

California Department Of Fish And Game

STREAM SURVEY

NAME: Devil Creek **COUNTY:** Sonoma
STREAM SECTION: partial **FROM:** mouth **TO:** 3 miles upstream **LENGTH:** 4 mi.
TRIBUTARY TO: East Austin Creek **TWP:** 9N **R:** 11W **SEC:** 28
OTHER NAMES: Devil's Creek-North Fork **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian
SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation

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
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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 three miles upstream by John S. Day on April 18, 1962.

LOCATION - Heads in the East slopes of the East Austin Creek drainage in west Sonoma County, flows west then southwest joining East Austin Creek approximately 8 miles upstream from the confluence of East Austin Creek and Austin Creek.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - This tributary sustains a good run of steelhead each winter. Its primary value lies in its contribution of steelhead to the lower Russian River fishery. It is a small but important steelhead spawning area of upper East Austin Creek.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed / Immediate Drainage Basin - Devil Creek heads in a mountainous, well wooded steep sided canyon in the eastern slopes of the East Austin Creek drainage. It flows in its entirety through a V shaped canyon that is bordered by heavy stands of hardwoods and in the middle section, redwoods and conifers. The mid and upper sections show evidence of past logging for redwood.

Altitude - 400-1600 feet.

Gradient - 6 foot rise each 100 feet of stream. Moderate throughout its entirety except for extreme headwater section.

Width - 4-10 feet, average 5'.

Depth - 3" to 2 feet - Average 6".

Flow - In headwater section 1.5 cfs at 1200. At mouth estimated to be 3.7 cfs at 1600 on April 18, 1962.

Velocity - Rapid throughout.

Bottom - Predominately gravel with lesser amounts of rubble and boulders.

Spawning Areas - Considered to be good to excellent throughout the entire stream except for the extreme headwater section. Large quantities of 2" gravel are found in this stream. Siltation is slight and there is no evidence of heavy deposits of fine material or sand. At present this is considered to be the best spawning tributary in the upper East Austin Creek drainage above Gillium Creek.

Pools - Pool development is generally good throughout the entire length of the stream. Average-10x6x15'.

Shelter - Very satisfactory for small salmonids mainly in the form of overhanging vegetation, rocks and roots.

Barriers - None observed. However, there are three partial log jam barriers of no problem located in the lower 1/2 mile of the stream. Some log debris is scattered throughout the upper area, however, in its present form, it is not a barrier.

Diversions - None observed.

Temperatures - Water 59° - Air 75° at 1200.

Food - Native insects and larvae common.

Aquatic Plants - None observed.

Winter Conditions - Devil Creek is subject to moderately heavy runoff during the winter period.

Pollution - None observed.

Springs - Good spring development throughout the entire drainage, particularly from the north side.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - An estimated 200 rainbow trout 3-4" in length were observed during the survey. Ten rainbow trout 6" in length were observed during the survey. 100,000 rainbow trout-steelhead fish of the year were observed also. Success is excellent for rainbow trout steelhead. One sculpin was also observed.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Salamanders are extremely common. Frogs and water snakes were also observed.

FISHING INTENSITY - Light.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY - At present, this stream is accessible by a good road to its mouth. From its mouth to the headwaters accessibility is by foot only. The upper area was logged and perhaps there is access into the upper area from the private road originating from the Mill Creek Road west of Headlandsburg. Accessibility is considered poor.

OWNERSHIP - Since this area has never been surveyed by the USGS it is unknown whether the entire drainage lies within private land or whether some still remains as government land.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted throughout its entire area with accessibility, however, this may be questionable due to the uncertainty of ownership.

IMPROVEMENTS - None required at this time.

PAST STOCKING - Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - This tributary is considered to be the best steelhead spawning tributary through East Austin Creek upstream from Gillium Creek. It has no barriers, no excessive gradient, good pool development, good shade areas and a good clean bottom. The absence of rough fish in this tributary maybe an indication that it is an exceptionally good salmonid stream. Rough fish do have access from Austin Creek.

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

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS -

Sonoma County CDF 1956. USGS Cazadero Quadrangle 7½ minute series.

Devil Creek

T9N R11W Sec 28

