Northwest Emergency Assistance Program (NEAP) 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.

HABITAT INVENTORY COMPONENTS

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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 Roaring Gulch to record measurements and observations. There are nine components to the inventory form.

1. Flow:

Flow is measured in cubic feet per second (cfs) at the bottom of the stream survey reach using standard flow measuring equipment, if available. In some cases flows are estimated.

2. Channel Type:

Channel typing is conducted according to the classification system developed and revised by David Rosgen (1985 rev. 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.

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 (1988). 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". Roaring Gulch 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. Channel dimensions were measured using hip chains, range finders, tape measures, and stadia rods. Pool tail crest depth at each pool unit was measured in the thalweg. All measurements were in feet to the nearest tenth.

5. Embeddedness:

The depth of embeddedness of the cobbles in pool tail-out reaches is measured by the percent of the cobble that is surrounded or buried by fine sediment. In Roaring Gulch, 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 unsuited for spawning due to inappropriate substrate particle size, having a bedrock tail-out, or other considerations.

6. Shelter Rating:

Instream shelter is composed of those elements within a stream channel that provide 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. 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 Roaring Gulch, 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 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.

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 Roaring Gulch, an estimate of the percentage of the habitat unit covered by canopy was made from the center of every unit. In addition, the area of canopy was estimated ocularly into percentages of coniferous or deciduous 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 Roaring Gulch, the dominant composition type and the dominant vegetation type of both the right and left banks for each unit were selected from the habitat inventory form. Additionally, the percent of each bank covered by vegetation was estimated and recorded.

DATA ANALYSIS

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Data from the habitat inventory form are entered into Habitat, a dBASE 4.2 data entry program developed by Tim Curtis, Inland Fisheries Division, California Department of Fish and Game. This program processes and summarizes the data, and produces the following six tables:

- Riffle, flatwater, and pool habitat types
- Habitat types and measured parameters
- Pool types
- Maximum pool depths by habitat types
- Dominant substrates by habitat types
- Mean percent shelter by habitat types

Graphics are produced from the tables using Quattro Pro. Graphics developed for Roaring Gulch include:

- Riffle, flatwater, pool habitats by percent occurrence
- Riffle, flatwater, pool habitats by total length
- Total habitat types by percent occurrence
- Pool types by percent occurrence
- Total pools by maximum depths
- Embeddedness
- Pool cover by cover type
- Dominant substrate in low gradient riffles
- Percent canopy
- Bank composition by composition type
- Bank vegetation by vegetation type

HABITAT INVENTORY RESULTS

* ALL TABLES AND GRAPHS ARE LOCATED AT THE END OF THE REPORT *

The habitat inventory of September 9, 1995, was conducted by Nancy Pearson (NEAP) and Mike Develin (PCFWWRA). The total length of the stream surveyed was 1,201 feet with an additional 26 feet of side channel.

Flow was estimated to be 0.1 cfs during the survey period.

Roaring Gulch is an A3 channel type for the entire 1,201 feet of stream reach surveyed. A3 channel types are steep, narrow, cascading, step-pool streams with high energy/debris transport associated with depositional soils and are cobble dominant.

Water temperatures taken during the survey period ranged from 54 to 58 degrees Fahrenheit. Air temperatures ranged from 60 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

Table 1 summarizes the Level II riffle, flatwater, and pool habitat types. Based on frequency of **occurrence** there were 16% riffle units, 32% flatwater units, and 39% pool units (Graph 1). Based on total **length** of Level II habitat types there were 8% riffle units, 59% flatwater units, and 22% pool units (Graph 2).

Twelve Level IV habitat types were identified (Table 2). The most frequent habitat types by percent **occurrence** were step runs, 20%; high gradient riffles, 16%; and step pools, 14% (Graph 3). Based on percent total **length**, step runs made up 54%, step pools 10%, and high gradient riffles 8%.

A total of 17 pools were identified (Table 3). Scour pools were most frequently encountered at 53% and comprised 47% of the total length of all pools (Graph 4).

Table 4 is a summary of maximum pool depths by pool habitat types. Pool quality for salmonids increases with depth. One of the 17 pools (6%) had a depth of two feet or greater (Graph 5).

The depth of cobble embeddedness was estimated at pool tail-outs. Of the 12 pool tail-outs measured, 3 had a value of 1 (25%); 6 had a value of 2 (50%); 3 had a value of 3 (25%); none had a value of 4 or 5 (Graph 6). On this scale, a value of 1 indicates the highest quality of spawning substrate.

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 34, flatwater habitat types had a mean shelter rating of 26, and pool habitats had a mean shelter rating of 20 (Table 1). Of the pool types, the scour pools had the highest mean shelter rating at 21. Main channel pools had a mean shelter rating of 20 (Table 3).

Table 5 summarizes mean percent cover by habitat type. Boulders are the dominant cover type in Roaring Gulch. Large and small woody debris are lacking in nearly all habitat types. Graph 7 describes the pool cover in Roaring Gulch.

Table 6 summarizes the dominant substrate by habitat type. Small cobble was the dominant substrate observed in 6 of the 9 step runs measured (67%). Gravel was the next most frequently observed dominant substrate type and occurred in 22% of the step runs (Graph 8).

The mean percent canopy density for the stream reach surveyed was 92%. The mean percentages of deciduous and coniferous trees were 69% and 31%, respectively. Graph 9 describes the canopy in Roaring Gulch.

For the stream reach surveyed, the mean percent right bank vegetated was 43.3%. The mean

percent left bank vegetated was 47.2%. The dominant elements composing the structure of the stream banks consisted of 5% boulder, 2.5% cobble/gravel, and 92.5% sand/silt/clay (Graph 10). Grass was the dominant vegetation type observed in 32.5% of the units surveyed. Additionally, 30% of the units surveyed had deciduous trees as the dominant vegetation type, and 3.8% had coniferous trees as the dominant vegetation, including down trees, logs, and root wads (Graph 11).

DISCUSSION

Roaring Gulch is a A3 channel type for the entire 1,201 feet of stream surveyed. The suitability of A3 channel types for fish habitat improvement structures is as follows: A3 channel types are good for bank-placed boulders; fair for low-stage weirs, opposing wing deflectors, and log cover; and poor for medium-stage weirs, boulder clusters, single wing deflectors, and log cover.

The water temperatures recorded on the survey days September 9, 1995, ranged from 54 to 58 degrees Fahrenheit. Air temperatures ranged from 60 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit. This is a good water temperature range for salmonids. To make any further conclusions, temperatures would need to be monitored throughout the warm summer months, and more extensive biological sampling would need to be conducted.

Flatwater habitat types comprised 59% of the total **length** of this survey, riffles 8%, and pools 22%. The pools are relatively shallow, with only 1 of the 17 (6%) pools having a maximum depth greater than 2 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 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 for locations where their installation will not be threatened by high stream energy.

Three of the 12 pool tail-outs measured had embeddedness ratings of 3, 4 or 5. Only 3 had a 1 rating. Cobble embeddedness measured to be 25% or less, a rating of 1, is considered to indicate good quality spawning substrate for salmon and steelhead. In Roaring Gulch, sediment sources should be mapped and rated according to their potential sediment yields, and control measures should be taken.

The mean shelter rating for pools was low with a rating of 20. The shelter rating in the flatwater habitats was slightly better at 26. A pool shelter rating of approximately 100 is desirable. The relatively small amount of cover that now exists is being provided primarily by boulders in all habitat types. Additionally, terrestrial vegetation contribute a small amount. Log and root wad cover structures in the pool and flatwater habitats are needed to improve both summer and winter salmonid habitat. Log cover structure provides rearing fry with protection from predation, rest

from water velocity, and also divides territorial units to reduce density related competition.

Eight of the 9 step runs measured had gravel or small cobble as the dominant substrate. This is generally considered good for spawning salmonids.

The mean percent canopy density for the stream was 92%. This is a relatively high percentage of canopy. In general, revegetation projects are considered when canopy density is less than 80%.

The percentage of right and left bank covered with vegetation was low at 43.3% and 47.2%, respectively. In areas of stream bank erosion or where bank vegetation is not at acceptable levels, planting endemic species of coniferous and deciduous trees, in conjunction with bank stabilization, is recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Roaring Gulch 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) Where feasible, design and engineer pool enhancement structures to increase the number of pools or deepen existing pools. This must be done where the banks are stable or in conjunction with stream bank armor to prevent erosion.

4) Increase woody cover in the pools and flatwater habitat units. Most of the existing cover is from boulders. Adding high quality complexity with woody cover is desirable.

5) 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.

6) 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.

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.

0'	Begin survey at confluence with Redwood Creek. Channel type is A3.
295'	Heavy plunge influence on area 12'L X 14'W. Logs are suspend. A lot of woody debris.
367'	Log jams.
383'	Log jam; gravel piled up.
413'	Log jams, loose logs.
428'	Log dam.
624'	Small log scour at bottom of run, <.4'.
1.201'	End of survey. 35% gradient. 70% gradient by culvert.

REFERENCES

Flosi, G., and F. Reynolds. 1994. California salmonid stream habitat restoration manual, 2nd edition. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.

LEVEL III and LEVEL IV HABITAT TYPE KEY

HABITAT TYPE	LETTER	NUMBER
RIFFLE		
Low Gradient Riffle	[LGR]	1.1
High Gradient Riffle	[HGR]	1.2
CASCADE		
Cascade	[CAS]	2.1
Bedrock Sheet	[BRS]	2.2
FLATWATER		
Pocket Water	[POW]	3.1
Glide	[GLD]	3.2
Run	[RUN]	3.3
Step Run	[SRN]	3.4
Edgewater	[EDW]	3.5
MAIN CHANNEL POOLS		
Trench Pool	[TRP]	4.1
Mid-Channel Pool	[MCP]	4.2
Channel Confluence Pool	[CCP]	4.3
Step Pool	[STP]	4.4
SCOUR POOLS		
Corner Pool	[CRP]	5.1
Lateral Scour Pool - Log Enhanced	[LSL]	5.2
Lateral Scour Pool - Root Wad Enhanced	[LSR]	5.3
Lateral Scour Pool - Bedrock Formed	[LSBk]	5.4
Lateral Scour Pool - Boulder Formed	[LSBo]	5.5
Plunge Pool	[PLP]	5.6
BACKWATER POOLS		
Secondary Channel Pool	[SCP]	6.1
Backwater Pool - Boulder Formed	[BPB]	6.2
Backwater Pool - Root Wad Formed	[BPR]	6.3
Backwater Pool - Log Formed	[BPL]	6.4
Dammed Pool	[DPL]	6.5