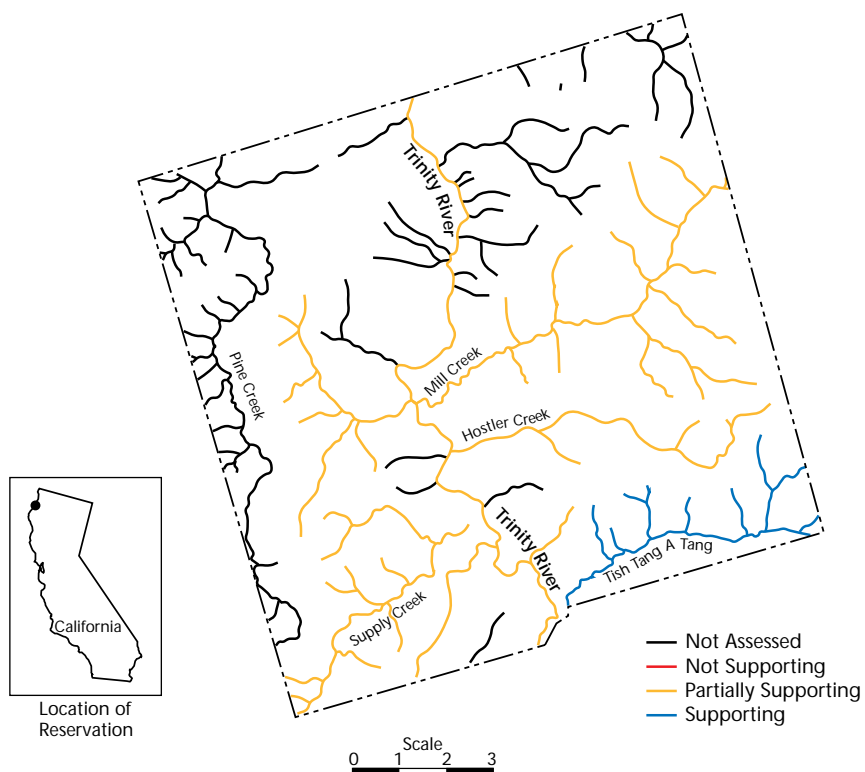


US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation



For a copy of the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation 1994 305(b) report, contact:

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## Surface Water Quality

The Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation covers almost 139 square miles in Humboldt County in northern California. The Reservation contains 133 miles of rivers and streams, including a section of the Trinity River, and 3,200 acres of wetlands. The Reservation does not contain any lakes.

Surface waters on the Reservation appear to be free of toxic organic chemicals, but poor forest management practices and mining operations, both on and off the Reservation, have caused significant siltation that has destroyed gravel spawning beds. Water diversions, including the damming of the Trinity River above the Reservation, have also stressed the fishery by lowering stream volume and flow velocity. Low flows raise water temperatures and reduce flushing of accumulated silt in the gravel beds. Upstream dams also stop gravel from moving downstream to replace excavated gravel. Elevated fecal coliform concentrations also impair drinking water use on the Reservation.

## Ground Water Quality

Ground water sampling revealed elevated concentrations of lead, cadmium, manganese, iron, and fecal coliforms in some wells. The Tribe is concerned about potential contamination of ground water from leaking underground storage tanks, septic system leachfields, and abandoned hazardous waste sites with documented soil contamination. These sites contain dioxins, herbicides, nitrates, PCBs, metals, and other toxic organic chemicals. The Tribe's environmental consultants are designing a ground water sampling program to monitor potential threats to ground water.

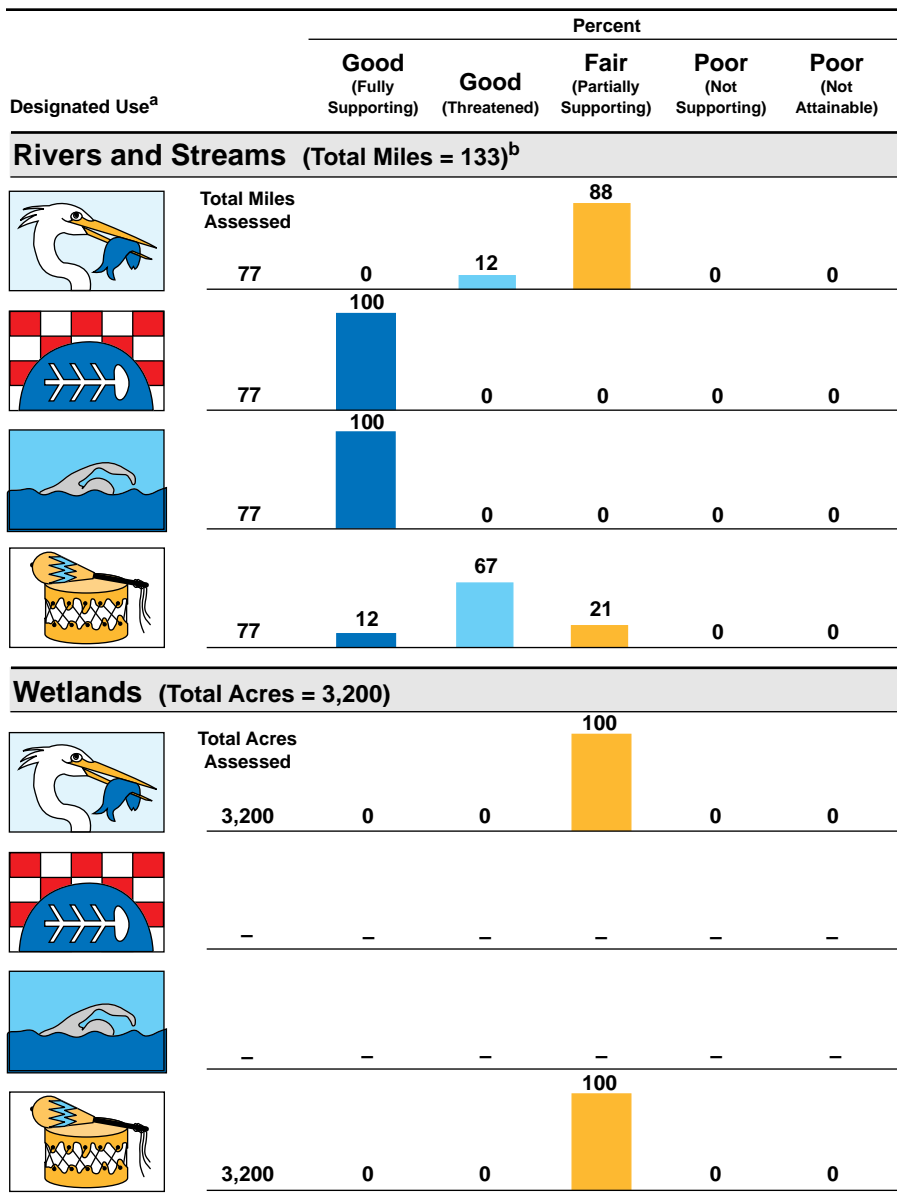
## Programs to Restore Water Quality

In 1990, EPA approved the Hoopa Valley Tribe's application for treatment as a State under the Section 106 Water Pollution Control Program of the Clean Water Act. Following approval, the Tribe received Section 106 funding to conduct a Water Quality Planning and Management Program on the Reservation. The Tribal Water Quality Manager is developing water quality criteria for the Reservation, with the help of environmental consultants. The proposed criteria will be reviewed by the Hoopa Valley Planning Department and the Tribal Council.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality

In June of 1992, the Tribal Planning Office and its hired consultants sampled eight surface water sites and six ground water sites. The Tribe measured different pollutants at each site, depending on the surrounding land use activities, including conventional pollutants, toxic organic pollutants, metals, and fecal coliforms. The Tribe plans to establish fixed monitoring sites in the near future, which will complement ongoing biological monitoring conducted by the Hoopa Valley Fisheries Department on the Trinity River.

## Individual Use Support in Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation



- Not reported.

<sup>a</sup>A subset of Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the Tribe's 305(b) report for a full description of the Tribe's uses.

<sup>b</sup>Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.