EVALUATION REPORT

ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF FIVE CALIFORNIA RIVERS

FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL WILD & SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

HERITAGE CONSERVATION & RECREATION SERVICE

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

1980

SECTION I. SUMMARY

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the eligibility of portions of the Klamath, Trinity, Smith, Eel, and American River Systems for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to classify those that are found to be eligible. Section I of the Report is a summary providing background, criteria, and findings; Section II contains a description of individual river values; Section III displays the classification of those river segments found eligible for inclusion in the National System; and Section IV provides a listing of resources used to help determine eligibility.

Background

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542, as amended) states that ". . . selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." There are two methods by which rivers can be added to the National System:

- direct congressional designation, Section 3(a) of the Act; and

- approval by the Secretary of the Interior of state-designated wild, scenic, or recreational rivers upon application by the Governor of the state concerned, Section 2(a)(ii).

On July 18, 1980, the Governor of California sought additional Federal protection for State-designated rivers through the 2(a)(ii) process by requesting the Secretary of the Interior to include certain components of the California Wild and Scenic River System in the National System.

The river segments under consideration for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System are shown in Figure 1 and are listed below:

Klamath River

The main stem from 100 yards below Iron Gate Dam to the Pacific Ocean; the Scott River from the mouth of Shackleford Creek west of Fort Jones to the river mouth near Hamburg; the Salmon River from Cecilville Bridge to the river mouth near Somesbar; the North Fork of the Salmon River from the intersection of the river with the southern boundary of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area to the river mouth; Wooley Creek from the western boundary of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area to its confluence with the Salmon River.

Trinity River

The main stem from 100 yards below Lewiston Dam to the river mouth at Weitchpec; the North Fork of the Trinity from the intersection of the river with the southern boundary of the Salmon-Trinity Primitive Area downstream to the river mouth at Helena; New River from the intersection of the river with the southern boundary of the Salmon-Trinity Primitive

Area downstream to the river mouth near Burnt Ranch; the South Fork of the Trinity from the junction of the river with State Highway 36 to the river mouth near Salyer.

Smith River

The main stem and all its tributaries from the Oregon-California state boundary to the Pacific Ocean.

Eel River

The main stem from 100 yards below Van Arsdale Dam to the Pacific Ocean; the South Fork of the Eel from the mouth of Section Four Creek near Branscomb to the river mouth below Weott; Middle Fork of the Eel from the intersection of the river with the southern boundary of the Middle Eel-Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area to the river mouth at Dos Rios; North Fork of the Eel from the Old Gilman Ranch downstream to the river mouth near Ramsey; Van Duzen River from Dinsmores Bridge downstream to the river mouth near Fortuna.

American River

The Lower American from Nimbus Dam to its junction with the Sacramento River.

Criteria

To be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, the rivers must meet the following criteria:

*They must possess at least one outstandingly remarkable value (scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar value).

*They must be in a free-flowing natural condition and be without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping or other modification of the waterway. However, low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures do not automatically preclude the river unit from being included in the National Wild and Scenic River System, providing such structures do not unreasonably diminish the free-flowing nature of the stream and the scenic, scientific, geological, historical, archeological, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present in the area.

*They must be long enough to provide a meaningful experience. Generally, any unit included in the System should be at least 25 miles long, although provisions are made for inclusion of shorter segments possessing outstanding qualifications.

*They must normally contain a sufficient volume of water during the recreation season to permit full enjoyment of water-related outdoor recreation activities generally associated with comparable rivers.

*They must be of high water quality or susceptible of restoration to that condition.

Findings

The proposed segments total 4,006 river miles. We have found that 1,246 river miles or about 31% of the proposed river mileage meet the criteria and are eligible for inclusion in the National System (see Table I). The eligible river segments are listed in Table II.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

All of the river segments proposed in the Klamath, Trinity, American, and Eel River Systems and 11% or 340 miles of the proposed river mileage within the Smith River System (those segments listed in Table II) have been determined to have outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery values. They possess either existing or potentially high or very high quality anadromous fish habitat.

The apparent intent of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is to include only those river segments and their immediate environments which themselves possess outstandingly remarkable values. The remainder of the Smith River tributaries, though they have a critical impact on the fishery, do not alone possess such values. Therefore, they have been found to be ineligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It must be stressed, however, that the health of the entire Smith River System is critical to maintenance of the exceptional water quality which supports the anadromous fishery. Past history has shown the futility of governmental attempts to protect an outstanding resource value by drawing an artificial boundary around the resource and ignoring the interaction between the resource and the rest of the ecosystem. Under the National Wild and Scenic River Act, all future Federal actions within the watershed should be carefully designed to avoid degrading the water quality of the Smith River System and adversely impacting the anadromous fishery. Under the State Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the fishery and other river values are also protected from adverse local and State actions along all of the tributaries.

TABLE I. SUMMARY OF RIVER ELIGIBILITY

RIVER SYSTEM	MILES PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION	MILES FOUND ELIGIBLE	MILES FOUND INELIGIBLE
Klamath River System	286	286	<1
Trinity River System	203	203	0
Smith River System	3,100	340	2,760
Eel River System	394	394	0
American River System	23	23	0
TOTAL	4,006	1,246	2,760

TABLE II. LISTING OF ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENTS

KLAMATH RIVER SYSTEM

Klamath River
Scott River
Salmon River
North Fork Salmon River
South Fork Salmon River
Wooley River

TRINITY RIVER SYSTEM

Trinity River
North Fork Trinity
South Fork Trinity
New River

EEL RIVER SYSTEM

Eel River
North Fork Eel
Middle Fork Eel
South Fork Eel
Van Duzen River

AMERICAN RIVER SYSTEM

Lower American River

SMITH RIVER SYSTEM

Lower Smith River

Rowdy Creek
Dominie Creek
Savoy Creek
Little Mill Creek
Bummer Lake Creek
Mill Creek
Lower West Branch of Mill Creek
East Fork of Mill Creek

Middle Fork Smith River

Myrtle Creek
Hardscrabble Creek
Kelly Creek
Patrick Creek
Shelly Creek
East Fork Patrick Creek
West Fork Patrick Creek
Monkey Creek
Siskiyou Fork Smith River
South Siskiyou Fork Smith River
Packsaddle Creek
Griffin Creek
Knopki Creek

North Fork Smith River

Still Creek
Diamond Creek
High Plateau Creek
Bear Creek
North Fork Diamond Creek

South Fork Smith River

Craigs Creek
Coon Creek
Rock Creek
Gordon Creek
Canthook Creek
Goose Creek
Canthook Creek
Goose Creek
East Fork of Goose Creek
Hurdygurdy Creek
Jones Creek
Muzzleloader Creek
Buck Creek
Quartz Creek
Eight Mile Creek
Williams Creek
Prescott Fork Smith River

Anadromous fish are fish which, after beginning their life cycle in freshwater streams, migrate to and spend their major growth period in the saline environment of the ocean and then return upstream to spawn and complete their life cycle in the freshwater of their ancestral spawning and rearing grounds. Anadromous fish require sufficient streamflow to complete their migration to and from spawning grounds where suitable spawning gravel, water temperature, and water quality exist for the various stages of the anadromous lifecycle including spawning, egg incubation, and in some cases, extended periods of juvenile growth in freshwater.

The West Coast anadromous fishery, for which California's North Coast streams provide major spawning and rearing support, is a resource of national and international significance. Consumer demand for fresh and processed salmon has produced a consistently high market value., thus helping to maintain an economically healthy fishing industry. Of no lesser significance is the recreational value of prized anadromous sportfish such as chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout which attract anglers from throughout California, across the nation and throughout the world. Also of great importance to many people is the knowledge of the existence of these remarkable species of wild fish which have returned to their ancestral spawning grounds for thousands of years. This is a part of our Nation's natural heritage and is of unestimable value.

The California rivers proposed for National designation contain a variety of anadromous fish species. Present are chinook and coho salmon, steelhead trout and sea-run cutthroat trout. Also, American shad and sturgeon are present in some of the streams. Chinook salmon and steelhead trout have distinctive races which ascend spawning streams at different times of the year. Chinook salmon have a fall and spring run in some streams and steelhead trout have late fall, winter and spring runs plus a late summer run in the Klamath River of immature fish known as "half-pounders". This varied timing of spawning runs provides a lengthened sportfishing season in many of the streams.

The importance of remaining streams which still possess outstanding anadromous fish habitat values is further magnified by the substantial decline in these fish populations in recent years. The construction of dams, adverse land use practices, road and bridge construction, sand and gravel mining and water diversions all have contributed to the degradation of previously usable spawning and rearing habitat. While hatcheries are constructed to mitigate habitat losses from damming and impoundment and to supplement natural spawning, these artificial rearing facilities are considered desirable only when no other alternatives are available. Hatcheries seldom meet the mitigation goals for which they are constructed; and disease, changes in the genetic makeup of stock, and lack of sufficient operating funds are persistent problems. Consequently, natural spawning and rearing habitat is an extremely valuable resource.

In addition to their outstanding fishery values, the Lower American River has been found to possess outstandingly remarkable recreation values and the Middle Fork of the Eel River and North Fork of the Smith River to have outstandingly remarkable whitewater boating values.

Free-Flowing Values:

Although there are small dams present on a few of the streams, all are substantially free-flowing. There are no major impoundments which would disqualify any river segment. Levee work on the Lower American River has been found not to unreasonably diminish its values. The segment of the Klamath River within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project 2082 boundary about 3,600 feet downstream from Iron Gate Reservoir has been found ineligible for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System due to the existing FERC license.

Length:

All of the river segments are long enough to provide a meaningful experience. The reference to 25 miles in the criteria is only a general guideline and is not a requirement. It is a particularly inappropriate guideline in the case of the Smith River tributaries whose outstandingly remarkable value is their anadromous fishery. Even a very short tributary with such values can provide a meaningful experience, and the fact that they are all contiguous to the major forks of the Smith River further diminishes the significance of their relatively short length.

Flow:

All of the streams meet this criteria. The flow in many tributaries of the Smith River is quite low but adequate to sustain hiking, nature study, and other water-related recreation activities associated with comparable small tributaries in other drainages.

The flow in the Eel and Trinity Rivers is low in the recreation season. While plans are in progress to alter flow releases from upstream dams on both rivers, the present flow is adequate to sustain fishing, swimming

and other recreation activities associated with comparable rivers.

Water Quality:

The water quality of all of the rivers meets the water quality criteria.

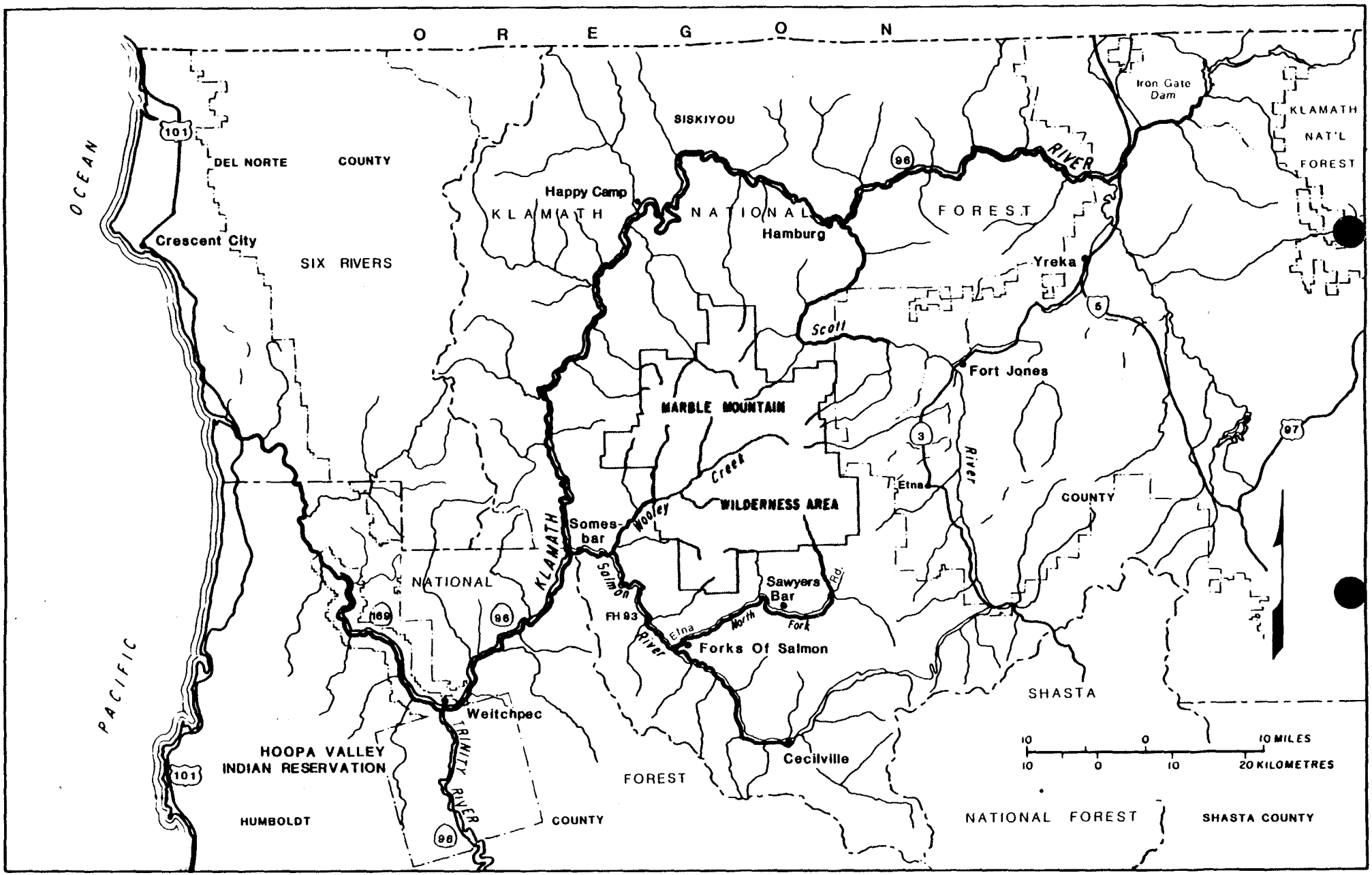
SECTION II. RIVER VALUES

Klamath River System

The portion of the Klamath River System under consideration consists of the Klamath River below Iron Gate Dam (approximately 18 miles downstream of the California-Oregon border), the Scott River, and portions of the Salmon and Trinity River Systems. The lower Klamath River Basin drains nearly 10,000 square miles of forested, mountainous terrain and produces nearly one-fifth of California's natural runoff. It drains both the northern Coast Ranges and the Klamath Mountains. The Klamath Mountains are considered to possess floristic diversity and complex vegetational patterns unsurpassed in the western United States.

The Klamath River System has an outstandingly remarkable value in its anadromous fishery. The total number of anadromous salmonids entering the mouth of the Klamath River easily exceeds any other river in California. Most fish spawn in the tributaries with almost half of the salmon entering the Trinity River. The Salmon, Scott, and Trinity Rivers, all major tributaries of the Klamath, are each considered to be premium salmon and steelhead producers. Thus, the outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery of the Klamath River System is as much a result of the fishery values of its tributaries as of the Klamath River itself.

KLAMATH RIVER SYSTEM



A more detailed description of each of the river segments in the Klamath River System under consideration follows.

Klamath River

The Klamath River flows in generally a southwesterly direction through the Klamath Mountains and northern Coast Ranges before entering the Pacific Ocean near Requa. The study segment of the Klamath involves about 190 miles of river and contains no significant water developments. In its course to the ocean, the Klamath flows through a rugged winding canyon generally less than 1/2 mile in width with many portions abutting steep sidewalls. Flow is characterized by both fast moving water and semi-placid pools. The volume of flow at the estuary of the Klamath River exceeds that of every other California stream except for the Sacramento River.

Over 95% of the lands adjoining the river are forested. Coniferous and broadleaf forests dominate with naturally formed bare areas, rockslides, brushy slopes and other non-timber features sporadically breaking the timber cover. Two rare species of rockcress occur within the broad river corridor: Arabis oregana and Arabis modesta. In the lower reaches, the Klamath flows through stands of virgin and second growth California Redwoods for some 20 miles.

Due to the extensive mountainous terrain, most all cultural development occurs on the limited areas of flat or gentle topography. Settlements along the river are generally small logging communities or groups of Indian residences. The Klamath River is accessible throughout the majority of its length with State Routes 96 and 169 paralleling the river for approximately 150 miles.

An extension of the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation borders the river from Weitchpec to the river mouth. Indians still retain hunting and fishing rights as set forth in treaties with the Federal Government. Other than existing Indian rights, commercial fishing is not allowed on the river.

The Klamath River possesses outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery values offering both a premium salmon and a premium steelhead fishery. It is the most important producer of coho salmon and steelhead trout in California and is second only to the Sacramento River in chinook salmon production. Sea-run cutthroat trout are also found in the lower reaches. The Klamath possesses fall runs of coho salmon; fall and spring runs of chinook salmon; and fall, winter, and spring runs of steelhead. The chinook salmon estuarine fishery is the most valuable of its type in the State, and the salmon resources in the river provide a significant ocean sport and commercial fishery as well.

In addition to the outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery, the Klamath River possesses recreational, scenic, wildlife and archeological values which are of notable significance.

On the basis of overall use and catch, the Klamath is one of the very most important recreational fishing streams in California. It offers fishermen excellent access and a diversity of year round fishing opportunities which may be accomplished by wading, trolling, floating or shorefishing. Although the greatest amount of angling is for steelhead and salmon, sturgeon weighing up to several hundred pounds, shad and resident trout support a sport fishery of increasing importance. Sport fishing of the early-run or

"half-pounder" steelhead in the lower Klamath is the most valuable of this type in California and probably the entire Pacific Coast. The Klamath is one of the most popular river-touring streams in the State and its popularity continues to grow. Whitewater classification varies from 1 to 3 in difficulty allowing for many different water-related activities from "tubing" to kayaking. Known for being California's longest continuous river run, the Klamath can provide the recreationist with an uninterrupted week's vacation on moving water, without long flat stretches or portages around dams. Shorter, less time consuming stretches have been identified that also provide a highly scenic backdrop and quality boating. Jet boats and commercial float trips are available.

The Klamath River exhibits notable scenic qualities as well. The steeply rising mountain sides, heavily forested landscape and rugged terrain are quite aesthetic with certain areas possessing exceptional beauty. In the lower reaches, the river flows 20 miles through redwood forests, providing one of the most scenic waterways through the redwood belt.

The area supports a diverse variety of wildlife. Black bear populations in the Klamath drainage are the highest in the State, and Columbia blacktailed deer are found in large numbers. Small herds of Roosevelt elk are found occasionally along the lower 30 miles of the river. The Klamath River and adjacent areas also provide important nesting habitats for osprey, great blue heron, and the endangered bald eagle (*Haliacctus leucocephalus*). Peregrine falcons (*falco peregrines anatum*) have been sighted within the river corridor during various times of the year.

Many Indian tribes have lived along the shores of the Klamath River. The Yurok, Karok, Shastan and New Shastan tribes were primarily fishermen and the importance of the fishery resource is reflected in their technology and cultural heritage. Concentrated along the river, populations were relatively dense and villages were numerous. The major ceremonial areas are located at Clear Creek, Somes Bar and below, and Orleans. Few archeological studies have been completed but one published account records 160 sites for a middle section of the Klamath alone. Two larger archeological sites, O'Men Village Site and Old Requa (the Yurok's largest prehistoric and ethnographic village and the most extensive Yurok site remaining on the coast) are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Recently a valuable pristine site has been located several miles upstream from Somes Bar.

Scott River

The 24 mile segment of the Scott River under consideration flows northward from the mouth of Shackleford Creek in Quartz Valley through a rugged precipitous bedrock canyon in the Scott Bar Mountains to its confluence with the Klamath River near Hamburg.

Vegetation is characterized as a mixed conifer forest composed of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, incense cedar, sugar pine, and white fir. Oak and big leaf maple are found near the stream channel.

Approximately 80% of the Scott River lies within the Klamath National Forest. Scott Valley Road (single lane paved) parallels but is too far above the river for most of the segment to have a detrimental impact on the visual resource. Development is confined to scattered ranches and

minimal recreational facilities within the Forest Service boundaries and agricultural lands in the uppermost reaches of the segment.

The Scott River watershed provides a background rich and colorful in history. Although very little archeological work has been conducted in the area, numerous Scott Valley Indian village sites are known to have existed along the river and the archeological potential is great. The Scott River later experienced the gold rush of the late 1800's and became one of the most productive gold sites in California. Hydraulic systems and Chinese labor were utilized to dredge the river for its gold. Today the resident population is fairly sparse and the region remains notable for its scenic beauty and the relative isolation which it affords.

The Scott River possesses an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. The river provides a premium habitat for both coho and chinook salmon and for steelhead trout.

In addition to the outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery, the Scott River possesses recreation and wildlife values which are of notable significance.

For the whitewater recreationist, the Scott River offers a variety of river experiences. Beginning in the uppermost reaches of the segment as a quiet meadow stream with an easy Class 1 rating, the gradient abruptly drops and the action substantially quickens. Rated between 3 - 4 1/2 in difficulty, this stretch provides difficult drops and a multitude of churning rapids as it snakes through the rugged countryside. Suitable only for the expert paddler, this stretch from Scott River Canyon to Klamath River confluence is considered to be one of the most challenging

expert runs in California.

A great variety of wildlife exists in the Scott River area due to the wide variation in elevations and wide range in habitat types. The area is particularly important habitat for large raptors. Nesting sites have been identified for the endangered peregrine falcon (falco peregrines anatum) and the bald eagle (Haliacctus leucocephalus) has been known to frequent the area. The study area also provides a significant nesting area for osprey and golden eagles.

Salmon River System

The Salmon River System is a major component of the lower Klamath River Basin. Located in western Siskiyou County, about 63 miles upstream from the mouth of the Klamath River, the Salmon River watershed comprises approximately 750 square miles of relatively natural, rugged, mountainous terrain.

The South Fork Salmon River drains the north side of the Salmon Mountains in the Salmon-Trinity Wilderness Area while the North Fork and Wooley Creek originate in the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area. Over 99% of the Salmon River watershed lies within the Klamath National Forest.

The North and South Forks and main stem of the Salmon River are all paralleled by county roads for most of their lengths, while Wooley Creek is roadless. Three small isolated communities are found in the area. In spite of a colorful history of gold mining, evidence of man's intrusion is relatively minimal. The vegetation of the Salmon River watershed can best be described as a mixed evergreen forest. Climate, geographic location and the geologic history of the area combine to create a region

with flora rich in relict and endemic species, and species growing at the edges of their geographical ranges. High quality recreational opportunities exist throughout the Salmon River System, however, recreational use is limited by its remote location.

The Salmon River System possesses an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. It contributes significally to the production of coho salmon, chinook salmon and steelhead. The main stem, North Fork, South Fork, and Wooley Creek all contribute important habitat for spring run chinook salmon and spring-run steelhead trout. Spring-run steelhead are a race of steelhead that migrate upstream during April, May, and June, remain in the stream through the summer (hence, sometimes referred to as summer steelhead), and spawn in the late fall and early winter. The U.S. Forest Service has designated this fish as sensitive, to be managed to prevent the species from becoming rare and endangered.

River segments under consideration in the Salmon River System include the main stem Salmon, portions of the North and South Forks, and Wooley Creek. A more detailed description of each of the river segments follows.

Salmon River

The main stem of the Salmon River flows in a northwesterly direction for approximately 20 miles from the confluence of the North and South Forks near the community of Forks of Salmon to its confluence with the Klamath River. Located entirely within National Forest boundaries, the river is characterized as having many pools interrupted by constricted channels, rock outcroppings, falls and chutes. Water quality is excellent.

Douglas fir and other conifers are the dominant species with extensive live oak stands occuring along the immediate river corridor. Forest Highway 93, a narrow predominantly paved secondary road, provides access into the isolated river settlement of Forks of Salmon as well as scenic vistas. The Salmon River was mined extensively after 1850. Somes Bar and Forks of Salmon were the major mining communities. Forks of Salmon also served as a large village and trading center for both the Karok and Shastan Indians.

Endangered bald eagles (Haliacctus leucocephalus) winter and/or feed along the Salmon River, and it is considered to be an important area for the endangered peregrine falcon (falco peregrines anatum). Osprey nest and feed along the lower portion of the Salmon River.

The main stem of the Salmon River possess an outstandingly remarkable value in its anadromous fishery. It contributes substantially as both a premium salmon and steelhead fishery. The Salmon River provides not only fall runs of coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout, but it also has substantial spring runs of chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Besides the outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery, the Salmon River possesses scenic and recreational values which are of notable significance.

Throughout its course the Salmon River twists in and out of scenic deep canyons and rocky gorges in a series of short, deep pools linked together by innumerable, challanging rapids. The whitewater classification of difficulty is rated Class 2-4, with the majority of the river being at least Class 3. Best suited for rafts and kayaks, the Salmon River offers the

experienced whitewater runner an exciting run within an uncrowded, highly aesthetic environment.

North Fork Salmon River

The 26 mile segment of the North Fork Salmon River under consideration flows in a southwesterly direction from the southern boundary of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area to its confluence with the Salmon River. The narrow gravel channel flows through rugged mountain scenery with polished rock and multiple pools. Water quality and clarity are extremely high. The entire segment lies within the Klamath National Forest. Development is minimal with access limited to Etna Road (the North Fork route of Forest Highway 93). Two small communities are located on the river, Sawyers Bar and Forks of Salmon. Scattered residences usually associated with mining claims occur immediately along the river. Vegetation is characterized by extensive coniferous and broadleaf evergreen forests.

The North Fork of the Salmon River has an outstandingly remarkable value in its anadromous fishery. It is a premium salmon and steelhead stream, providing significant nursery habitat for coho and chinook salmon as well as steelhead trout. The North Fork possesses fall runs of all three species and significant spring runs of chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

In addition to the outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery, the North Fork Salmon River also possesses recreational and historical values which are of notable significance.

The North Fork Salmon River provides a short whitewater run suitable for canoes, rafts or kayaks. This run offers the experienced whitewater boater a short challenging trip through a picturesque, historical setting.

Rated Class III in difficulty, the run begins in the isolated community of Sawyers Bar. This quaint 100 year-old town was destroyed by fire in 1960. The historic Sawyers Bar Catholic Church survived and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Continuing on, the boater will encounter tailings along the river banks, remnants of gold mining activity that once prospered in this area.

South Fork Salmon River

The 18 mile segment of the South Fork Salmon River under consideration flows in a westerly direction from the Cecilville Bridge to its confluence with the Salmon River. Its headwaters lie in the glaciated Trinity Alps.

Vegetation along the South Fork reflects a generally drier climate in comparison with the vegetation along other streams in the Salmon River System. The area is characterized by chaparrel, digger pine and extensive stands of deciduous hardwood and live oak. The large stands of brush and chaparrel, growing primarily on the south-facing slopes, are an important source of food for the Columbian blacktail deer populations which, in turn, support the local mountain lion population.

Development along the South Fork is minimal with populations concentrated at both ends of the study segment in the small communities of Cecilville and Forks of Salmon. The entire segment lies within the Klamath National Forest and is paralleled by Cecilville Road (Forest Highway 93), a secondary road.

Of scenic and geologic interest are the limestone (marble) bluffs located a short distance downstream from Cecilville, which offer a striking vista

from the river corridor.

The South Fork Salmon River possesses an outstandingly remarkable value in its anadromous fishery. It is a premium spawning and nursery habitat for fall and spring-run salmon and fall and spring-run steelhead.

The South Fork Salmon also possesses notable white-water boating values. The 6 1/2 mile stretch between Methodist Creek and Forks of Salmon is rated Class 3 1/2 in difficulty and offers the experienced river runner a chance to challenge the steep gradients and difficult rapids of this scenic run.

Wooley Creek

The eight mile segment under consideration flows in a southwesterly direction from the western boundary of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area to its confluence with the Salmon River. The entire segment lies within the Klamath National Forest and is roadless. Wooley Creek is a pristine primitive mountain stream, and approximately 5 miles of the study segment have been proposed as an addition to the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area.

Wooley Creek flows in a narrow rocky streambed through a heavily forested corridor ranging from canyon oak-woodland near the mouth to Douglas fir dominated mixed coniferous forest over the remainder of the stream segment. The creek is considered to be an important habitat for the endangered peregrine falcon (*falco peregrines anatum*) and a sensitive habitat for ospreys, goshawks and spotted owls. Wooley Creek is noted for its exceptional water quality and stream clarity.

Wooley Creek possesses an outstandingly remarkable value in its anadromous fishery. It is a premium waterway in terms of salmon and steelhead production and is particulary significant for its spring-run chinook salmon and spring-run steelhead fisheries.

Trinity River System

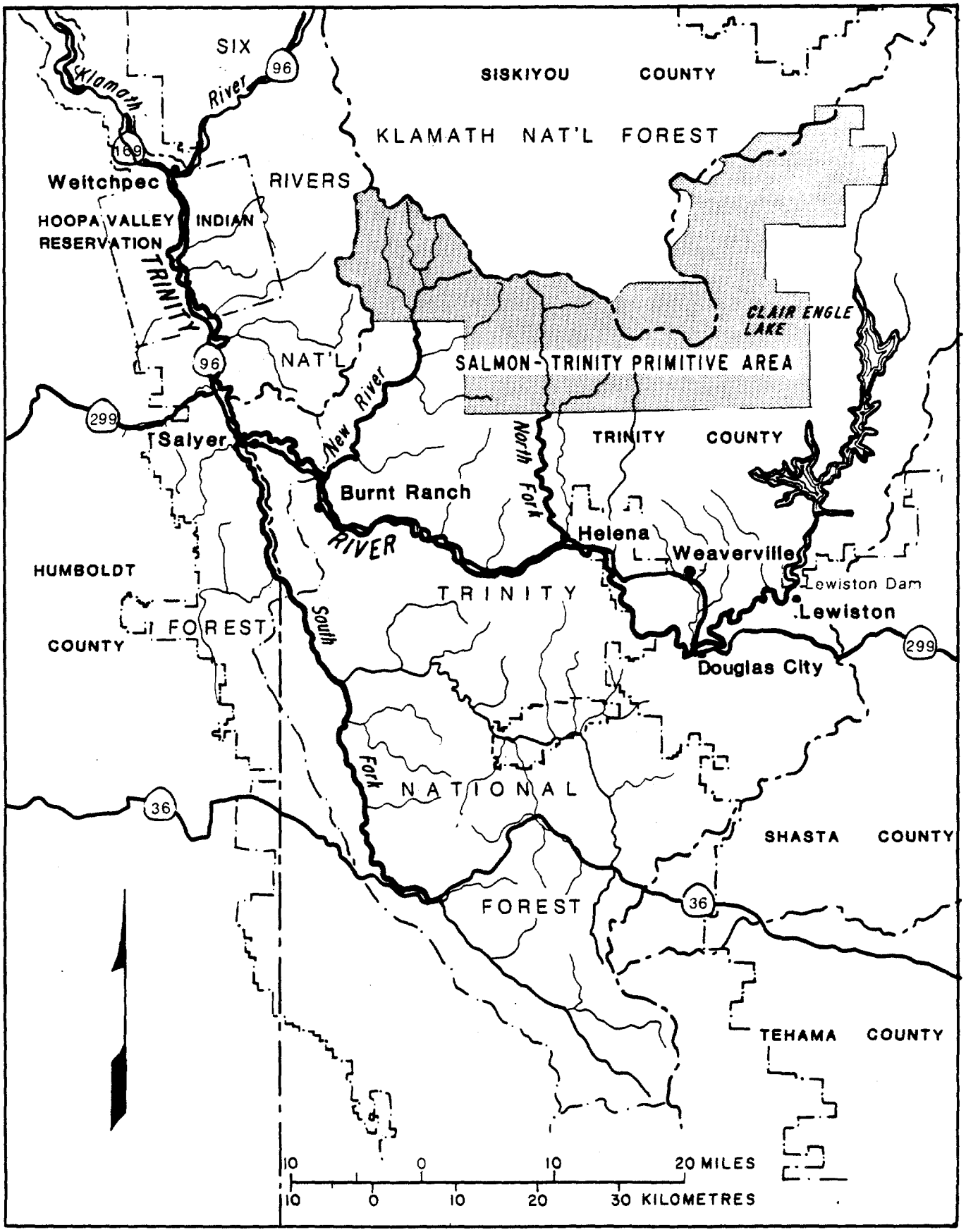
The Trinity River System is the largest tributary basin in the Klamath River System. The Trinity River Basin drains a watershed of approximately 3,000 square miles and has an annual average runoff of 4,255,000 acre-feet. The Basin is mountainous with a variation in elevation of 8,855 feet. Mixed coniferous forest is the dominant vegetative type within the Basin.

The Trinity River Basin is almost entirely confined to Trinity County, flowing through portions of Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. The major highways in the Basin are State Routes 96 and 299. Route 96 parallels the main stem of the Trinity River from Weitchpec south to its junction with Route 299. At this point, Route 299 follows the Trinity River east to the vicinity of Douglas City.

The Trinity River System possesses an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. Almost one-half of the salmon entering the Klamath River subsequently enter the Trinity River System to spawn (the Klamath-Trinity River System's production of coho salmon is ranked first in the State and the production of chinook salmon is ranked second).

The Trinity River System also possesses notable wildlife, scenic, and

TRINITY RIVER SYSTEM



recreation values. Notable wildlife in the Trinity River Basin includes four species of animals which are protected by State or federal regulations. The wolverine (Galo luscus) and a land mollusk (Haplotrema voyanum) have been classified as rare by the State. The bald eagle (Haliacctus leucocephalus) and the peregrine falcon (falco peregrines anatum) have been classified as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The California northern terrestrial snail (Monadenia setosa) is a candidate for future classification as an endangered species.

The Trinity River Basin, heavily forested and dominated by steep, rugged mountains and narrow valleys, provides very impressive and attractive scenery. The clear, cool flowing action of each river included in the Trinity River System adds to the scenic enjoyment of the area.

The natural resources of the Trinity River Basin provide a variety of recreation activities including fishing, boating, swimming, camping, backpacking, and hunting. Eighty percent (2,372 square miles) of the Trinity River Basin is public land generally open for recreation use.

The Trinity River System includes the Trinity River, the North Fork of the Trinity River, the South Fork of the Trinity River, and the New River. A more detailed description of each of these river segments follows.

Trinity River

The segment of the Trinity River under study flows a distance of 111 miles in a generally northwesterly direction from 100 yards below Lewiston Dam to its confluence with the Klamath River at Weitchpec. The Trinity River corridor is, in general, composed of steep-sided canyons. The

mountainous terrain of the region is covered by mixed coniferous forest. The Trinity River flows through portions of the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests.

The Trinity River flows a distance of approximately 14 miles through the Hoopa Indian Reservation, located just south of Weitchpec. The Hoopa Indians have lived in this area for thousands of years. Salmon harvested from the Trinity River have been and continue to be a mainstay in their diet. Both the salmon and the river itself play an important role in the ceremonies and religious life of the Hoopa people. The Trinity River area contains numerous prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic sites, including the high concentration of prehistoric archeological sites in Hoopa Valley, an army post (a relatively rare historic feature), and religious and ceremonial sites of major significance for the Hupa Indians.

The Trinity River from its confluence with the North Fork to its confluence with the Klamath River possesses an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. It is a premium waterway for chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout. It possesses not only fall runs for these three species, but also possesses spring runs of chinook salmon and spring and winter runs of steelhead. American shad also contribute to the anadromous fishery value of the river. The Trinity River from Lewiston Dam to the confluence with the North Fork has suffered a reduction in anadromous fish runs due to diversion of water from Lewiston Dam to the Sacramento River, coupled with erosion problems associated with poor watershed management practices. Sediments which were formerly flushed downstream by high runoff during the spring months are now accumulating, which has resulted in a reduction in available spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish. This section of river has historically been one of

the most productive spawning areas on the Trinity River; and with rehabilitation work and a sufficient increase in flow releases from Lewiston Dam, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expects that pre-project fish populations would be restored. This segment of the Trinity River from Lewiston Dam to the confluence with the North Fork is therefore also found to possess outstandingly remarkable fishery values, since it possesses potentially high or very high quality anadromous fish habitat.

The Trinity River also possesses notable recreation values. The river provides a major source of long, uninterrupted travel for river touring activities such as canoeing, kayaking, and rafting. There are over 100 river miles available for touring with a range in difficulty from Class 1 to Class 3 1/2. The often scenic setting of lands adjacent to the Trinity River provides many sites suitable for overnight or extended trips by river touring enthusiasts.

North Fork Trinity River

The segment of the North Fork of the Trinity River under study flows a distance of 15 miles in a generally southerly direction from the boundary of the Salmon-Trinity Primitive Area (northern boundary of Section 6, Township 35 North, Range 11 West) to its confluence with the Trinity River at Helena. The North Fork has a drainage of 151 square miles with an average annual discharge of 318,000 acre-feet. Water quality in the North Fork is excellent. The river flows through a narrow, steep gorge with a dense forest composed of mixed conifers covering the mountainous terrain. Wildlife found near the North Fork includes water shrew, beaver, river otter, mink, bear, deer, marten and kingfishers. The North Fork is located within the boundaries of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Almost the entire segment is included within a proposed wilderness

area now being considered by Congress.

The North Fork of the Trinity River possesses an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. The river is a premium waterway for chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout. The North Fork has fall runs for all three species, it possesses the largest spring-run of steelhead in the Trinity River System, and it also possesses a spring-run of chinook salmon.

South Fork Trinity River

The segment of the South Fork of the Trinity River under study flows a distance of 56 miles in a generally northwesterly direction from Forest Glen (Section 18, Township 1 South, Range 8 East) to its confluence with the Trinity River near Salyer. The South Fork of the Trinity River flows through Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The upper reaches of the river are characterized by a narrow streambed with a dense forest cover of Douglas fir, incense cedar and pine. Natural landslides and streambank erosion are common features of the broad floodplain in the Hyampom Valley. Below Hyampom Valley to its confluence with the Trinity River, the South Fork's river corridor is characterized by steep V-shaped canyons with a moderate gradient and a considerable amount of boulders and bedrock. Historical resources along the river have not been comprehensively surveyed but potentially significant sites do exist.

The South Fork of the Trinity has provided spawning habitat for chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout and has historically been an extremely important part of the Trinity River System's anadromous fishery. The South Fork used to be one of the most significant streams in California for spring-run chinook salmon and still possesses spring runs of both chinook salmon and steelhead. The 1964 flood and previous poor watershed

management practices led to the deterioration of much of the spawning habitat; however, the South Fork is the longest tributary of the Trinity, it has no dams its entire length, and its potential for restoration to a very productive fishery through natural sediment flushing and good watershed management is very high. Thus, the South Fork of the Trinity is found to possess potentially high or very high quality anadromous fish habitat and therefore to possess outstandingly remarkable fishery values.

The South Fork of the Trinity also possesses notable wildlife values. The South Fork provides habitat for the bald eagle (Haliacctus eucocephalus), a federally designated endangered species. Other wildlife found near the South Fork includes water shrew, beaver, river otter, mink, bear, deer, marten and kingfishers.

New River

The segment of the New River under study flows a distance of 21 miles in a generally southwesterly direction from the boundary of the Salmon-Trinity Primitive Area (northern boundary of Section 2, Township 7 North, Range 7 East) to its confluence with the Trinity River near Burnt Ranch. The New River flows through a narrow, deep gorge in mountainous terrain with peaks up to an elevation of 7,500 feet. Scenic views of the New River exhibit the natural beauty found throughout the area. The confluence of the New River with the Trinity River is an especially wild and natural scene when viewed from a vista on Highway 299. The water quality of the New River is excellent.

The New River is located within the boundaries of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Douglas fir is the dominant species of forest vegetation.

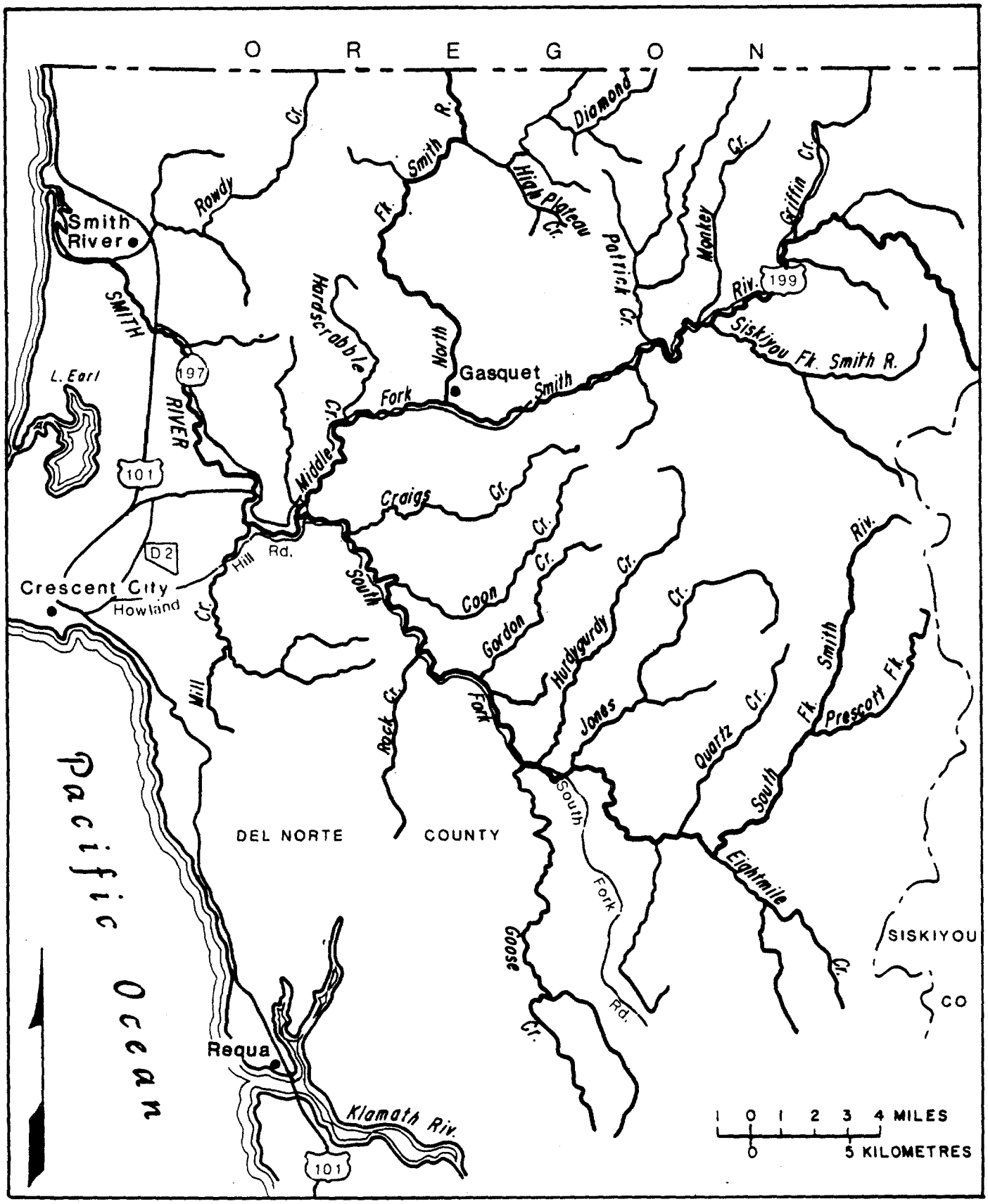
The Rockcress plant (Arabis modesta) is a sensitive species found near the river. Wildlife found near the New River includes shrew, beaver, river otter, mink, deer, marten and kingfishers. Numerous historic sites of 19th and early 20th century mining and homesteading are located near the river. Sites of former Indian villages are also present.

The New River possesses an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. The river is a premium waterway for chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout. The chinook spawning gravels are concentrated near the town of Denny. Steelhead trout spawning gravels are abundant throughout the New River drainage. The New River has fall runs of coho salmon, chinook salmon, and steelhead and has the second largest spring-run of steelhead in the Trinity River System. It also possesses a spring-run of chinook salmon.

Smith River System

The Smith River System includes 5 forks and over 3,100 miles of mapped tributaries. It drains 610 square miles in northwest California and 115 square miles in southern Oregon. The Smith River drainage receives the highest rainfall of the California coastal streams, an annual average of over 90 inches over most of the basin. The basin supports a complex mosaic of plant communities high in diversity and rich in California endemics and relics with the prevailing climax being mixed evergreen forest. The Smith River Basin contains one of the world's greatest diversities of conifer populations and is populated with at least 27 very rare, threatened, sensitive, or endangered plant species. Wolverines, (galo luscus) classified as rare in California by the Department of Fish and Game, have been observed in the Smith River Basin, primarily in

SMITH RIVER SYSTEM



the South Fork watershed. The scenic values found throughout this relatively undeveloped basin are also notable; and although the remote location of the Smith River System limits recreation use, significant opportunities for high quality recreation experiences exist.

The Smith River System has an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. It is noted for its large-sized salmon and steelhead, and for its exceptional clarity, high water quality, and ability to clear very rapidly after periods of heavy rain. It is ranked third among California coastal streams for anadromous fishery production. Not only is it known for its chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead; but it is also an extremely important sea-run cutthroat trout stream and possesses American shad and green sturgeon habitat. A small number of spring-run chinook salmon and steelhead are also found in the Smith River Basin. In addition to its fishery values, the North Fork of the Smith River also has outstandingly remarkable whitewater boating values. A description of these values and notable values on the main stem and other tributaries follows.

Lower Smith River

The Lower Smith River flows generally west and north from the junction of the South and Middle Forks and reaches the Pacific Ocean four miles below the Oregon boundary. It is 16 miles long and is characterized by a broad channel of clear, fast water. It flows through the deep redwood groves of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, between forested homesites and then breaks into an alluvial plain and traverses coastal sloughs and marshlands before emptying into the Pacific Ocean. It is paralleled for much of its length by Highway 197.

The Lower Smith River is an essential part of the Smith River System's outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery for steelhead, salmon and sea-run cut-throat trout. It provides anadromous fish habitat as well as being the avenue of migration for the fishery.

The Lower Smith River also possesses notable scenic, recreation, wildlife, and historic/archeological values. The Lower Smith River adjacent to the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park and the segment between the U.S. Highway 101 crossing and the Pacific Ocean are especially noted for their scenic values. The stretch of river from the junction of the South Fork to the U.S. Highway 101 crossing provides a good Class 1 1/2 rafting and canoeing run during optimum flows. It can be floated during spring runoff and during the summer months. The estuary has been singled out as being an excellent wildlife resource. Also, the only known osprey nesting site within the basin occurs along the Lower Smith River in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. A major prehistoric and ethnographic religious and residential center of the Tolowa Indians has been located at the mouth of the Smith River. Also situated along the Smith River is a unique multi-component site representing a prehistoric habitation site with possible great antiquities, an ethnographic habitation site, and an early mining town.

North Fork Smith River

The North Fork of the Smith River flows down from the mountains of southern Oregon and merges with the Middle Fork at Gasquet. The segment within California is 13 miles long and is entirely within the Six Rivers National Forest. The vegetation is dominated by open shrub and forest communities. Jeffrey and knobcone pine are common and abundant. The

largest concentrations of natural chaparral in the basin are in this drainage, as are some of the most extensive stands of pine. Although only one endangered plant species is mapped in the area (Eriogonum pendulum), the vast amount of serpentine and other ultrabasic substrate provide the edaphic conditions required for several rare and endangered plants. Other sensitive plant species known to be along the North Fork include Darlingtonia californica, Caustillesa elata, and Lilium vollmeri. The bald eagle (Haliacctus leucocephalus) and peregrine falcon (falco peregrines anatum), are both endangered species, known to frequent the river corridor. With the exception of one dirt road crossing it near the Oregon border, and a few homes adjacent to the mouth, the North Fork is free of roads and development. Water quality is exceptionally good.

The North Fork of the Smith River is an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery resource. It contributes valuable habitat for salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout. The North Fork is also an outstandingly remarkable whitewater boating stream. It draws experienced boaters from throughout the western United States since it offers a rare chance to boat 13 miles of exciting water in a roadless setting. The run offers dozens of rapids, many of which are very long and of uniform difficulty. It also offers steeper more powerful drops in narrow-walled gorges.

The North Fork also has notable scenic values as it flows through one of the most scenic, precipitous canyons in California.

Middle Fork Smith River

The Middle Fork of the Smith River drains the entire northeastern quarter of the Smith River Basin. It joins the North Fork at Gasquet and continues

to flow west and south to its junction with the South Fork. The Middle Fork Basin ranges from an elevation of over 6,300 feet to less than 150 feet above sea level in a straight line distance of less than 24 miles. The Middle Fork canyon is consistently steep with well over half the canyon slopes exceeding 50% and many large areas over 70%. Vegetation in the canyon varies from white fir-dominated forest at the upper reaches through expanses of lodgepole and knobcone pine, brush and shrubs, mixed conifers, and Douglas fir. Sensitive plant species known to be within the river corridor include Lilium bolanderi, Lilium vollmeri, Haplopapous rocemosus, Darlingtonia californica, and Cypripodium californicum. The Middle Fork is entirely within the Six Rivers National Forest and is paralleled for most of its length by Highway 199. The Middle Fork serves as a takeoff point for a number of hiking trails in the basin.

The Middle Fork has outstandingly remarkable steelhead, salmon, and sea-run cutthroat trout fishery values. It offers good to excellent spawning and rearing habitat as well as providing a conduit between its tributaries and the ocean.

The Middle Fork also possesses significant scenic and recreation values. The segment east of Highway 199 above Griffin Creek contains extensive scenic areas visible from many points in the drainage, and the Middle Fork along Highway 199 offers a continuous string of scenic vistas to travelers along that well-traveled route. The whitewater boating values are also notable, although its distance from major population centers curtails use. The 7.9 mile run from Patrick Creek Campground to Gasquet Ranger Station offers a technically very challenging Class 4 run, and the 6.1 mile run from Gasquet to Oregon Hole offers an especially enjoyable,

extremely scenic Class 2-3 run. The Oregon Hole Gorge below the take-out point is an extreme whitewater boating challange. It is unrunable at moderate flows and Class 4-5 at lower flows.

South Fork Smith River

The South Fork of the Smith River is the largest single component of the Smith River System. It drains about 300 square miles and merges with the Middle Fork to form the main stem. At the top of the drainage, white fir and Douglas fir forest merges with mixed evergreens and areas of chaparral. Downstream the Douglas fir forests have been substantially cut and are now vegetated in brush and small hardwoods on the south and west facing slopes, with partial conifer regeneration taking place on the north facing slopes. The South Fork is entirely within the Six Rivers National Forest and is paralleled by paved forest road for about half of its length.

The South Fork has an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. It provides premium salmon and steelhead habitat and also contributes sea-run cutthroat trout habitat.

The South Fork also possesses a variety of notable scenic, botanic, and recreation values. The South Fork drainage is noted for its scenic values, especially above Blackhawk Bar. The Siskiyou Crest at the headwaters of the South Fork is renowned for its scenic granite outcrops and precipices with steep topography, thick and varied conifer forests, cascading tributaries, and undisturbed vistas. The South Fork drainage also contains one of the most diverse and scientifically valuable populations of conifer species in North America. Almost all of the

vegetative patterns which exist in the Smith River Basin are present in the South Fork canyon. Sensitive plant species known to be on the South Fork include Erigeron delicatus, Cypripedium californicum, and Darlingtonia californica. The bald eagle (Haliacctus leucocephalus) and peregrine falcon (falco peregrines anatum), both endangered species, are known to frequent the South Fork. The white water boating values are also notable, although use is limited due to distance from major population centers. There is a 12.5 mile Class 3 run, on the South Fork which is excellent for rafting.

Other Tributaries of the Smith River

The following tributaries of the Smith River have been identified as being outstandingly remarkable because they possess potentially high or very high quality anadromous fish habitat. In addition to their outstandingly remarkable fishery values, those tributaries with an asterisk (*) also have especially notable scenic values.

Lower Smith River
Rowdy Creek
Dominie Creek
Savoy Creek
Little Mill Creek
Mill Creek
Lower West Branch of Mill Creek
East Fork of Mill Creek
Bummer Lake Creek

Middle Fork Smith River
*Myrtle Creek
*Hardscrabble Creek
*Kelly Creek
Patrick Creek
Shelly Creek
East Fork Patrick Creek
West Fork Patrick Creek
*Monkey Creek
Siskiyou Fork Smith River
South Siskiyou Fork Smith River
Packsaddle Creek
Griffin Creek
Knopki Creek

North Fork Smith River
*Still Creek
*Diamond Creek
*High Plateau Creek
*Bear Creek
*North Fork Diamond Creek

South Fork Smith River
Craigs Creek
*Coon Creek
Rock Creek
*Gordon Creek
*Canthook Creek
*Goose Creek
East Fork of Goose Creek
Hurdygurdy Creek
Jones Creek
Muzzleloader Creek
Buck Creek
Quartz Creek
*Eight Mile Creek
*Williams Creek
*Prescott Fork Smith River

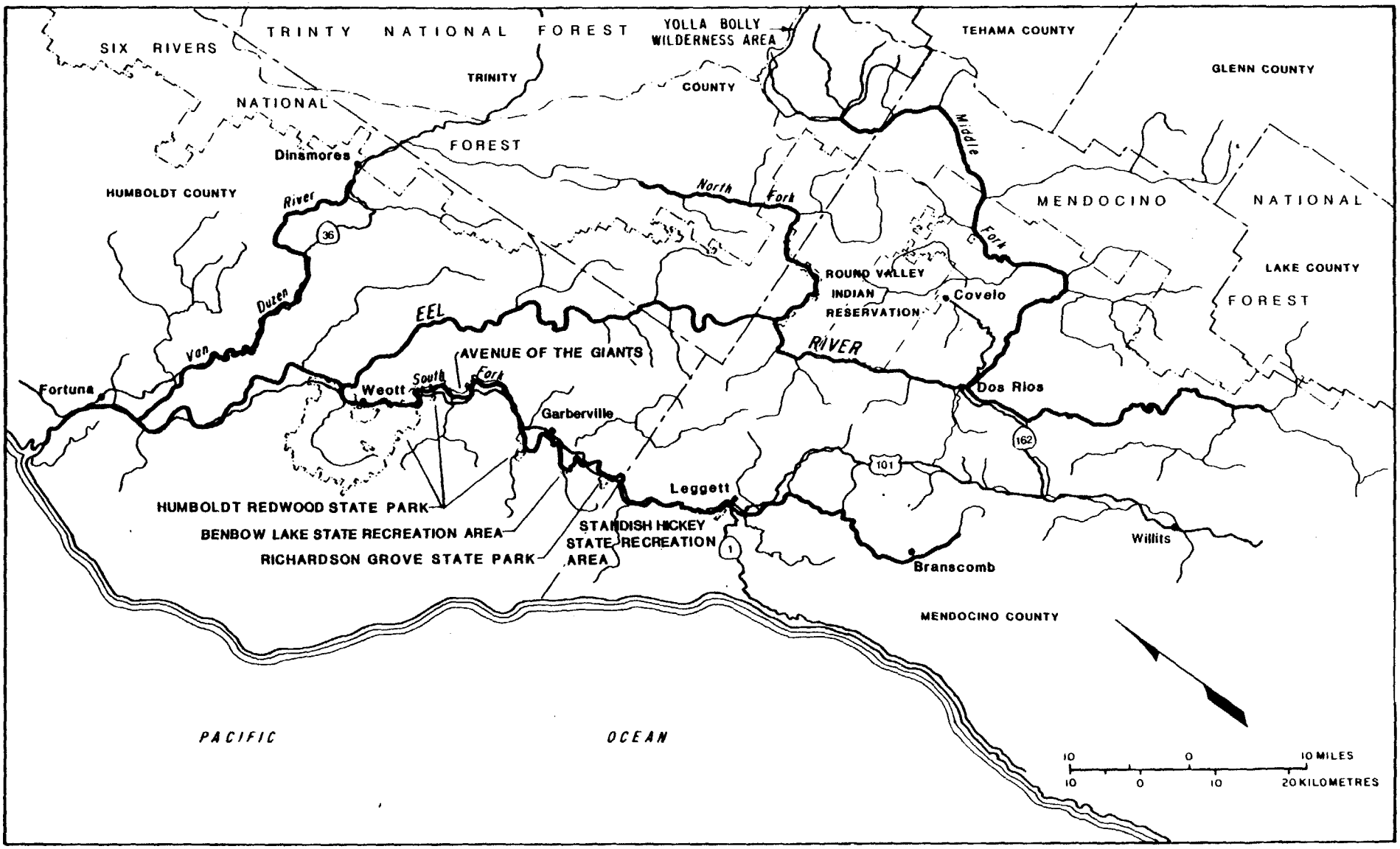
The remainder of the Smith River tributaries, though they have a critical impact on the fishery, do not alone possess outstandingly remarkable values. Therefore, they have been found to be ineligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Eel River System

The Eel River Basin is about 120 miles long and averages about 30 miles in width, draining approximately 3,600 square miles, It has the largest annual runoff of any stream system lying entirely within California's coastal mountain ranges, and it has an extremely high erosion rate. The Eel River has the highest recorded average annual suspended sediment yield per square mile of drainage area in the United States--15 times the ratio on the Mississippi River and 4 times that of the Colorado River. The greater part of the basin is moderately to heavily forested with redwood and other conifers, and the basin presently is relatively undeveloped and essentially rural in character.

The Eel River System has an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. In amount of habitat, it ranks first for coho salmon and second for chinook salmon and steelhead of all California coastal river systems. In amount of fish produced it ranks second for coho salmon and steelhead trout and third for chinook salmon. Chinook salmon and steelhead occur in most of the larger tributaries of the Eel, while coho salmon are generally confined to the South Fork Eel and Van Duzen Rivers. A description of the values of each segment of the Eel System under consideration follows.

EEL RIVER SYSTEM



Eel River

The main stem of the Eel River from Van Arsdale Reservoir to the mouth is 157 miles in length. It flows in a northwesterly direction almost parallel to the Pacific Coast and enters the Pacific Ocean some 280 miles north of San Francisco, and about 12 miles southwest of Eureka. The Eel River, except for its last 50 miles, is entrenched in deep canyons and descends rapidly from the higher elevations. Near its delta it flows in a gently sloping valley. It is paralleled by the Northwestern Pacific Railroad for most of its length and a major freeway, U.S 101, from the junction of the South Fork to near its mouth. It is bordered by the Round Valley Indian Reservation for about 15 miles (about 1 mile is in Indian fee ownership).

The Eel River is an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. It is a premium fishery for coho salmon, chinook salmon, and steelhead and is also rated as being an important fishery for American Shad. The main Eel is especially important for providing the migration route to the Middle Fork of the Eel for the largest spring-run of steelhead in California.

The Eel River also possesses notable scenic, recreational and wildlife values. The Eel River below the confluence with the South Fork offers scenic recreation settings as it flows adjacent to the Avenue of the Giants, a popular sightseeing route within the Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The Eel River also possesses notable river touring values. It can provide an uninterrupted week's vacation on moving water without long flat stretches and portages around dams. It also offers several enjoyable one-day runs, ranging from Class 1 1/2 to Class 3, and offering opportunities for a

wide range of paddlecraft including canoes, kayaks, and private and commercial rafts. The Eel River also possesses important wildlife values. The Eel River estuary and adjacent lands are especially noted to be excellent wildlife habitat, and bald eagles (Haliacctus leucocephalus), an endangered species, winter along the Eel River.

North Fork Eel River

The North Fork Eel River is 34 miles long and flows in a southerly direction around Long Ridge before winding west to meet the Main Eel. The North Fork drains a basin of over 250 square miles of rugged, primitive country. It flows through rock-faced canyons and mountainous terrain covered with oak, chapparel and grasses. The lower portion of the North Fork offers some spectacular cataracts, and there is an especially scenic gorge at Split Rock near the Mina Road crossing. This lightly traveled road-crossing is the only road access to the North Fork. Seven miles of the North Fork are on Bureau of Land Management lands, 11 miles are within the Six Rivers National Forest, and 15 miles border the Round Valley Indian Reservation (about 11 miles are in Indian fee ownership).

The North Fork Eel possesses an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery for winter-run steelhead. Spring-run steelhead have also been observed on the North Fork Eel in the past, however, they have not been observed there in recent years.

The North Fork of the Eel also has whitewater boating values. Access to the river for boating is extremely difficult. However, the 12 mile Class 4 run from Salts Creek to Hulls Creek offers a very scenic and exciting kayaking experience once on the river, and the 8.4 mile Class 3 run from Hulls Creek to Mina is a scenic wilderness run which is maneuverable by canoes and rafts as well as kayaks.

Middle Fork Eel River

The Middle Fork of the Eel River drains about 750 square miles as it flows through a deep, and for the most part, steepsided canyon. The upper canyon is very steep, averaging 140 feet per mile above the mouth of the Black Butte River, but it contains numerous large, clear, deep pools. Below Black Butte River to its confluence with the Eel near Dos Rios, the Middle Fork has a more gentle slope of about 21 feet per mile. Extensive stands of coniferous forest in mosaic with brushfields and grassy glades characterize the vegetation of the drainage. Of its 54 miles, 20 miles flow through the Mendocino National Forest, 12 miles are on Bureau of Land Management lands, and 1 mile borders the Round Valley Indian Reservation.

The fishery values of the Middle Fork are outstandingly remarkable. It is a premium salmon and steelhead stream. The Middle Fork provides habitat for winter and spring runs of chinook salmon and steelhead. The spring-run steelhead in the Middle Fork Eel River may make up as much as half of the native spring-run steelhead population in California. The U.S. Forest Service has designated this fish as sensitive, to be managed to prevent the species from becoming rare and endangered. The spring-run chinook salmon is a highly prized sport and commercial fish and is also in a precarious position on the Middle Fork Eel. Since spring-run chinook salmon are restricted to the lower reaches of the river, competition with spring-run steelhead is minimal.

The Middle Fork of the Eel is also an outstandingly remarkable whitewater boating stream. It provides a two-day 30.4 mile Class 2 or 3 run which is suitable for kayaks, canoes, and private and commercial rafts. The run

offers a wilderness experience floating through variable scenery including chapparal, pine, and rocky canyons.

In addition to its remarkable fishery and boating values, the Middle Fork also exhibits significant scenic, wildlife and archeologic values. Dramatic scenic values are offered as the river flows through a deep canyon with rocky bluffs and large boulders. The Middle Fork also provides important habitat for the bald eagle (Haliacctus leucocephalus) and peregrine falcon (falco peregrines anatum), both endangered species, as well as the river otter and spotted owl. Intensive archeological surveys along portions of the Middle Fork have resulted in the discovery of a significantly high density of prehistoric archeological sites.

South Fork Eel River

The South Fork of the Eel River flows in a northwesterly direction, generally paralleling the main stem before joining it near Weott. It drains an area of over 650 square miles and flows through a fairly deep canyon for about the first third of its 101-mile length. It is paralleled by a major freeway, U.S. 101, for most of its distance.

The South Fork of the Eel River is an outstandingly remarkable fishery. It is considered to be a premium chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead fishery. The upper half of the South Fork provides extensive gravel suitable for chinook salmon.

The South Fork also possesses notable scenic, recreation and botanic values. The forest cover is composed primarily of redwood, Douglas fir, tanoak, madrone, and California laurel. Various ground covers such as oxalis and wild strawberry are frequently interspersed with woodwardia

and sword ferns, and add to the esthetic quality of the forested areas. The South Fork passes through some of the most favored and famous state park areas in the State. The chief attraction of the parks are the stately virgin groves of California coast redwood trees. The South Fork also flows through the Elder Creek National Natural Landmark which contains giant old Douglas fir stands.

The South Fork also provides notable river touring opportunities. A relatively short boating season limits the use of the South Fork, but it does offer a variety of runs from Class 1 to Class 4, including overnight or extended trip opportunities for a variety of paddlecraft including rafts, kayaks, and canoes.

Van Duzen River

The Van Duzen River drains the northern reaches of the Eel River Basin (about 400 square miles) and flows out into the flat delta region of the Eel about 11 miles inland from the ocean. The upper stretches of the Van Duzen flow through a montane coniferous forest consisting principally of Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, white fir and incense cedar. Then it flows through moderately sloping oak-Douglas fir woodland which has extensive open grass areas. Finally, the Van Duzen flows through a narrow 30 mile band of redwood forest before emptying into the main Eel. Several uncommon plants occur in the basin, including Tracy's sanicle (*Sanicula tracyi*) which is listed as sensitive.

The Van Duzen anadromous fishery is an outstandingly remarkable value. It is a premium stream for coho and chinook salmon and steelhead. It provides habitat for native spring-run steelhead as well as winter-run steelhead. The numbers of spring-run steelhead has diminished in recent

years, and this sensitive race of steelhead is in danger of being eliminated from the Van Duzen River drainage.

The Van Duzen River also has significant scenic, recreational, and wildlife values. The scenic virgin and second-growth redwood groves attract recreationists to the Van Duzen River as do the opportunities for river touring. The Van Duzen River is not a high-use area for boating, but it does provide Class 1 - 2 1/2 overnight and day trip opportunities for rafters, kayakers, and canoeists, including a scenic redwood-lined run. The Van Duzen also possesses significant wildlife values. Bald eagles (*Haliacctus leucocephalus*) are known to winter in the area and there is at least one pair of peregrine falcons (*falco peregrines anatum*) residing in the area. Both are endangered species.

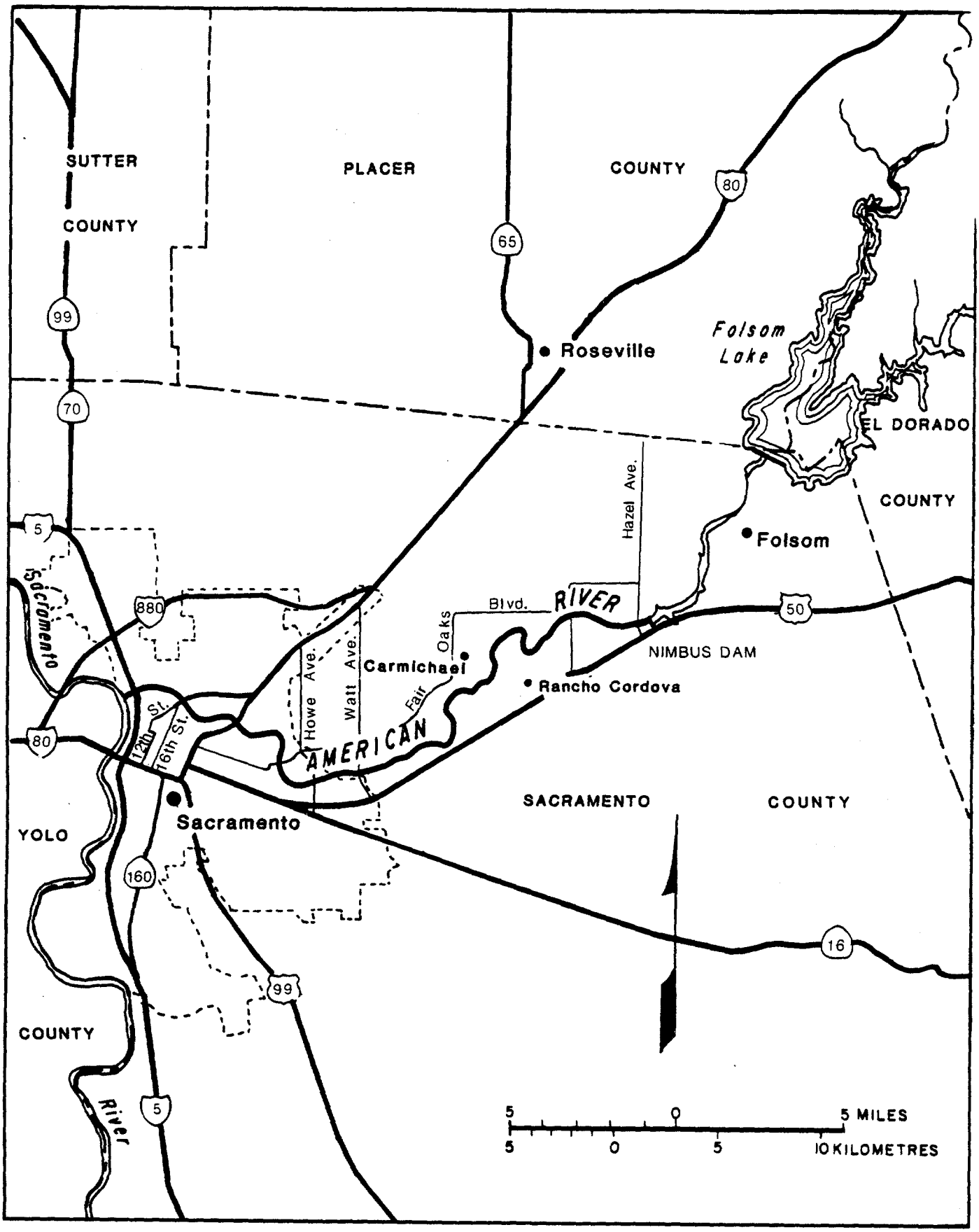
American River

The segment of the American River under study flows a distance of 23 miles in a generally westerly direction from Nimbus Dam to its confluence with the Sacramento River.

The American River is characterized by long tree-lined pools separated by gravel bottom riffles. The river is lined with lush riparian growth that includes walnut, oak, cottonwood, and sycamore trees. The overall gradient downstream from Nimbus Dam is approximately three feet per mile. The topography of the area is composed of plains sloping westward from the city of Folsom to the valley flatlands within Sacramento.

The American meanders through a 4,800 acre floodplain bordered by low bluffs in its upper course and levees along its lower course. It is

AMERICAN RIVER



crossed by three State highways, five local road arterials, a railroad, and several non-motorized recreational bridges. These provide ample public access to the river's heavily used resources.

Historic resources of the American River include 26 archeological sites of Nisenan Maidu Indians, the first to settle along the river. Two of these sites, Joe Mound and Nisenan Village, have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The American River possesses an outstandingly remarkable anadromous fishery. The river is a premium waterway for chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and American shad.

The American River is also an outstandingly remarkable recreation waterway. The entire 23 mile segment is located within the American River Parkway. The American River Parkway is one of the most unique stretches of public parkland in the country because of the close proximity of its natural and recreational features to the urban environment of Sacramento and adjoining communities. The Parkway greenbelt provides many recreation opportunities adjacent to the river including hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and picnicking. The river itself provides opportunities along its entire length for water dependent recreation activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing. Flowing through a major metropolitan area, the American River receives extensive recreation use. It is already one of the most popular areas for beginning canoeists and kayakers in the State, and its popularity continues to grow at a rapid rate. The river is used heavily by anglers seeking the aforementioned anadromous game fish. Use during the summer months by river rafters is extremely high. Floating and canoeing

conditions are excellent. Floattrips in kayaks, canoes, rafts and tire tubes commonly number several hundred in a single day during the summer. The river is also an important powerboat cruising and sailing resource.

The American River and its adjoining riparian lands also possess notable wildlife and botanic values considering its proximity to an urban setting. Students of all ages and members of the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club spend a considerable amount of time along the river observing wildlife. Approximately 135 species of birds have been observed along the river. At least 45 species are dependent on the riparian marsh and pond habitats created by the river. The Sacramento orcutt grass (*Orcuttia california viscida*), occurs near the American River. This plant has been designated as an endangered species by the California Fish and Game Commission.

SECTION III. CLASSIFICATION

Each of the river segments found eligible for inclusion in the National System has been classified as being either wild, scenic, or recreational. Table III contains a listing of these classifications.

Wild River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundment and generally inaccessible except by trail with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

TABLE III.

CLASSIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENTS
OF CALIFORNIA WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

KLAMATH RIVER	
The Klamath River from the FERC Project 2082 downstream boundary in Section 17 T47N R5W as shown on Exhibit K-7 sheet 1 dated May 25, 1962, to the river mouth at the Pacific Ocean	Recreational
SCOTT RIVER	
The Scott River from Shackleford Creek to McCarthy Creek	Recreational
From McCarthy Creek to Scott Bar	Scenic
From Scott Bar to confluence with Klamath River	Recreational
SALMON RIVER	
Main Stem	
The Salmon River from Forks of Salmon to Lewis Creek confluence	Recreational
From Lewis Creek confluence to Wooley Creek confluence	Scenic
From Wooley Creek confluence to confluence with Klamath River	Recreational
South Fork	
The South Fork of the Salmon River from Cecilville to St. Claire Creek confluence	Recreational
From St. Claire Creek confluence to Matthews Creek confluence	Scenic
From Matthews Creek confluence to Forks of Salmon	Recreational

North Fork

The North Fork of the Salmon River from Marble Mountain Wilderness boundary to Mule Bridge Campground in Section 35 T12N R11W and Section 12 T11N R11W	Wild
From Mule Bridge Campground to Forks of Salmon	Recreational

Wooley Creek

Wooley Creek from Marble Mountain Wilderness Area boundary to 1/2 mile upstream of confluence with Salmon River	Wild
Wooley Creek downstream most 1/2 mile above confluence with Salmon River	Recreational

TRINITY RIVER

Main Stem

The Trinity River from 100 yards below Lewiston Dam to Cedar Flat Creek confluence	Recreational
From Cedar Flat Creek confluence to Gray Falls	Scenic
From Gray Falls to the west boundary of Section 2 T8N R4E	Recreational
From West boundary of Section 2 T8N R4E to confluence with Klamath River at Weitchpec	Scenic

North Fork

The North Fork of the Trinity River from Trinity Alps Primitive Area boundary to north boundary Section 20 T34N R11W	Wild
From North boundary Section 20 T34N R11W to mouth	Recreational

South Fork

The South Fork Trinity River from Forest Glen to Hidden Valley Ranch	Wild
From Hidden Valley Ranch to Naufus Creek confluence in Section 8 T1N R7E	Scenic
From Naufus Creek confluence in Section 8 T1N R7E to Johnson Creek confluence near the boundary of Sections 13 and 14 T2N R6E	Wild
From Johnson Creek confluence near the boundary of Sections 13 and 14 T2N R6E to the boundary of Sections 25 and 36 T2N R6E	Scenic
From boundary of Sections 25 and 36 T2N R6E to footbridge near mouth of Underwood Creek in Section 17 T4N R6E Humboldt Base and Meridian	Recreational
From footbridge near mouth of Underwood Creek in Section 17 T4N R6E to Todd Ranch in Section 18 T5N R5E	Wild
From Todd Ranch in Section 18 T5N R5E to confluence with Main Trinity	Scenic

New River

New River from the Salmon Trinity Primitive Area boundary to the junction with the East Fork New River in Section 23 T7N R7E	Wild
From Junction with the East Fork New River in Section 23 T7N R7E to 100 yards below Panther Creek Campground in Section 18 T6N R7E	Recreational
From 100 yards below Panther Creek Campground in Section 18 T6N R7E to Dyer Creek confluence in Section 25 T26N R6E	Scenic
From Dyer Creek confluence in Section 25 T26N R6E to confluence with Trinity River	Wild

SMITH RIVER

Main Stem

Smith River from the confluence of the Middle and South Forks to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean	Recreational
Rowdy Creek from the California-Oregon boundary to confluence with the Smith River	Recreational
Mill Creek from the junction of the East Fork and West Branch to the confluence with Smith River	Recreational
West Branch Mill Creek, from tributary confluence in northern portion of Section 17 T15N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Klamath" topographic map to junction with East Fork Mill Creek	Recreational
East Fork Mill Creek from source in Section 36 T16N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Klamath" topographic map to junction with West Branch Mill Creek	Recreational
Bummer Lake Creek from source in Section 36 T16N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Klamath" topographic map to confluence with East Fork Mill Creek	Recreational
Dominie Creek from source in Section 7 T18N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Crescent City" topographic map to confluence with Rowdy Creek	Recreational
Savoy Creek from source in Section 5 T17N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Crescent City" topographic map to confluence with Rowdy Creek	Recreational
Little Mill Creek from source in Section 9 T17N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Crescent City" topographic map to confluence with Smith River	Recreational

Middle Fork

Middle Fork Smith River from its source about 3 miles south of Sanger Lake as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to the middle of Section 7 T17N R5E	Wild

Middle Fork (Continued)

Middle Fork Smith River from middle of Section 7 T17N R5E to middle of Section 6 T17N R5E	Scenic
Middle Fork Smith River from middle of Section 6 T17N R5E to one half mile upstream from confluence with Knopki Creek	Wild
Middle Fork Smith River from one half mile upstream from confluence with Knopki Creek to confluence with South Fork Smith River	Recreational
Myrtle Creek from its source in Section 9 T17N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Crescent City" topographic map to middle of Section 28 T17N R1E	Scenic
Myrtle Creek from middle of Section 28 T17N R1E to confluence with Middle Fork Smith River	Wild
Shelly Creek from its source in Section 1 T18N R3E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to confluence with Patrick Creek	Recreational
Kelly Creek from source in Section 32 T17N R3E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to confluence with Middle Fork Smith River	Wild
Packsaddle Creek from source about 0.8 miles southwest of Broken Rib Mountain as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to eastern boundary of Section 3 T17N R1E	Wild
Packsaddle Creek from eastern boundary of Section 3 T17N R4E to northern boundary of Section 3 T17N R4E	Scenic
Packsaddle Creek from northern boundary of Section 3 T17N R4E to confluence with Middle Fork of Smith River	Wild
East Fork Patrick Creek from source in Section 10 T18N R3E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to confluence with West Fork Patrick Creek	Wild

Middle Fork (Continued)

West Fork Patrick Creek from source in Section 18 T18N R3E as depicted on 1951 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to confluence with East Fork Patrick Creek	Recreational
Griffin Creek from source about 0.2 miles southwest of Hazel View Summit as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to confluence with Middle Fork Smith River	Recreational
Knopki Creek from source about 0.4 mile west of Sanger Peak as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to confluence with Middle Fork Smith River	Recreational
Monkey Creek from its source in the northeast quadrant of Section 12 T18N R3E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to the northern boundary of Section 26 T18N R3E	Wild
Monkey Creek from northern boundary of Section 26 T18N R3E to confluence with Middle Fork of Smith River	Scenic
Hardscrabble Creek from source in the northeast quadrant of Section 2 T17N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Crescent City" topographic map to southern boundary of Section 2 T17N R1E	Recreational
Hardscrabble Creek from southern boundary of Section 2 T17N R1E to confluence with Middle Fork of Smith River	Wild
Patrick Creek from junction of East and West Forks of Patrick Creek to confluence with Middle Fork Smith River	Recreational

North Fork

North Fork Smith River from California-Oregon boundary to confluence with an unnamed tributary in the northern quarter Section 5 T18N R2E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map	Wild
North Fork Smith River from confluence with unnamed tributary in northern quarter of Section 5 T18N R2E to the southern most intersection of eastern boundary Section 5 T18N R2E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map	Scenic

North Fork (Continued)

North Fork Smith River from southern most intersection of eastern boundary Section 5 T18N R2E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to confluence with Stony Creek	Wild
North Fork Smith River from confluence with Stony Creek to confluence with Middle Fork of Smith River	Recreational
Diamond Creek from California-Oregon state boundary to confluence with High Plateau Creek	Recreational
Diamond Creek from confluence with High Plateau Creek to confluence with North Fork Smith River	Wild
Bear Creek from source in Section 24 T18N R2E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to confluence with Diamond Creek	Wild
Still Creek from source in Section 11 T18N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Crescent City" topographic map to confluence with North Fork Smith River	Wild
North Fork Diamond Creek from California-Oregon state boundary to confluence with Diamond Creek	Recreational
High Plateau Creek from its source in Section 26 T18N R2E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to northern boundary Section 23 T18N R2E	Wild
High Plateau Creek from northern boundary Section 23 T18N R2E to confluence with Diamond Creek	Recreational

Siskiyou Fork

Siskiyou Fork of Smith River from source about 0.7 miles southeast of Broken Rib Mountain as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to confluence with South Siskiyou Fork of Smith River	Wild
Siskiyou Fork of Smith River from confluence with South Siskiyou Fork of Smith River to confluence with Middle Fork of Smith River	Recreational

Siskiyou Fork (Continued)

South Siskiyou Fork of Smith River from source about 0.6 miles southwest of Buck Lake as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to confluence with Siskiyou Fork of Smith River	Wild

South Fork

South Fork Smith River from source about 0.5 miles southwest of Bear Mountain as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to Blackhawk Bar	Wild
South Fork Smith River from Blackhawk Bar to confluence with Middle Fork Smith River	Recreational
Williams Creek from source in Section 31 T14N R4E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Ship Mountain" topographic map to confluence with Eight Mile Creek	Wild
Eight Mile Creek from source in Section 29 T14N R4E as depicted on 1955 USGS 15' "Dillon Mtn." topographic map to confluence with South Fork Smith River	Wild
Prescott Fork of Smith River from source about 0.5 miles southeast of Island Lake as depicted on 1955 USGS 15' "Dillon Mt." topographic map to confluence with South Fork Smith River	Wild
Quartz Creek from its source in Section 31 T16N R4E as depicted on 1952 15' USGS "Ship Mountain" topographic map to confluence with South Fork Smith River	Recreational
Jones Creek from its source in Section 36 T16N R3E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Ship Mountain" topographic map to middle of Section 5 T15N R3E	Wild
Jones Creek from middle of Section 5 T15N R3E to confluence with South Fork of Smith River	Recreational
Hurdygurdy Creek from its source about 0.4 miles southwest of Bear Basin Butte as depicted on 1956 USGS 15' "Preston Peak" topographic map to the confluence with the South Fork Smith River	Recreational

South Fork (Continued)

Gordon Creek from its source in Section 18 T16N R3E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to the confluence with the South Fork Smith River	Wild
Coon Creek from the junction of the two source tributaries in the southwest quadrant of Section 31 T17N R3E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to western boundary Section 14 T16N R2E	Recreational
Coon Creek from the western boundary Section 14 T16N R2E to confluence with South Fork Smith River	Wild
Craigs Creek from its source in Section 36 T17N R2E as depicted on 1951 USGS 15' "Gasquet" topographic map to confluence with South Fork Smith River	Scenic
Goose Creek from source in Section 13 T13N R2E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Ship Mountain" topographic map to confluence with South Fork Smith River	Recreational
East Fork Goose Creek from source in Section 18 T13N R3E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Ship Mountain" topographic map to confluence with Goose Creek	Recreational
Buck Creek from source at Cedar Camp Spring as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Ship Mountain" topographic map to confluence with South Fork Smith River	Wild
Muzzleloader Creek from source in Section 2 T15N R3E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Ship Mountain" topographic map to confluence with Jones Creek	Wild
Canthook Creek from source in Section 2 T15N R2E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Ship Mountain" topographic map to confluence with South Fork Smith River	Wild
Rock Creek from its source in Section 36 T15N R1E as depicted on 1952 USGS 15' "Klamath" topographic map to confluence with South Fork of Smith River	Recreational

EEL RIVER

Main Stem

Eel River from 100 yards below Van Arsdale Dam to confluence with Tomki Creek	Recreational
From confluence with Tomki Creek to middle of Section 22 T19N R12W	Scenic
From middle of Section 22 T19N R12W to boundary between Sections 7 and 8 T19N R12W	Recreational
From boundary between Sections 7 and 8 T19N R12W to confluence with Outlet Creek	Wild
From confluence with Outlet Creek to mouth at Pacific Ocean	Recreational

South Fork

South Fork of Eel River from the mouth of Section Four Creek near Branscomb	Recreational
From Horseshoe Bend to middle of Section 29 T23N R16W	Wild
From middle of Section 29 T23N R16W to confluence with main Eel near Weott	Recreational

Middle Fork

Middle Fork of the Eel River from the intersection of the river with the southern boundary of the Middle Eel-Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area to Eel River Ranger Station	Wild
From Eel River Ranger Station to Williams Creek	Recreational
From Williams Creek to southern boundary of the the northern quarter of Section 25 T22N R12W	Scenic
From southern boundary of the northern quarter of Section 25 T22N R12W to boundary between Sections 4 and 5 T21N R13W	Wild
From boundary between Sections 4 and 5 T21N R13W to confluence with main Eel at Dos Rios	Recreational

North Fork

North Fork of the Eel River from the Old Gilman Ranch to the middle of Section 8 T24N R13W	Wild
From the middle of Section 8 T24N R13W to boundary between Sections 12 and 13 T24N R14W	Recreational
From the boundary between Sections 12 and 13 T24N R14W to confluence with main Eel	Wild

VAN DUZEN RIVER

The Van Duzen River from Dinsmore Bridge to the powerline crossing above Little Larribee Creek	Scenic
From the powerline crossing above Little Larribee Creek to the confluence with Eel River	Recreational

LOWER AMERICAN RIVER

The Lower American River from Nimbus Dam to its junction with the Sacramento River	Recreational

SECTION IV. RESOURCES

Introduction

This section outlines the major resources used to determine the eligibility of the proposed river segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to classify, as wild, scenic, and recreational, those river segments found to be eligible.

Agency Consultation and Assistance From the Public

The following agencies were consulted to assist in the classification process and/or in identifying scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural and other similar values:

California Resources Agency

- Department of Boating and Waterways
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Water Resources
- State Historic Preservation Office

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Forest Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Geological Survey
- National Park Service

Environmental impact statement scoping meetings were held in:

San Francisco - August 13, 1980

Los Angeles - August 14, 1980

Eureka - August 15, 1980

Fresno - August 19, 1980

Additional meetings to receive comments from the public on the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the merits of the State's application were held in:

Redding	- October 21, 1980
Eureka	- October 23, 1980
Crescent City	- October 24, 1980
Sacramento	- October 27, 1980
Los Angeles	- October 31, 1980

Information received at these meetings and other information offered by the public relating to eligibility and classification was also utilized.

References, Videotapes, and Field Review

Information was gathered from US Geological Survey topographic maps, National Forest Service maps and aerial photography, and the publications listed in Appendix A. Recent color videotapes taken by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service from a helicopter at about 500-700 feet above rivers were also studied, and field reviews were conducted to gain additional information and insight.

APPENDIX A.
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