

SITE NUMBER: ED-121L-06
LOCAL NAME: Polecat Springs
WRIA: 20.0126D

NORTH COAST OFF CHANNEL SITE INVENTORY DATA

RIVER SYSTEM: E. F. Dickey **DATE:** 3/4/92 **OBSERVER:** Young

CHANNEL TYPE: Terrace Tributary

TRIBUTARY TO: Skunk Cr. (20.0121)

SITE LOCATION: LB @ RM 1.9 (field measurement) Note: WDF Stream Catalog indicates this channel enters between RM 1.6 and 1.8

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: SW1/4 S21 T30N R13W

	UPPER END	LOWER END	20.0121 TEMP.
<u>WATER TEMP:</u>	11.0 ° C	10.0 ° C	9.5 ° C
<u>FLOW (CFS):</u>	< 0.1	0.5 - 1.0	
<u>SUBSTRATE TYPE:</u>	Mud and muck.		

SITE SIZE: **Length-** 325 m (defined channel)
 Width- Channel: 30 cm - 4 m Surface: 30 cm - 4 m
 Depth- Avg. = 15 - 30 cm Max. = 45 - 60 cm

WATER SOURCE: Overflow and seeps from the alluvial fan of Skunk Creek. Run off from the southeast side slope of the valley might also be a major component of the flow.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: Go north from Forks on Hwy 101 about 8.4 mi. then turn left onto Lk. Pleasant Rd. (0.4 mi. north of MP 200). Stay on the main road going past the community park and across the Lake Cr. bridge. Turn right and continue up the county road (along the northwest shore of the lake) to the end of the pavement. This road then becomes the 9000 mainline. Continue on the 9000 another 6.0 miles (going past the 9300 & 6000 line junctions) until coming to a new (c. 1990) concrete bridge. Continue 0.2 mi. beyond the bridge to the junction with the 9400. Turn left onto the 9400 (a key is needed for the locked Rayonier gate) and continue about 0.9 mi. to the junction with the 9410. Keep left and follow the 9410 about 0.9 mi. Turn right onto an old grade just prior to the second stringer bridge. Follow this old grade along the right bank of the creek (WRIA 20.0126), down the hill and out into a clearcut flat. until coming to a three way intersection. Take the middle "fork" and proceed north to a landing at the end of the road (a little over 0.1 mile). ED-121L-06 is located just beyond (north of) the landing.

FISH ACCESS AND CURRENT USE: Entrance conditions are excellent. Fish appear to have unrestricted access to the lower 50 m of the channel. A complex of low to medium height beaver dams and shallow ponds cause the channel to be very braided above this point. The dams will occasionally restrict juvenile coho movement. Stranding of juveniles appears likely.

FLOODING POTENTIAL: Low.

LANDOWNER: Unknown at this time (possibly ITT Rayonier and/or DNR).

IDENTIFIED WETLAND SPECIES: Soft sedge. Other wetland plant species were also present but none were noted.

COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS: Entering Skunk Creek on a flat gradient at a deep, well-protected, back eddy pool and having a flow of between 0.5 and 1.0 cfs, the mouth of ED-121L-06 is probably very attractive to juvenile coho. Fish should be able to enter this channel at all flows. About 25 m above its mouth, the very dark, tannic water in ED-121L-06 flows under a large, old growth stump that spans the channel. The flow at this point seems fairly unrestricted.

25 m further upstream is the first in a series of small to medium height beaver dams. The ponds, located just inside of the tree line of the RMZ strip, all appear rather shallow. The channel is quite braided here as water appears to regularly flow around the ends of the dams.

The remainder of ED-121L-06 (i.e. upstream of the shallow ponds and braided channel) flows across an open, gently sloping marsh amid widely scattered seven to ten year old spruce trees. The channel here has low banks but seems fairly well-defined in the lower section of this reach. Small beaver dams seem to keep a maximal water volume in the channel. As one moves upstream across the open marsh, channels become increasingly diffuse. Though not actually confirmed, it appears that at least part of this water flows out of the alluvial fan of Skunk Creek.

As with other off channel rearing areas along this reach of the left bank of Skunk Creek, fish entering and moving up into ED-121L-06 appear to have a good chance of becoming stranded. It seems the further up-stream fish are able to move the more likely that stranding will occur. Enhancements to the rearing habitat in these areas might involve maximizing the available habitat in the lower reaches of the channel and eliminating or minimizing accessibility to the middle and upper reaches.

Other options might involve manipulation of the flow patterns in this entire area to minimize stranding potential. Machine access to this site is available.

DATE: 2/6/92

OBSERVER: Young

This data was collected during a physical survey of the Skunk Creek mainstem that was conducted prior to the survey of the ED-121L-06. Only conditions near the mouth of channel ED-121L-06 were noted.

Flow was estimated at 0.1 to 0.2 cfs. The water was very tannic colored and about 7.5 ° C. Skunk Creek was at 6.5° - 7.0° C.

DATE: 2/23/95

OBSERVER: Darrow

MINNOW TRAPPING REPORT

TRAP	DATE		DATE		COHO	CATCH			COTTID
	SET	TEMP	PULLED	TEMP		TROUT			
						RBT	CUTT	0+	
1	2/22	9.0°C	2/23	9.0°C	7	0	0	0	20
2	2/22	9.0°C	2/23	9.0°C	0	0	0	0	16
3	2/22	9.0°C	2/23	9.0°C	0	0	0	0	10
TOTALS:					7	0	1	0	46

COMMENTS:

- The coho were healthy and in the range of 88 - 120 mm.
- Traps baited with coho eggs.

River System: E.F. Dickey

Tributary: Skunk Creek

WRJA: 20.0121

Area: ED-121L

Channel ED-121L-6

Name: Polecat Springs

(March 92)

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SKUNK CREEK

Wooded

Tree

Clearcut

ED-121L-6

ED-R1L-6

Clearcut

To Skunk Creek
Alluvial Fan

100m

100m

75m

25m

25m



