

**SITE NUMBER:** B-L6-01  
**LOCAL NAME:** Fern Creek  
**WRIA:** 20.0248A

**NORTH COAST OFF CHANNEL SITE INVENTORY DATA**

**RIVER SYSTEM:** Bogachiel **DATE:** 9/25/89 **OBSERVER:** Young

**CHANNEL TYPE:** Lower end of a small valley wall trib. (wall-based).

**TRIBUTARY TO:** Bogachiel River - 20.0162

**SITE LOCATION: L.B. @** River mile - 18.1 (WDF)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

|                           | <b>UPPER END</b> | <b>LOWER END</b> | <b>RIVER TEMP</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b><u>WATER TEMP:</u></b> | 54.5 F           | Dry              | 59 F              |
| <b><u>FLOW (CFS):</u></b> | Trickle          | Dry              |                   |

**SUBSTRATE :** Mostly mud. Some gravel/cobble near mouth and in tribs.

**SITE SIZE:** **Length-** 750 m overall (includes 2nd channel near mouth)  
**Width-** Surface = Dry  
Channel = 6 to 10 ft below spur road crossing 10 to 20 ft above spur road.  
**Depth-** Currently dry. Appears to have pooled or ponded water to a depth of 3 to 4 ft during winter behind the beaver dams and above the spur road crossing.

**WATER SOURCE:** Appears to be fed primarily by two small tribs from the steep valley wall (i.e. south of the South Bogachiel Road). May also receive a good deal of runoff water from ditches along the road.

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE:** Heading north of Grays Harbor on Hwy 101. Turn right just south of mile post 184 onto the South Bogachiel Rd. Proceed east on this gravel road for about 0.5 miles until coming to a concrete bridge which crosses Dowans Creek. Continue east another 0.3 to 0.4 miles then turn left onto a spur road. This spur crosses B-L6-01 just off the South Bogachiel Rd.

**FISH ACCESS AND CURRENT USE:** Currently channel was mostly dry. Saw one yearling trout in the plunge pool below culvert at upper end of channel. Appears to be moderately accessible during winter flows. May have some problems with stranding.

**FLOODING POTENTIAL:** Low to mod. Some backwater flooding may occur.

**LANDOWNER:** Rayonier.

**COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** B-L6-01 is a muddy, well-vegetated channel lying just north of and parallel to the South Bogachiel Rd. It was mostly dry at the time of this survey but it appears to accommodate substantial flows in the winter.

B-L6-01 is fed by two small tribs coming off the steep hillside to the south. It also appears to receive runoff water from the ditches along the South Bogachiel Rd.

A spur road crosses B-L6-01 in its middle reaches. The lack of a culvert appears to cause extensive pooling of the water upstream of the road during the winter months. This pooled water may be as much as 200 m in length and 5 to 7 m wide. Maximum winter depths appears to be about 3 to 4 ft.

Immediately below the spur road B-L6-01 is fairly wide and flat with a good stand of marsh grass. The channel narrows and becomes more and more incised as it continues downstream. A small L.B. trib enters the channel about 100 m below the spur road.

About 100 m below the small trib, B-L6-01 diverges into two channels. The two channels do not converge

again before meeting the river. The channel which stays to the right and enters the river the farthest upstream appears to be the main channel. The channel to the left is much smaller and appears to act as an overflow for the main channel. Both channels are well incised below their point of divergence. A number of small (2 to 3 ft high) beaver dams were seen in both channels. It is about 100 to 150 m from the divergence of the two channels to the river. Debris at the mouth of the smaller channel appears to greatly restrict fish accessibility. Entrance conditions at the mouth of the main channel are much more favorable.

B-L6-01 probably provides some winter rearing habitat. The reliability of the water source, however, is somewhat questionable. Flows may tend to be "flashy". Run off from the gravel road may greatly effect the water quality. Drying along the mid and lower of the channel may occur during extended winter dry spells. The ponded areas upstream of the spur road and beaver dams will probably maintain some amounts of water throughout the rainy season. Without timely Spring rains, however, a great deal of stranding may also occur in these areas.

Need to monitor the flows and the extent of ponding in this channel throughout the Fall, Winter and Spring. Should also set minnow traps to determine the current utilization of the habitat by juvenile coho.

**DATE:** 11/30/89

**OBSERVER:** Young, Nettnin

A minnow trap was baited with "Pautzke's" single eggs and cluster eggs (from D.K's Special Skeins) and set just upstream of the road crossing (middle reach of the channel). The trap was set near the left bank, in 2 - 3 ft of water, with sedges and overhanging debris nearby.

**DATE:** 12/1/89

**OBSERVER:** Young

Fished minnow trap that was set on 11-30. Trap had fished for nearly 24 hrs and caught zero fish. The trap was reset in the same location. A small amount of "channel cat bait" was added to the remaining old bait from 11/30.

**DATE:** 12/6/89

Fished minnow trap that was set on 12-1. There were no fish in the trap. This may indicate access problems for juvenile coho down stream.

**DATE:** 2/9/90

**OBSERVER:** King

- Heavy snow fell (8") the past 3 days and heavy rain now. Over 10" of precipitation since Feb. 1.
- Upper beaver dam looks impassable. Lower dam does not.
- Mouth of main channel looks difficult to negotiate at high flows but probably not during floods since it would be backwatered. Low flow conditions are likely to be the most favorable for passage since pools would be created in the cascades.
- The overflow channel is impassable at the mouth except during floods.
- There is no evidence of river water entering this site except near the mouth.
- At least 5 cfs was running over the spur road and passage was no problem at this flow.
- Another LB tributary not indicated on the original survey flows through a culvert about midway of the ponded area created by the spur. Probably is dry during most of the year.

**DATE:** 2/21/90

**OBSERVER:** Young, Nettnin

Set two minnow traps, baited with a commercially prepared roe, below the access road. The lower trap was set above the second beaver pond, RB bank of right channel near bank overhang in about two feet of water. The upper trap was set about twenty meters below the road near bank, under spruce limb in about one foot of water.

**DATE:** 2/23/90

**OBSERVER:** Young

Fished minnow traps. Results upper trap: 0. Results lower trap: 3 coho (1 ad clip) 100-110 mm in good condition

**DATE:** 3/1/90

**OBSERVER:** Young

No local name was given to B-L6-01 in the initial habitat survey write up. According to Roger Mosely this channel (B-L6-01) has been referred to in the past as Fern Creek.

It has been wetter than normal during January and February but there has been no rain during the last week. Currently there is no surface flow at the mouth of B-L6-01. There is just a trickle of water (<5 gal/min) flowing in the lower channel between nearly isolated pools. 10 to 12 juvenile coho were seen in one medium to large size pool. The water temp in the lower reach was 4 C. The water temp of the river was 5.5 C.

No water is presently flowing across the road that crosses the channel in its middle reach. There is plenty of deeply pooled water (and good looking habitat) just above the road crossing.

The upper most LB trib appears to be flowing in at about 10 gal/min and has a water temp of 5 C. The first LB trib below the road crossing also appears to be flowing in at about 10 gal/min. Its water temp was also 5 C.

**DATE:** 4/3/90

Has not rained for 2 weeks. Channel below spur road was dry. A shallow pool remains upstream of the spur. Only a small amount of spring flow coming through the upper culvert.

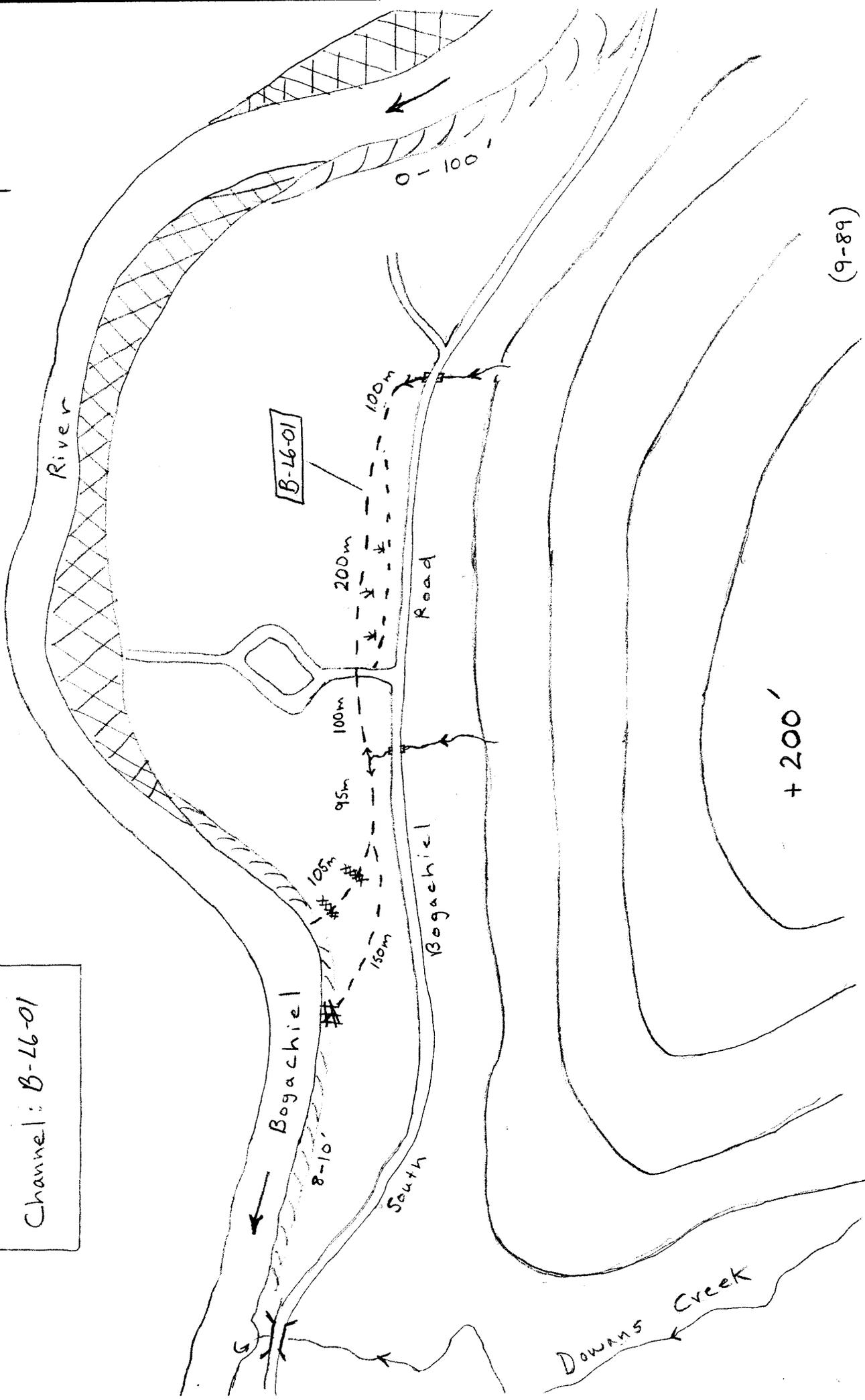
**DATE:** 5/1/99

**OBSERVER:** Darrow

A local resident observed coho stranded in pools. Minnow trapped ~ 25 coho smolts and some trout from the isolated pools.

N

Bogachiel River  
Site: B-16  
Channel: B-16-01



(9-89)



**Bogachiel River**  
**Site: B-L6**  
**Site Map**

