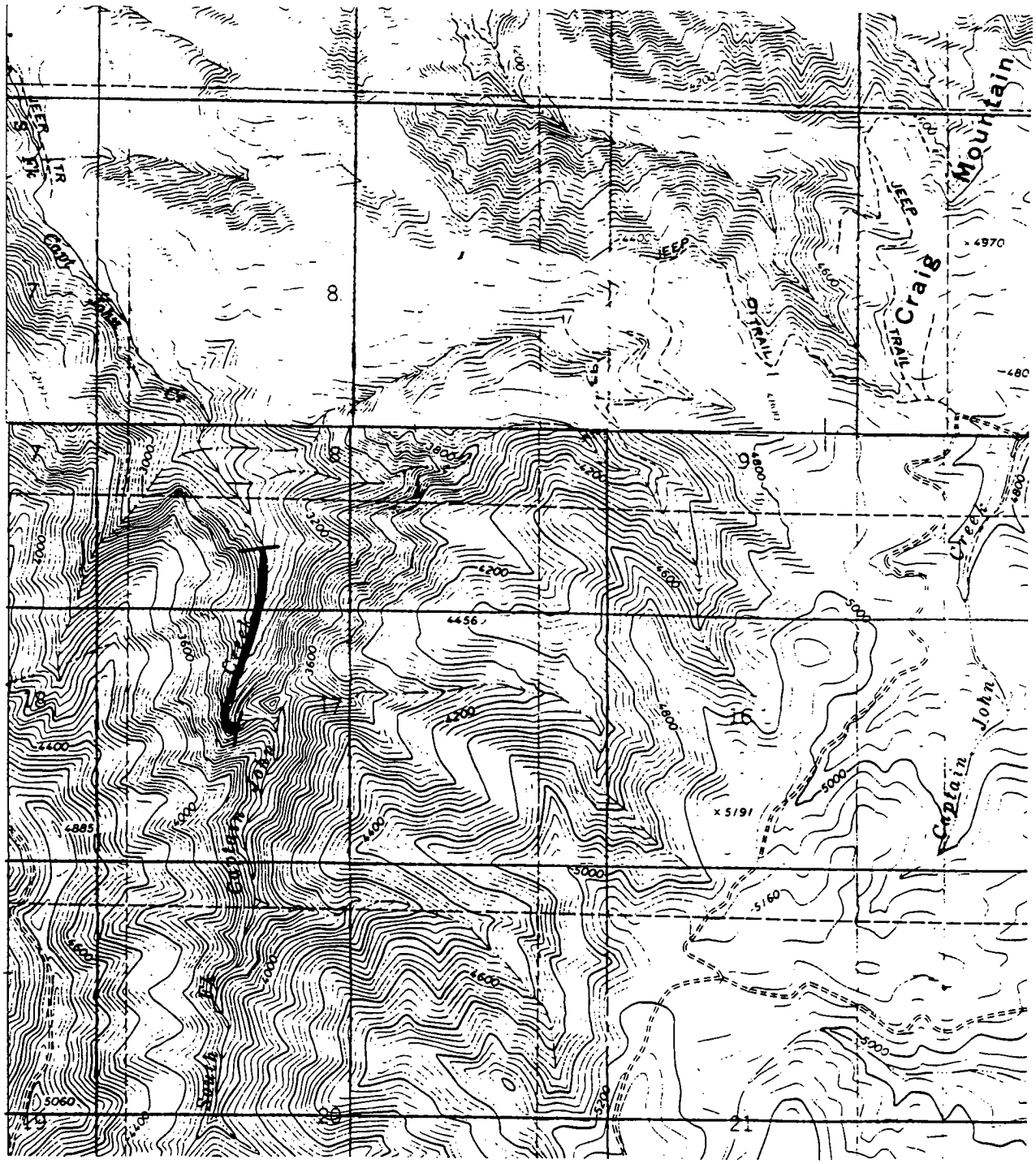
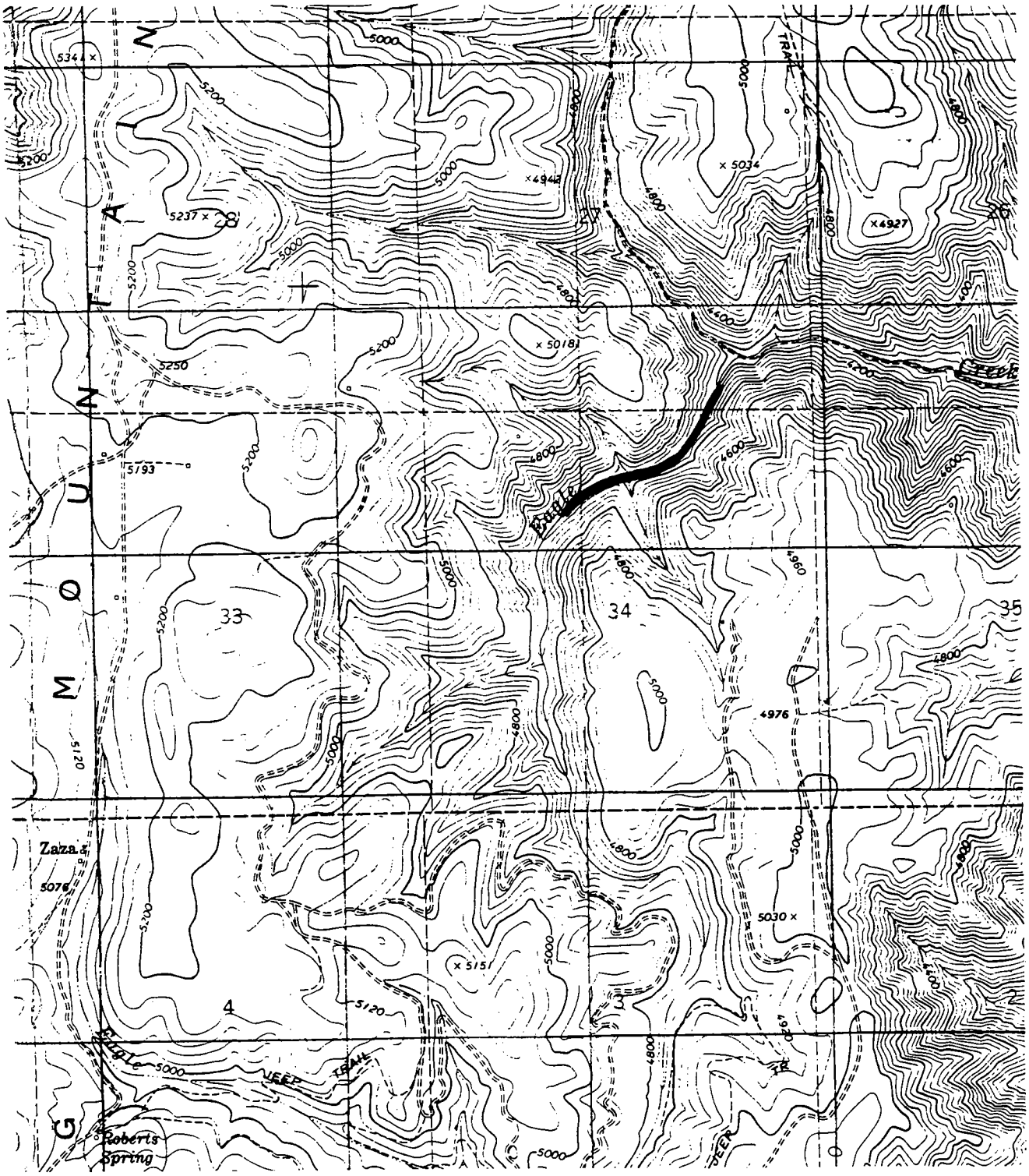
Location of Tailed Frogs on South Fork Captain John Creek



Location of Tailed Frogs on Eagle Creek



1995 Stream Surveys

7/14/95 Deer Creek

start- 1400 end-1600
clear, calm, 80's.

Robin Llewellyn, J.J.Teare, Cindy Hanson, Charlie Anderson, Hallie Henderson drove down to an old homestead, the Platt Ranch, located at lower Deer Creek. We went down with a father and son who know the area and could possibly give me a little information about the stream. It took us 5 hours to drive there from Black Pine Campground because of the many downed trees.

We went exploring on the creek above the homestead. Because we didn't do a complete survey today, we will do one tomorrow. The creek is a series of very large boulder cascades and waterfalls. We stopped at the first waterfall and looked into a mine shaft. It was so cold inside the shaft that you could see your breath. Water temp was probably close to 6-10 C. We did not find any amphibians.

7/15/95 Deer Creek

start-0900 end-1330

Started the survey where the trail crosses Deer Creek, just upstream from the homestead. Canopy coverage ranges from 0-30% slope. Stream vegetation includes Red Alder, Cottonwood. There is Ponderosa Pine along the canyon borders, but not near the stream. **RAPR** sitting on a large rock in the middle of a partly-shady boulder riffle. Little splashes from the riffle above, would occasionally hit the frog. I took two pictures.

1300- Came to an large rock cliff that we can't get past. The area bottlenecks into rock cliffs. This area has large boulders and large cobbles for substrate, not much sand, pebbles or small rocks. Water is moving very fast. It is a constant cascading boulder riffle. No glides and only a couple of pools. The creek branches a couple times into smaller creeks, 100-200 ft. long.

We did not find any other amphibians or reptiles. A **CRVI** was seen on the road where the road crosses the creek. A **BUBO** was seen on the road that night, approx. 1/2 mile south of the IDFG gate.

1430- Starting a survey down a forested tributary of Deer Creek. Good canopy coverage 60-90%, but there is no water running. Large Douglas Fir trees, quite a few are downed covering the creek. Ground cover- Ribes, monkshood, and thimbleberry. Even at the mouth of the tributary, there is no running water. We walked a few hundred feet upstream Deer Creek, Doug Fir and Ponderosa Pine along the upper slopes, but not influencing the stream. Stream vegetation includes- Mock-orange, Red Alder and a Salix spp. The area flattens out and becomes more sandy and pebbles. It looks as though downstream from the tributary is steep and rocky. Canopy coverage of Deer Creek- 20-30%.

7/16/95 Deer Creek

Drove out of the Platt Ranch to check the upper part of Deer Creek

1100-1300 Parked on a dirt road that parallels the creek. Potlatch used to own this area, but now belongs to the Nez Perce. Cows and people have really trashed this area. It is a second growth coniferous upland with an open and flat riparian area. We parked and walked downstream turning over rocks and visually looking. Canopy coverage- 0-20%. Water flows at a constant riffle with pools formed after a small cascade riffle. Lots of crayfish. Water is slightly cloudy with a thin silt covering the rocks. A lot more sediment than downstream. The banks are gravely with small beaches. Stream width- 8-10 ft. There is a well worn foot path paralleling the stream. We walked this until the stream ended at a cliff at least 50 ft. high. We were not able to see the bottom of the falls.

1300 Drove to the top of another tributary on the East side of Deer Creek. According to the topographic map, it is the first one below the large waterfall. The area has been nuked by cows and logging. Canopy Coverage was 0%. Vegetation in the draw included Bracken Fern, Ribes and Rosa spp.
There is no running water, and all of the trees have been cut from the draw. We walked only a couple hundred feet down because of the condition of the habitat. The chance of finding a Tailed frog in there would be virtually impossible. Also, the aerial photo shows the draw having an open canopy coverage. On 8/04 we did not find the mouth of this tributary There was no good sign indicating were it came in.

8/04/95 Deer Creek

start- 1200 end- 1500
clear, no breeze, 90's.
water temp was a constant 24° C, until we got about 200 yards away from the large waterfall and it changed to 22°C.

We started at the tributary we stopped at last trip. From the mouth of this tributary, we walked upstream about 200 yds. from the first waterfall. Overall, the creek is a fairly constant riffle with shallow steps (>1 ft.) and small glides (1-5 fet. in length).
Canopy coverage ranges from 10-40% .

Substrate- lg. cobble and small boulder substrate. Over 80% of the rocks around small riffle-cascades and shallow glides are covered with mosses and jelly-like eggs?, plants? growing in areas where water is rushing past. Because this growth covers the rocks, it reduces the feeding habitat for tadpoles. I think the high water temperature and high sunlight exposure enhances stream vegetation to grow prolificly.

We encountered a huge log jam that could act as a fish barrier. It almost looks like a downed bridge and other trees got caught on it during high water. The barrier has been there quite a few years because a sand/silt beach has formed on the other side, and there is a height difference from each side of the jam of about 10 ft.

We did not encounter any fish until we crossed the log barrier. After that most pools would have 2-3 fish (from what we could see). Most pools ranged from 1-4 ft. Not including the plunge pools. A couple of these were probably 6-7 ft. deep.

There were two rainbow trout in a large pool actively biting at a live wasp helplessly floating on the top of the water. The pool was a slow-moving eddy and each fish was located on each side

of it. The wasp circled twice, and each time the fish jumped for the wasp and missed. We could not believe that these fish could miss such a large and brightly colored insect. Then the wasp got caught near some rocks in a back current and a crayfish grabbed the wasp. Fish ranged in sizes from 4-7 inches.

From the start, this stream was FULL of crayfish. They seemed to increase once the stream leveled out at the tributary and more sandy, shallow areas are formed. It seemed like 4 out of 5 large flat rocks I turned over had 1 or two crayfish. Largest- 5 inches, Smallest- 1 inch.
This stream does not look like a tailed-frog stream. It is too open, water temp too high and moss covered rocks. I also wonder if fish predate upon tailed frogs.

7/28/95 Maloney Creek

partly cloudy, partly sunny; temp.- 80's

This small creek runs in a valley similar looking to Deer Creek In fact it is the valley just east of Deer Creek The topography is rolling grasslands with Ponderosa and Doug Fir on the north side of the draws. Width- 3-6 ft. wide. Canopy coverage varies from 0-70%. The creek goes from open, to brushy, to tree covered. The area is leased to a family who ranges cattle there in the winter time. The creek descends about 600 ft. in a 1/2 mile.

8/08/95 Maloney Creek

90% overcast, light wind, air temp. 60's
It rained all day yesterday, it will probably rain today

1112- Starting about 1/8 mile below where the road crosses the stream. Conifers on the upper banks, vine-maple, cottonwood, thimbleberry vegetation along stream banks. Stream width approx. 3 ft. Rocky, small boulder substrate. Small boulder riffles. Habitat looks good, but we are not finding anything. Water temp.- 13° C

Creek overstory varies from extremely brushy (thimbleberry) to conifer/maple/ Some areas are so brushy we had to walk around. Canopy coverage varies from 0-90%. Average depth of riffles around 3 inches.
1210- Water temperature- 13° C.
Not many large rocks for Idaho Giant Salamanders to hide under. Silt on the bottom of the rocks. A lot of downed mossy logs. The stream goes completely underground for over 200 yds. Just upstream from where the stream re-emerges

BUBO- 6 inches long in a small pool, female. Water temp. 14°C. She was sitting in a small shallow area of the stream. There was 100% canopy coverage.

CHBO- dead on the edge of the road. 744 paces from the fence.