

**SITE NUMBER:** D-R1-03  
**LOCAL NAME:** Blackwater Creek  
**WRIA:** 20.0097C

**NORTH COAST OFF CHANNEL SITE INVENTORY DATA**

**RIVER SYSTEM:** Dickey      **DATE:** 11/15/90      **OBSERVER:** Young

**CHANNEL TYPE:** Lower end of a small valley wall trib.

**TRIBUTARY TO:** West Branch Marsh Creek (See D-R1-2)

**SITE LOCATION:** R.B. @ River Mile: 0.05 (field data)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** SE1/4 S15 T28N R15W

	<b><u>UPPER END</u></b>	<b><u>LOWER END</u></b>	<b><u>RIVER TEMP</u></b>
<b><u>WATER TEMP:</u></b>	9.5 C	9.5 C	9.0 C

<b><u>FLOW (CFS):</u></b>	1.0	1.0 - 1.5
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**SUBSTRATE TYPE:** Primarily sand, silt and muck. Some alluvial gravel where the trib comes off the hillside.

**SITE SIZE:**      **Length-** 250 to 300 m usable or potential rearing habitat  
                         **Width-** Avg. Channel = 10 - 20 ft    Avg Surface = 3 - 18 ft  
                         **Depth-** 2 - 8 inches.    Beaver ponds 2 to 3 ft.

**WATER SOURCE:** Primarily fed by a small valley wall trib. Also some small seep springs from the toe of the steep valley side slopes.

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE:** Head north from Forks on Hwy 101. Turn left just beyond mp 193 (1.0 mi. north of Forks) onto the La Push Rd. Proceed west on La Push Rd about 3.1 miles. Turn right onto the Quillayute Rd. and continue west for 4.0 mi. Turn right onto Mina Smith Rd. (at Quillayute Cemetery) and proceed north about 0.8 mi. Turn left, after crossing the Colby Creek Bridge, onto the 5000 line. Proceed west 1.2 mi. (crossing the Dickey River) then turn left onto the 5003 line. Continue south west on the 5003 until coming to the end of the road (about 4 miles). Continue south west (on foot) across a clear cut. Stay along the toe of the hill until coming to a small open marsh just inside a stand of timber. The main channel of D-R1-03 lies at the west end of the marsh.

**FISH ACCESS AND CURRENT USE:** Lower 40 m reach appears accessible to juveniles. Beaver dams above this point appear to greatly restrict access into the mid & upper reaches.

**FLOODING POTENTIAL:** The lower 40 m reach appears very susceptible to backwater flooding. Mod. backwater flood potential in mid reaches to low potential in upper reaches.

**LANDOWNER:** Unknown at this time.

**COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** The headwaters of D-R1-03 originate in the low (200 to 400 ft elevation) hills which lie to the north and west of the D-R1 area. These hills have been largely clearcut in recent years.

D-R1-03 emerges from a steep, narrow valley and enters the valley floor of the Dickey at a relatively wide alluvial fan. As with most alluvial formations, the channel here is braided. Currently the main channel of D-R1-03 lies along the south west edge of the fan with a number of lesser channels diverging near the head of the fan and running toward the north side of the fan.

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**COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** (continued)

A shallow, marshy depression runs along the base of the alluvial fan. This marshy area, which is about 100 m long and 30 to 50 m wide, supports a heavy stand of marsh grass. The marsh is surrounded by alder and conifer forest. Water in the eastern two thirds of the marsh was only ankle deep. A long, 3 to 4 ft high beaver dam along the west edge of the marsh, (i.e. at the point where all the water from the alluvial fan converges into a single channel) creates a small, open water area. Maximum water depth behind the dam appears to be between 2 and 3 ft. Water appears to run around the end of the dam during periods of heavy run off. The dam may be passable to juvenile coho at that time.

Downstream of the upper dam, D-R1-03 flows through a wide, shallow, muddy channel. About 100 m below the upper dam is a second, more formidable beaver dam. This lower dam forms a long, narrow, elbow-shaped pond. The dam is located on the outside of the elbow bend. One arm of the pond extends upstream from the dam toward the upper marsh area while the other arm extends perpendicular to the flow of the main channel. The second arm is a dead end channel. The water here is very black in color and appears quite stagnant. Unless the river backs in over the lower dam, it appears this dam is impassible to juvenile coho.

Water cascades through the lower dam and into more incised channel. Some 40 m below the lower dam, D-R1-03 converges with D-R1-02. A small, blown-out beaver dam is located just below the confluence of the two channels. Backwater flooding from the Dickey easily reaches beyond the confluence of the two channels. The 100 m reach of D-R1-02 below the confluence of the two channels appears to have unrestricted access for juvenile coho. Entrance conditions at the river are good (see D-R1-2).

D-R1-03 may have some potential for habitat improvements. It may be possible to deepen the upper marsh area. It may also be possible to direct more flow into the marsh by diverting water to the north side of the alluvial fan. Removing the beaver dams while retaining significant pond habitat may be possible through the use of control structures. There was no sign of current beaver activity at either dam. Need to monitor flows during a winter dry spell.

**NORTH COAST OFF CHANNEL SURVEY**  
**SUBSEQUENT SITE EVALUATION FORM**

**River System:** Dickey

**Channel No.:** D-R1-03  
**Site Name:** Blackwater Creek  
**WRIA:** 20.0097C

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**DATE:** 2/26/91

**OBSERVER:** Young

There has been more than 16 inches of rain so far this February. This observation was made at the end of a one week dry period. The flow in the channel was estimated at 0.1 to 0.2 cfs. Much of the upper marsh area that contained ankle deep water during the initial survey is now dry. The ground in this area is muddy but only shallow isolated "puddles" of water were found. There is still a small pond above the beaver dam but the pond is considerably smaller than it was in November of 1990. It appears that low flow and a lack of pond habitat may be a problem at this site during a prolonged (i.e.  $\geq 2$  weeks) winter dry period.

**DATE:** 4/22/91

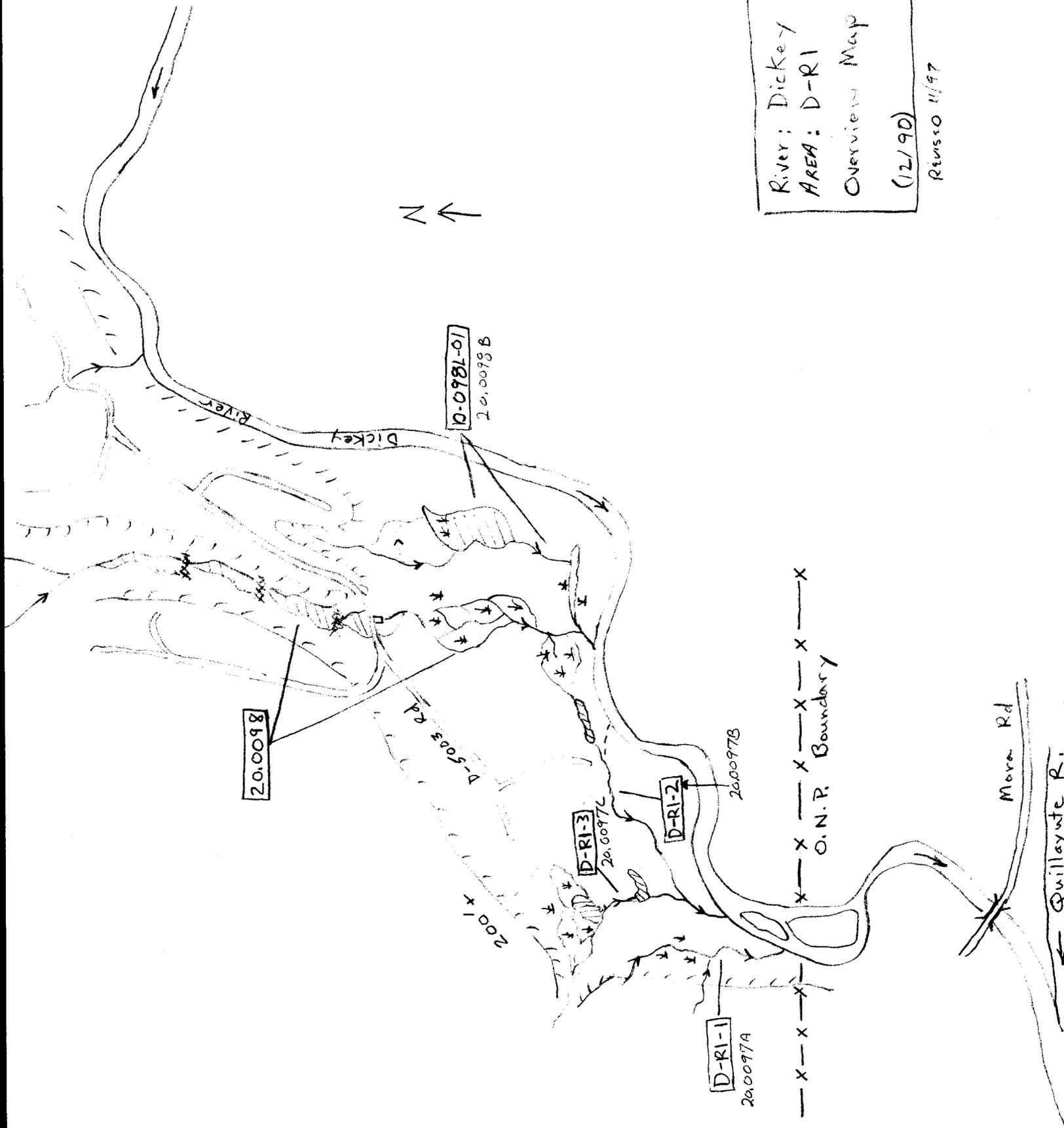
**OBSERVER:** Young/King

Has not rained for almost 2 weeks. There was still a small amount of flow coming through both beaver dams and the ponded water still had a tannic color to it. There doesn't seem to be much that can be done to improve conditions here. Lots of wetlands in this area. **Initial rating for improvement potential was average.**

**DATE:** 5/6/99

**OBSERVER:** Nettnin

G.P.S. position data was taken at the egress with W. F. Marsh Cr.: East 990,294 ft. North 973,251 ft.



River: Dickey  
 AREA: D-RI  
 Overview Map  
 (12/90)

Russo 11/97



River: Dickey  
AREA: D-R1  
AREA map

Date: 12/4/90

