

**SITE NUMBER:** ED-L3-02  
**LOCAL NAME:** Oxbow Creek  
**WRIA:** 20.0119H

**NORTH COAST OFF CHANNEL SITE INVENTORY DATA**

**RIVER SYSTEM:** E. F. Dickey    **DATE:** 3/14/91    **OBSERVER:** Young

**CHANNEL TYPE:** Lower reach of a small valley wall tributary

**TRIBUTARY TO:** E. F. Dickey River (20.0110)

**SITE LOCATION:** L.B. @ R.M. 9.6 (U.S.G.S.)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** SE1/4 S12 T29N R14W

	<b>UPPER END</b>	<b>LOWER END</b>	<b>RIVER TEMP</b>
<b><u>WATER TEMP:</u></b>	6.5 C	6.5 C	6.5 C
<b><u>FLOW (CFS):</u></b>	0.1 - 0.2	0.25 - 0.5	

**SUBSTRATE TYPE:** Gravel.

**SITE SIZE:**    **Length-** 270 m (mouth to old rail grade; both branches).  
                  **Width-** Water surface = 0.5 - 1.2 m  
                                Channel     = 1 - 1.5 m  
                  **Depth-** 5 - 15 cm

**WATER SOURCE:** Valley wall tributary.

**DIRECTIONS TO SITE:** Go north from Forks on Hwy 101 for 3.1 mi. Turn left (west) about 0.1 mi. beyond MP 195 onto the D-2000. Continue west on the D-2000 for 5.0 miles (crossing the E. F. Dickey bridge) and then turn right (east) onto the D-2400 (just beyond MP 5). Continue on the D-2400 about 3.2 mi. until the road ends at the river at an old ford or portable bridge site. Park here and walk downstream about 0.3 miles until the river makes a hard 180 deg. bend. The mouth of ED-L3-02 is located on the left bank just before entering this bend (the second left bank trib below the ford).

**FISH ACCESS AND CURRENT USE:** ED-L3-02 appears to have very good entrance conditions as it enters the river at the upper end of a deep, back eddy pool. The lower reach of the channel has a gentle to moderate gradient but the gradient appears to increase rapidly above the old grade cross-ing. Despite the attractive entrance conditions, very little winter rearing habitat was seen in the channel. The channel may accommodate a limited number of spawners. If it maintains flow throughout the summer it may also provide summer rearing area. No fish were observed.

**FLOODING POTENTIAL:** Low.

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

**COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** ED-L3-02 enters the E. F. Dickey at the upper end of a waist deep, back eddy pool. A gravel "delta" at the mouth of the channel protrudes 2 to 3 m out into the river. The lower egress has a gentle gradient. These conditions should make the mouth of ED-L3-02 very attractive to juvenile coho. Entrance conditions will probably become even more attractive as the river level rises.

(continued on next page)

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**COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** (continued)

The lower 70 m reach of ED-L3-02 has a gentle to moderate gradient as it runs through moderately dense brush and old growth conifer forest. Some 70 m above its mouth the channel of ED-L3-02 forks. On the day of this survey the flow appeared to split evenly at the fork.

Above the fork, each branch of ED-L3-02 has its own v-shaped valley. Each branch continue to maintains a gentle to moderate gradient.

About 100 m up the north branch of ED-L3-02 the channel is crossed by fill material from an old rail grade. The small, deep valley has literally been filled to its top in order to accommodate the old grade. This tends to give the valley the appearance of a "box canyon". The elevation of the top of the grade is some 20 to 30 ft higher than the water surface of the trib. Water passes under the grade via a low clearance, crib log "culvert". Fish migration above this point does not currently appear feasible. A short distance above the grade crossing, the gradient of the north branch appears to increase rapidly.

The old rail grade also crosses the south branch of ED-L3-02 about 100 meters above the fork. This valley is a somewhat wider than the valley of the north branch and the grade crosses via a trestle. The trestle, which still has its decking in place, is mostly intact. Upstream of the trestle, the gradient of the south branch does not appear to increase as rapidly as the north branch.

Due to the lack of pool habitat in the lower reaches, and to a steadily increasing gradient in the mid and upper reaches, ED-L3-02 does not appear to provide a significant amount of winter rearing habitat. With gravel present in the channel there is the possibility that a limited amount of spawning may take place. If the channel maintains water throughout the year, summer rearing should also take place.

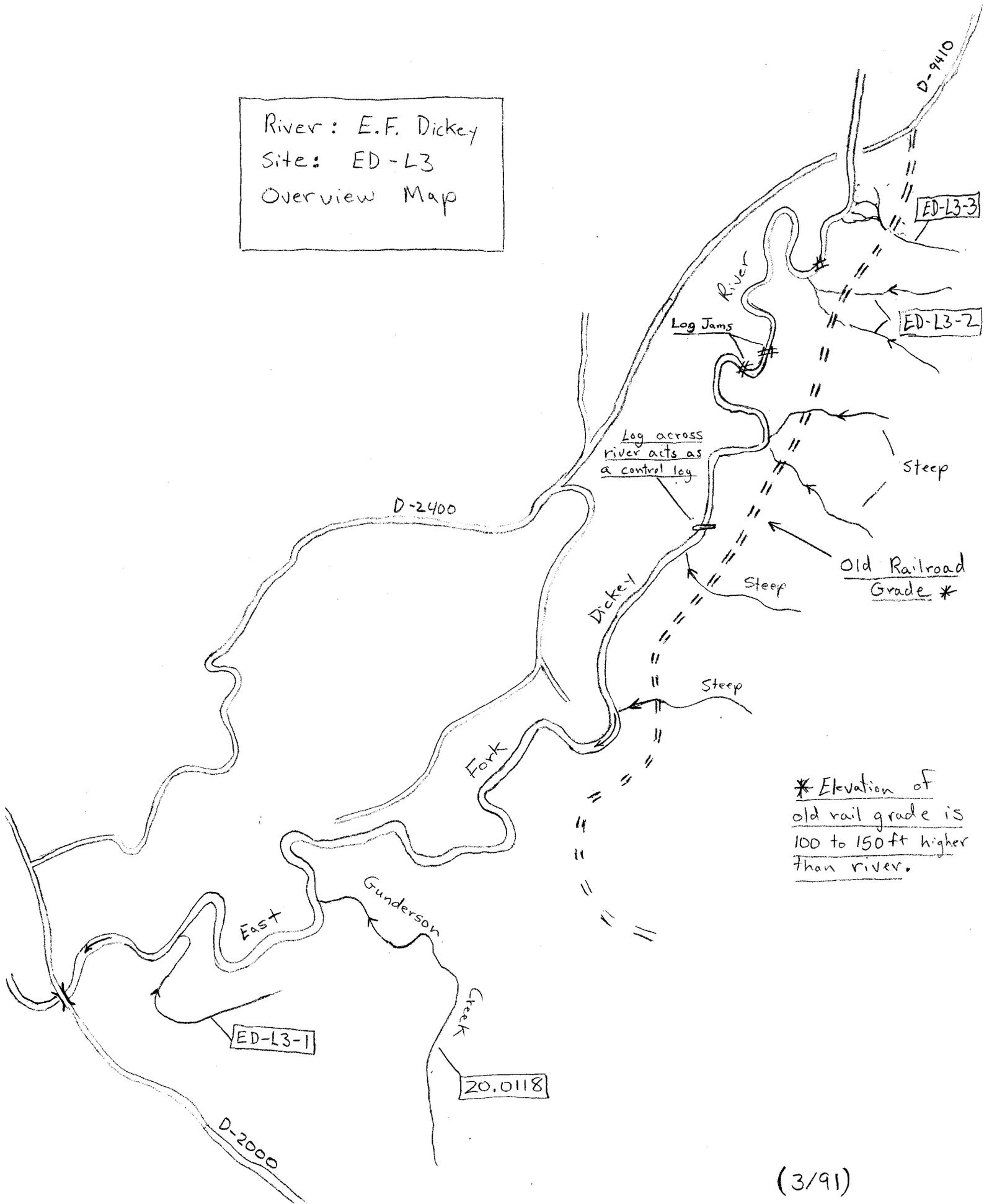
The entire reach of ED-L3-02 that was surveyed is located in a small patch of old growth coniferous forest. From the 1990 aerial photos, it appears that the extreme upper reaches of both branches of ED-L3-02 have been clear cut.

It may be possible to create a small amount of short term winter rearing habitat in the lower reaches of ED-L3-02 by installing control structures and creating more pool. Machine access to the site should be feasible from the old rail grade, but this would probably require some additional development. ED-L3-02 appears to be a good gravel producer.

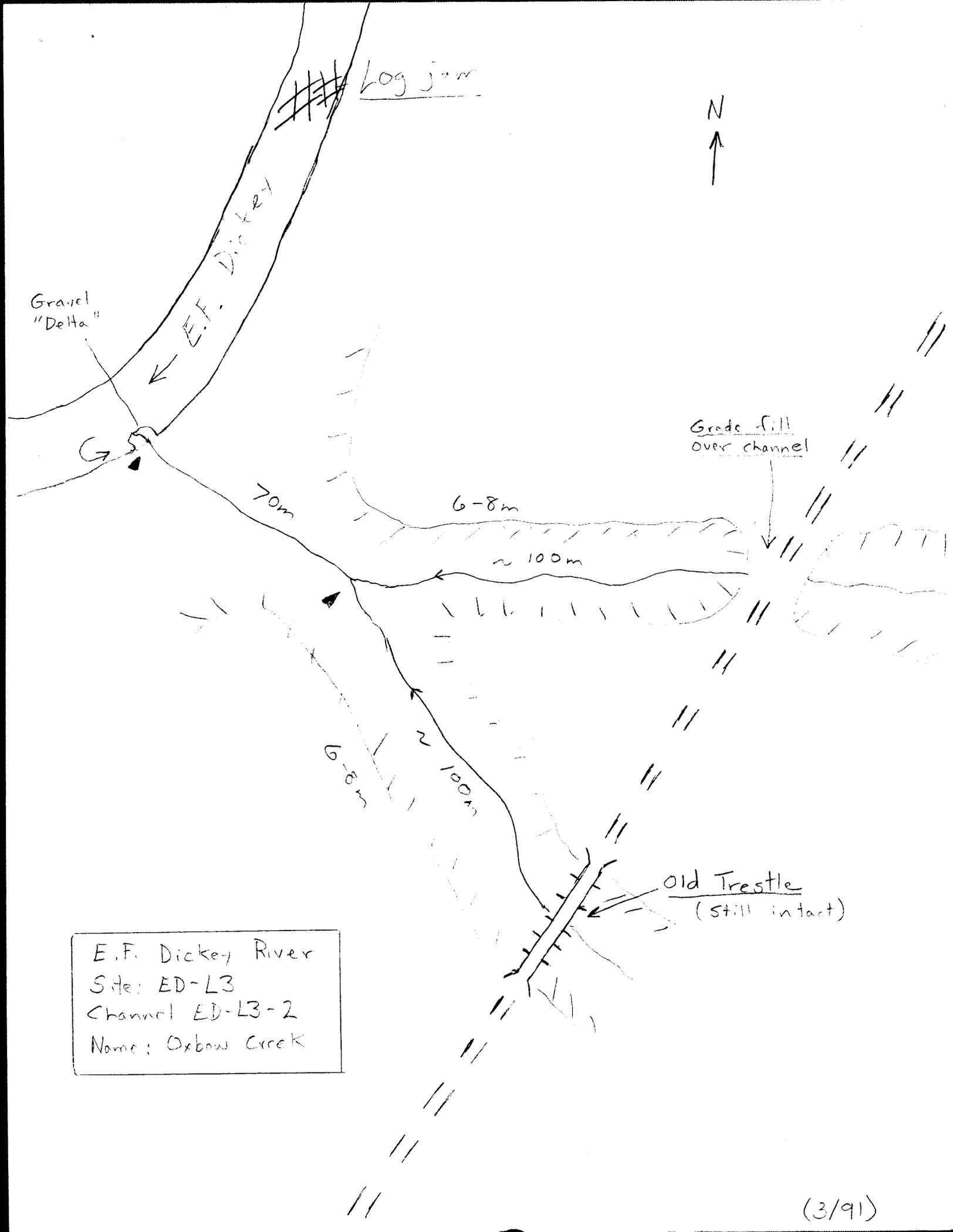
**DATE:** 7/31/91      **OBSERVER:** Young

Flow at the mouth of ED-L3-02 was in the neighborhood of 20 to 30 gal/min. The water in the channel was 13 C while the river temperature was 17 C. The gravel "delta" at the mouth of the channel is about 10 ft wide by 10 ft long. An LOD jam spans the width of the river about 50 m above the mouth of the channel. This survey confirmed the location of the mouth of the channel.

River: E.F. Dickey  
Site: ED-L3  
Overview Map



\* Elevation of  
old rail grade is  
100 to 150 ft higher  
than river.



E.F. Dickey River  
Site: ED-L3  
Channel ED-L3-2  
Name: Oxbow Creek

