

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

File form No. _____

NAME: CALABAZA[S] CREEK COUNTY: Sonoma
 STREAM SECTION: Entire FROM: mouth TO: headwaters LENGTH: 3 mi.
 TRIBUTARY TO: Sonoma Creek TWP: 6N R: 6W SEC: 9
 OTHER NAMES: unknown RIVER SYSTEM: San Pablo Bay
 SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observations

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION

Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.

LOCATION

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Watershed

Immediate Drainage Basin

Altitude (Range)

Gradient

Width

Depth

Flow (Range)

Velocity

Bottom

Spawning Areas

Pools

Shelter

Barriers

Diversions

Temperatures

Food

Aquatic Plants

Winter Conditions

Pollution

Springs

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS

OTHER VERTEBRATES

FISHING INTENSITY

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE

ACCESSIBILITY

OWNERSHIP

POSTED OR OPEN

IMPROVEMENTS

PAST STOCKING

GENERAL ESTIMATE

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

SKETCH MAP

REFERENCES AND MAPS

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - The entire tributary was walked out on foot by John S. Day on January 16 and 18, 1961.

LOCATION - In southeast Sonoma County and enters Sonoma Creek from the east 1.5 miles north of Glen Ellen.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Serves as a spawning tributary to steelhead runs in Sonoma Creek.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin -

This stream heads in a heavily wooded, mountainous area of redwood and Douglas fir on north slopes and chapparal and oak on south slopes. After leaving the upper headwaters the stream enters a well-shaded canyon and flows for 2 miles until it reaches the Valley of the Moon where it continues flowing for the remaining mile through a well-shaded agricultural plain into Sonoma Creek. The lower one mile finds the stream bordered by private homes, agricultural fields and dairies.

Altitude - [225 to 1100 feet above sea level.]

Gradient - Moderate in upper and middle sections, becoming nearly flat in lower section. [Average of 200 feet per mile throughout.]

Width - 4 to 20 feet; average 8 feet.

Depth - 2 inches to 5 feet; average 8 inches.

Flow - Estimated 0.75 cfs in lower and middle sections, 0.4 cfs in upper section.

Velocity - Fairly rapid throughout.

Bottom - Composed almost entirely of gravel and rubble. The absence of silt is quite noticeable.

Spawning Areas - Desirable gravel and spawning areas are available throughout the entire stream. The most suitable steelhead spawning areas appear to be from the Dunbar Road, upstream for approximately 1.5 miles. Good resident rainbow trout spawning areas are available in the middle and upper sections.

Pools - Pool development is good in the lower and middle sections with long (20') pools fairly frequent. The upper section exhibits fair pool development but the steeper gradient and low flows limit the pool development in this area.

Shelter - Excellent, in the form of undercut banks and good stream cover.

Barriers - A natural 8-foot high rock falls barrier is present approx. 2.5 miles upstream from the mouth. This barrier, it is felt, is well above steelhead spawning areas; however, it appears to be a barrier to resident fish. None were observed or seined above this falls. A series of small pools with rapid cascading water and a fairly steep gradient approx. 1.5 miles upstream from the mouth could possibly be a barrier to steelhead.

Diversions - None observed, but it is known that there is direct diversion from this stream during the spring, summer and fall months.

Temperatures - Air 46°F., water 42°F. at 1000 hr.

Food - Native insects and larvae in fair abundance.

Aquatic Plants - None observed.

Winter Conditions - Subject to a light winter runoff but will exhibit periods of extreme fluctuation.

Pollution - None observed, except there was evidence of garbage having been dumped in the stream at one time or another.

Springs - One sulfur hot spring flowing approx. 3 gpm was observed in the middle section. The water temperature of this spring water was 68° F.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - 9 rainbow trout/steelhead from 3" to 7" were seined along with four sculpin 2.5 to 3.0". The success of both species appears to be fair.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - None observed. [Frogs obs - 5-29-61 RFE]

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Private hunting and camping.

ACCESSIBILITY - Good. The lower section can be reached by the Dunbar Road and Highway 12. The lower and middle sections are also reached by the Nuns Canyon Road which parallels the stream. The upper section is accessible by an old logging road trail that parallels the stream to the headwaters.

OWNERSHIP - Land on either side of the stream is privately owned.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted throughout its entire area.

IMPROVEMENTS - Fish ladder installed by the Department of Fish and Game at Bridge on Dunbar Road.

PAST STOCKING - Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - This stream appears to be a fairly good steelhead spawning ground in the lower and middle sections. The upper section is of no importance for steelhead. It also appears to be a fair nursery area from the Highway 12 Bridge upstream to the steelhead limits. A local resident and observer who lives under the Highway 12 Bridge stated that the stream never went dry, that steelhead spawn under the bridge, and a downstream migration of yearling steelhead takes place in December.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - It is recommended that this tributary continue to be managed as a steelhead spawning and nursery area.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - Division of Forestry, Sonoma County map 1956.

Calabaza Creek

