

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

File form No _____ Date: November 24, 1976

NAME: EDWARDS CREEK COUNTY: Mendocino

STREAM SECTION: Entire FROM: mouth TO: headwaters LENGTH: 3.25 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: Russian River TWP: 12N R: 11W SEC: 25

OTHER NAMES: None known RIVER SYSTEM: Russian River

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observations

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| 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 |
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - Edwards Creek was surveyed by Rhonda Reed and Mike Gillespie, California Department of Fish and Game Seasonal Aids, on November 24, 1976. The stream was observed on foot from the mouth, beyond the upper fish limit, to its junction with State Route 128.

LOCATION - Edwards Creek flows in a southwesterly direction, entering the Russian River 3.5 miles north of Cloverdale. The creek crosses State Route 128 approximately .5 mile from its headwaters and can also be reached at the mouth from County Road 102.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Edwards Creek provides spawning and nursery habitat for resident and anadromous rainbow trout and several non-game fish species, as well as contributing flow to the Russian River.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed - The watershed in this area is moderately sloped at the upper and lower reaches of the stream and vegetated predominately with oak, bay and toyon. The central portion of the stream is moderately steep and forested with Douglas fir and redwood. The main stem of Edwards Creek is 3.25 miles long with a drainage area of 4.2 square miles.

Altitude - : Mouth-360 feet MSL; headwaters-1,250 feet MSL.

Gradient - Overall gradient of the main stem is 5 feet/100 feet. Tributaries range from 5 to 9 feet/100 feet.

Width - The streambed varied from 2 feet wide near the headwaters

to 90 feet wide approximately 1/2 mile from the mouth. At the time of the survey the stream averaged 3 feet wide with a range of 1 to 10 feet.

Depth - Average 3-5 inches; range 1 inch to 4 feet.

Flow - Flows were visually estimated at the following locations: 0.75 mile from mouth- 0.1 cfs; tributary S-1-<0.1 cfs; upper fish limit-0.12 cfs; tributary S-2-<0.1 cfs; tributary S-3-no flow. At the time of the survey the creek was dry up to 0.75 mile from the mouth. Submerged terrestrial vegetation indicated that the stream was intermittent during the summer.

Velocity - Water velocity was moderate to sluggish, averaging 1 to 2 feet per second.

Bottom - The streambed composition of the lower third of the stream was 2% boulders, 70% fine to coarse rubble, 25% fine gravel, 3% silt and sand. Boulders comprised 50% of the streambed in the central third of the stream with 30% coarse rubble, 10% bedrock, and 10% gravel. The streambed of the upper third was similar to the lower third but the substrate was covered with dead leaves at the time of observation.

Spawning Areas - Suitable spawning areas were scattered throughout the stream; however, access may be limited in low water years.

Pools - Pools usually comprised less than 50% of the stream and averaged 4 feet wide, 7 feet long, and 2 feet deep.

Shelter - Most pools contained large boulders, logs, or undercut banks which provided good cover. The canopy was well developed in the central portion of the stream, less dense at upper end, and open at the lower end. Shelter and pool development was sufficient to support more fish than the number observed.

Barriers – No barriers were noted at the time of the survey. A slide approximately 1/4 mile downstream from tributary S-2 (see attached map), entering the stream from the north slope, has caused a roughs area. Large fallen logs in the vicinity of tributary S-2 may pose a future threat to fish migration.

Diversions – None noted during survey.

Temperatures – Main stem at first water (.75 mile from mouth)–air 65°F, water 50 F, time 1100 hours; tributary S-1–air 65°F, water 50 F, time 1100 hours; tributary S-2– air 54°F, water 49°F, time 1500 hours.

Food – Aquatic invertebrates were common, particularly caddis fly larvae and pond snails.

Aquatic Plants – Filamentous algae was abundant in pools in the lower portion of the stream, becoming less prevalent as the canopy increased. The stream contained much organic matter, especially in the form of decaying leaves. In some areas, small stands of horsetail (*Equisetum*) and nettle (*Urtica*) were common along the stream margins.

Winter Conditions – High flow marks average 2-4 feet above the streambed. The Edwards Creek drainage receives 30 - 40 inches of rain per year, almost all of which occurs during the winter months.

Pollution – None observed during the survey except for beer cans, some litter, and car bodies near the mouth.

Springs – Seepage from banks was evident in the central portion of the creek particularly near tributary S-2.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS – Juvenile steelhead trout were observed from 0.75 mile above the mouth of Edwards Creek to 2.3 miles above the mouth at the location marked Ó on the attached map. No fish were observed in tributaries S-1 and S-3. Four yearling steelhead were observed in a pool at the confluence of the main stem and tributary S-2. Although the tributary was not observed beyond this point, it may provide some additional nursery and spawning areas for trout. California roach, *Hesperoleucus symmetricus*, were noted only at the lower fish limit. Juvenile steelhead density is estimated to be 5 fish/100 feet of stream.

OTHER VERTEBRATES – Foothill yellow-legged frogs were common in the lower end of the stream. The stream area is also frequented by deer. An injured coyote was sighted approximately 1/2 way up the stream.

FISHING INTENSITY – No indication of angling was noted during the survey.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES – Private groups, such as the Ridge Runner's Club, hunt game in this area.

ACCESSIBILITY AND OWNERSHIP – Several jeep trails exist as close as 1/4 mile from the stream. However, the land is private and posted, thus limiting access.

PAST STOCKING – Edwards Creek has no past history of stocking by the Department of Fish and Game.

GENERAL ESTIMATE – Edwards Creek provides valuable spawning and nursery areas for steelhead and rainbow trout as well as contributing winter flows to the Russian River.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT – Edwards Creek should be managed to protect the anadromous fisheries resources.

SKETCH MAP – Attached [sic].

REFERENCES AND MAPS – USGS Cloverdale Quad., 7.5' series. 1960.