

FIELD NOTE
Nicasio Creek
Marin County

April 24, 1965

A check was made of the south fork of Nicasio Creek. Flow estimated at 1/2-3/4 cfs. Water turbid, probably from stock watering. Dense willow margin. Some good spawning gravel plus pools for nursery area. No fish were seen, however. The mud is pretty thick in the bottom gravels. This area should be checked again in late summer for presence of fish.

Main Nicasio Creek 1/8 mile above the south fork. Estimated flow 8-10 cfs. Slightly turbid. Good, clear sandy bottom. A few young-of-the-year seen. About 5 fish per hundred yards. Conditions look favorable. The fish were 1-1½ inches long.

Three hundred yards above this point, young salmonids one-inch long were numerous on riffles indicating a late hatch--probably steelhead. They were not too abundant, however, only 8 to 10 in a one hundred yard section. Cows are in the area, making the bottom silt laden and rather poor. Covered 300 yards; cows in the area, saw about 10-12 young fish per hundred yards.

One-half mile upstream from confluence of main Nicasio and south fork; young fish 1-1½ inches long were more abundant. A dozen were seen on one good riffle. No more evidence of cows in the stream.

Drove up on main stream to section where yearling fish were planted. Hiked from there down to junction of Howard Ranch fork. Both branches are carrying about an equal amount of water--4-6 cfs. The Howard branch is clear. The other was turbid.

Checked again one mile upstream above this point on the main Nicasio. No fish were seen. Water was turbid. Checked at the junction of the Bull Tail Ranch Creek. Manure is still coming down the stream. Water is turbid. Water was clear in the main Nicasio above this junction. Estimated flow--1-1½ cfs. Bull Tail branch about ½ cfs.



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Region 3

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P.S. (see page 2)

FIELD NOTE

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-2-

P.S. Drove up to where the main Nicasio Creek passes under the road via a culvert. Estimated flow 1/4-1/2 cfs. Fairly clear water; bottom is silt laden and no fish seen. After looking at this entire upper section of the stream, the conclusion reached is that a late hatch, probably steelhead, occurred in this upper section. No fish were seen above the Bull Tail Ranch Creek junction.

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