

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
 Department Of Fish And Game

**STREAM SURVEY**

**NAME:** Canshea Creek **COUNTY:** Sonoma  
**STREAM SECTION:** partial **FROM:** mouth **TO:** .8 mile upstream from mouth **LENGTH:** 1.3 mi.  
**TRIBUTARY TO:** East Austin Creek **TWP:** 9N **R:** 11W **SEC:** 28  
**OTHER NAMES:** Unknown. **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian  
**SOURCES OF DATA:** Personal Observation and local warden.

|   |
|---|
| <b>EXTENT OF OBSERVATION</b><br>Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc. |
| <b>LOCATION</b>   |
| <b>RELATION TO OTHER WATERS</b>                                       |
| <b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</b>  |
| 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** - This tributary was checked out on foot from the mouth to a point .8 mile upstream on April 26, 1962 by John S. Day.

**LOCATION** - This tributary heads in the steep, mountainous regions of the eastern slopes of upper East Austin Creek. It flows in a northeasterly direction where it enters East Austin Creek 8-3/4 miles upstream from the confluence of East Austin Creek and Main Austin Creek.

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS** - This tributary sustains a good but small run of steelhead each winter in a lower 1/4 mile section of stream. It acts as a spawning tributary for the steelhead runs of East Austin Creek and the lower Russian River. It maintains a small summer flow in the lower end.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed - Immediate Drainage Basin** - Canshea Creek heads in a mountainous, well wooded canyon in the east slopes of the upper East Austin Creek drainage. It flows from a steep mountains of oak grassland association, with scattered conifers down through a canyon heavily wooded with conifers and oaks emerging into an open log section in the central portion and continuing through a fairly heavy covered canyon of conifers and hardwoods in the lower section until it reaches East Austin Creek. A great portion of this watershed has fir stands of redwood that has been logged recently. At the confluence of unnamed tributary flowing in from the north the central portion of the stream a large open unshaded flat area exists. This area was the scene of a large log landing area. Stream channel through this area is sized to a height of at

least 5' the channel having cut through fill material used to build the landing.

**Altitude** - 400-900 feet.

**Gradient** - Moderate throughout. 7' rise each 100 feet of stream.

**Width** - Average 4' (4-12') throughout entire section.

**Depth** - Average 5" (2-8")

**Flow** - Estimated 1.5cfs on April 26, 1962

**Velocity** - Rapid throughout except for standing pools in extreme headwaters.

**Bottom** - Predominately gravel throughout with lesser amounts of rubble, boulders, sand and silt.

**Spawning Areas** - Considered to be generally fair from the mouth to a point 1/4 mile upstream. At this point a log jam barrier is a complete blockage to migrating steelhead. The area upstream from the barrier is considered fair spawning area although this area has been effected by recent logging operations. The extreme headwater section does show a good stream bottom, however, flows in this area are critical during the summer period and a good section of this portion of stream dries up. Prior to logging operations this area upstream from the present barrier was considered to be good spawning area to a point just above the forks of the stream.

At present the flow is underground in the unnamed tributary flowing from the north except for the lower 200 feet of which a service flow is present. Stream flow has also gone underground in a 200 yard stretch just of the mainstream just upstream from the confluence of the unnamed branch and the main creek.

**Pools** - Pool development is generally good in the lower section averaging 10x20 by 2 ft. in depth.

**Shelter** - Satisfactory for salmonids mainly in the form of overhanging vegetation rocks, roots and log jams.

**Barriers** - One log jam barrier is located approximately ¼ mile upstream from the mouth. It is a complete blockage to steelhead at present. Other logging debris litters the stream from the mouth to just above the forks of the stream, however, this one barrier seems to be the only real blockage at this time.

**Diversions** - None observed.

**Temperatures** - Air 78° - Water 60° at 1400 on April 26, 1962.

**Food** - Native insect and larvae common.

**Aquatic Plants** - None observed.

**Winter Conditions** - This tributary appears to be subject to moderately heavy runoff during the winter period.

**Pollution** - None observed.

**Springs** - A few springs were noted along this drainage, however, the development of springs in this section is not as extensive as it is in the other tributary streams of upper East Austin Creek.

**FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS** - Rainbow trout-steelhead were observed in lower ¼ mile section. The success seems to be good. Five rainbow trout 5-7" in length were observed. An estimated 20,000 steelhead fish of the year were also observed in this section of the stream. It has been reported that silver salmon utilized the lower portions of this stream as a spawning area, however, no silver salmon were observed on the date of the survey.

**OTHER VERTEBRATES** - Salamanders and frogs were extremely common throughout the drainage.

**FISHING INTENSITY** - Light.

**OTHER RECREATIONAL USE** - Unknown.

**ACCESSIBILITY** - This stream is accessible by dirt road from the Mill Creek Road out of Healdsburg or from the dirt road through Armstrong State Park heading north until the stream is reached. This stream is easily accessible on foot by way of an old logging road that parallels the stream from the mouth upstream to the old log landing area. From this point to the headwaters accessibility is by foot, but is easy walking.

**OWNERSHIP** - As far as can be determined the entire stream runs through privately owned land.

**POSTED OR OPEN** - Access into this area is posted, however, no signs were noticed in the general vicinity of the stream.

**IMPROVEMENTS** - The removal of old logging debris from the channel of the stream would open up new spawning and nursery areas upstream from the present blockage.

**PAST STOCKING** - Unknown.

**GENERAL ESTIMATE** - This tributary is considered to be a small but important spawning area for the steelhead of upper East Austin Creek. Its value would greatly be enhanced by removal of old logging debris that has accumulated in the creek. This stream is not considered to be one of the better spawning areas of upper East Austin Creek.

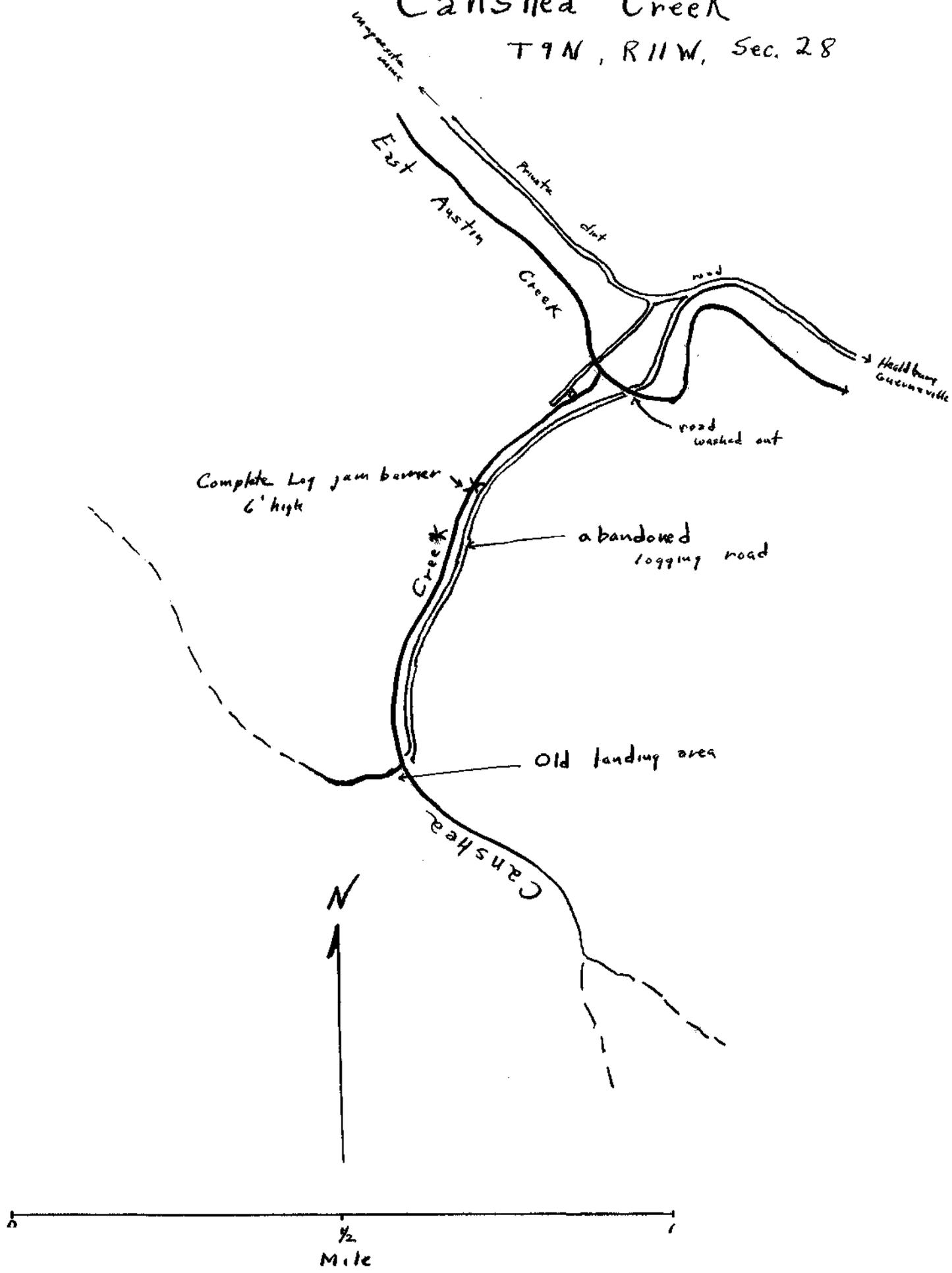
**RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT** - It is recommended that this stream be continued to be managed primarily as a steelhead spawning and nursery grounds and secondarily as a trout fishery.

**SKETCH MAP** - See attached.

**REFERENCES AND MAPS** - Sonoma County CDF 1956. USGS Cazadero Quadrangles 7½ min. series.

# Canshea Creek

T9N, R11W, Sec. 28



Complete Log jam barrier  
6' high

abandoned  
logging road

old landing area

