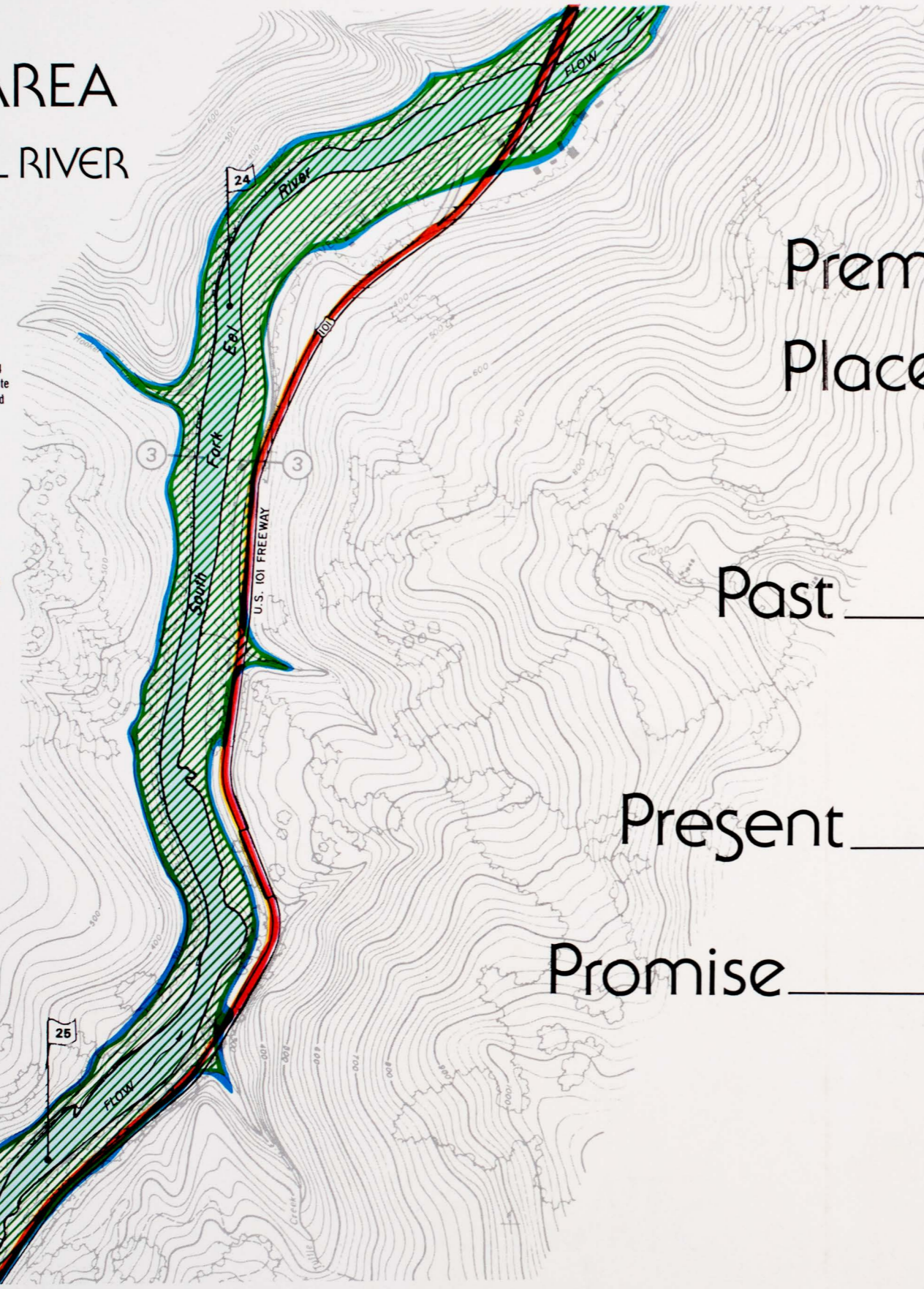
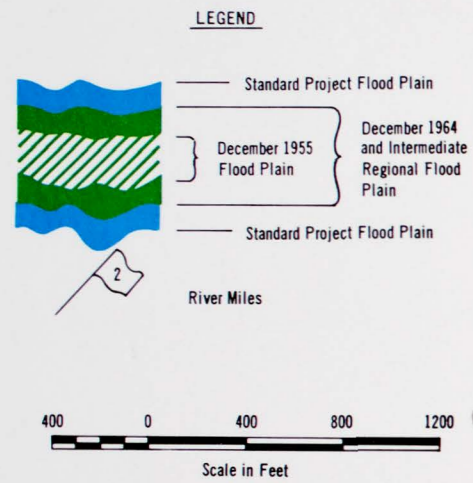




STATES



# FLOODED AREA SOUTH FORK EEL RIVER



# Two Rivers

(an outline)

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN DIVISION  
Coast Ranges

Premise

Cultural collision is the central fact of the backwoods seventies. Every small town becomes an interface where two currents meet. Wisdom waits downstream for a vision of the new rural America.

Place

Southern Humboldt County north of the Mendocino county line and south of Myers Flat. East of the Pacific as far as Alderpoint. Territorial seat, Garberville (pop. 1200). Eureka (pop. 12,000), 70 miles north on U.S. 101. San Francisco, 200 miles south also on 101. Major river, South Fork of the Eel. During their entire lives in the territory, the highway and the river intertwine. An attempt to describe the nature of the area (land-surface form, vegetation, precipitation, temperature ranges, geology) and its relationship to human society (economics, architecture, agriculture, life-styles) will reveal that the intimacy of Highway 101 and the South Fork of the Eel River is the crucial relationship of the area.

Past

Local History, 1850-1970: what happened to the redwoods and the Redskins? Indigenous variations on national themes of genocide and exploitation of nature. (The last Sinkyone died in 1929 – the last great stands of free Redwoods were cut by the end of the 1950's.) A side note on the expulsion of Chinese from Humboldt County and another on the Benbow Estates, restricted suburb of nowhere. What happens to a culture whose highest achievements in 120 years, besides the removal of its predecessors, are the creation of lumber and of roads on which to move the lumber? What happens when the lumber runs out? Failure to respect what it found is resulting in the suicide of Anglo culture in Humboldt County.

Present

A third migration seeks the land. It's free when no one else wants it. The great land rush. Loggers bereft of logs turn salesmen for hippie haven nesteggs real estate. As retreating rednecks meet freak fleet from perpetual city run looking for a cow and squabble-stock, stick-em-up, late seventies mid-Western and overall howdiedoo down-home-folks and smoke-dope-too and soul brothers and sod busters; and get your peacocks out of my chicken food!

Promise

Will the salesman please stop smiling? New land-use myths demand universal styles and finally the territorial prerogative blooms. The Two Rivers – Parasitism, Symbiosis, or War? Will the real Indians please sit down!

David Simpson