REPORT OF DAM AT CHITWOOD MILL ON HAXEL CREEK, A TRIBUTARY OF THORNTON CREEK.

Date of Survey: September 8, 1952
Time of Survey: 0900 – 1130
Survey Party: K.D. Waldron and Joe Cicerich
Mileage on Survey:
- Toledo (Junction of U.S. 20 and Main St.) 0.0
- Junction of U.S. 20 and Elk City road 8.5
- Junction of Thornton Cr. Road and U.S. 20 9.8
- Bridge across Thornton Cr. 10.4
- Chitwood Mill 11.6

SURVEY:

The mill site, log pond, dam, and adjacent territory were inspected by the survey party. Conversation with persons working at the mill indicated that the mill has been in operation for at least 8 to 10 years. The owner of the mill, Chet Minnie of Corvallis, Oregon, was not available for an interview.

Through the interview with the above mentioned mill personnel it was reported that the stream, Haxel Creek, at one time flowed directly into and out of the log pond shown on the accompanying sketch. Some years ago the mill owner was requested by the fish commission to construct a channel which would route a portion of the stream around the log pond. This was done and a dam or gate constructed so that a portion of the water would still enter the mill pond. The original dam has apparently washed out and has been replaced by a low earth and rock dam which has a height of only about one and one-half (1.5) feet between the top of the dam and the surface of the water just downstream from the dam. At present there is no water flowing over the top of the dam; however, if the water level was approximately six (6) inches higher water would flow over the dam. A small amount of water seeps through the dam and flows down to join the overflow from the log pond. The flow of water in Haxel Creek above the dam and log pond was estimated at 0.1 c.f.s. (measurements as follows: width 8', mean depth 2”, length 10', time 122 seconds). It was reported by mill personnel that the flow of water in Haxel Creek has increased in the past few weeks, and that eventually, as the rains increase, the water will come to fill the stream bed, and cover the dam to a considerable depth.

Below the dam and above the point at which the overflow from the log pond enters the stream bed there is a small log jam consisting of a number of partially burned logs piled over the stream bed. In addition there is a quantity of sawdust covering the stream bed in the area adjacent to the burner.

The overflow from the log pond falls about 4' at the point where it leaves the log pond.
CONCLUSIONS:

At present it would be impossible for fish to move upstream past the dam at the Chitwood Mill on Haxel creek. It is thought that the low water level in the stream contributes as much to the present blockage as does the presence of the dam.

It is recommended that a second survey of the dam be made after the water flow has increased somewhat.

Respectfully submitted

Kenneth D. Waldron, Aquatic Biologist
September 9, 1952
MEMORANDUM

To: L. D. Marriage
Subject: Thornton Creek

Date 9-4-52

Dear Dean: I hate to ask you, but could you or Ken run up to Thornton Creek and check on the Chitwood Mill dam at the forks? The creek comes in from the north 1-1/2 mile below Chitwood, and the dam is at the forks two miles up.

Would you (1) check the dam to see if a ladder or other gadgets are required to pass fish; (2) if a ladder is needed, inform the owner that one must be built—the Fish Commission will furnish plans; (3) send us a report with a description of the dam and situation.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Fred C. Cleaver

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