STREAM INVENTORY REPORT
SUBSECTION
First Right Bank Tributary to Second Left Bank Tributary to Oil Creek

WATERSHED OVERVIEW

The first right bank tributary to the second left bank tributary to Oil Creek is located in Humboldt County, California (Map 1). Oil Creek is a tributary to the Pacific Ocean. The first right bank tributary to the second left bank tributary to Oil Creek has a legal description of T01N R02W S05 at the confluence with the second left bank tributary to Oil Creek. Its location is 40°29′55″ north latitude and 124°18′25″ west longitude. This tributary is an ephemeral stream according to the USGS Capetown 7.5 minute quadrangle. It drains a watershed of approximately 0.24 square miles. Elevations range from about 1,000 feet at the mouth of the creek to 2,464 feet in the headwater areas. Mixed conifer forest dominates the watershed. The watershed is entirely privately owned and is managed for timber production and rangeland. Vehicle access exists via a private road through the Mayflower Ranch.

HABITAT INVENTORY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The habitat inventory of August 6, 1999 was conducted by Andrea Kudrez and Toni Beaumont (WSP/AmeriCorps). The total length of the stream surveyed was 724 feet.

The first right bank tributary to the second left bank tributary to Oil Creek is a B4 channel type for the entire 724 feet of stream surveyed. B4 channels are riffle dominated channels with gravel substrate. They have moderate entrenchment and gradient, infrequently spaced pools, very stable plan and profile, and stable banks.

The water temperatures recorded on the survey day August 6, 1999, ranged from 56 to 57 degrees Fahrenheit. This is a good water temperature range for salmonids. Air temperature was 64 degrees Fahrenheit. For a more complete and accurate water temperature profile, 24-hour temperatures would need to be monitored throughout the warm summer months.

Based on the total length of this survey, Level II habitat units consisted of 46% flatwater units, 31% riffle units, and 23% pool units (Table 1). There were not any pools with a maximum depth greater than 2 feet (Table 4).

Eight of the 10 pool tail-outs measured had embeddedness ratings of 3 or 4. No tail-outs had a 1 rating (Table 8). Cobble embeddedness of 25% or less, a rating of 1, is considered best for spawning salmon and steelhead. In the first right bank tributary to the second left bank tributary to Oil Creek 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 37. The shelter rating in the flatwater habitats was 7 (Table 1). A pool shelter rating of approximately 100 is desirable.

Six of the 10 pool tail-outs measured had gravel or small cobble as the dominant substrate (Graph 1). This is generally considered good for spawning salmonids.

The mean percent canopy density for the stream was 94% (Table 8). The percentage of right and left bank covered with vegetation was 83% and 84%, respectively (Table 9) . 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.

BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY RESULTS

No sites were electrofished in the first right bank tributary to the second left bank tributary to Oil Creek. Fish were not observed from the stream banks during the stream habitat inventory.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) The first right bank tributary to the second left bank tributary to Oil Creek should be managed as an anadromous, natural production stream.

2) Inventory and map sources of stream bank and upslope erosion and prioritize them according to present and potential sediment yield.

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 the second left bank tributary to Oil Creek, approximately 2,682' from the Pacific Ocean. Channel type is a B2.

21' 2.5' high plunge.

42' 3' high plunge.

133' 3' high plunge.

467' Log debris accumulation, 32' long x 25' wide x 25' high, retaining 15' of sediment.

589' Right bank failure.

641' Ten foot high plunge with no associated pool.

724' End of survey. Thirty-five foot bedrock chute with 50 degree slope and no associated pool.