

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**STREAM SURVEY**

File form No \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Name Fuller Creek County Sonoma

Stream Section Entire From Mouth To Junction with No. Fork & So. Fork Length 4 1/2 mi.

Tributary To Wheatfield Fork of Gualala River ....Twp 10N R 13W Sec 32 Proj.

Other Names Unknown ....River system Gualala

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

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** -- Fuller Creek was surveyed from its mouth to the junction with the North and the South Forks on August 18 and 19, 1964, in three hours, on foot and from a vehicle by way of a close paralleling road by J. Rowell and B. Fox.

**LOCATION** -- Fuller Creek and its forks flow south approximately 12 miles through the coastal mountains, where it enters the Gualala River, four miles south of the small town of Anapolis.

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS** -- Fuller Creek is an important tributary to the Gualala River and contributes both summer and winter flows to the Gualala River. It also provides an SH - SS spawning and nursery area.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

**Watershed** -- The region consists of a heavily logged redwood-fir type forest, with scattering of deciduous trees and brush on the lower slopes. Canyons are V-shaped, the soil is porous and contains a large content of shale from many shale slides.

**Immediate Drainage Basin** -- The stream drains an eight square mile area, and flows south through steep-sided V-shaped canyons and a bowl-shaped channel. Streamside vegetation is abundant, consisting of willow, alder, grasses,

blackberry and raspberry vines, ferns, oak and ash trees. Most of the larger redwood trees which provided shade to the stream have been removed by logging.

**Altitude** -- At the mouth 110 feet, at the upstream junction with the North and the South Forks 300 feet.

**Gradient** -- Moderate gradient, with an overall fall of approximately 50 feet per mile.

**Width** -- Range two feet to 12 feet, with an average width of six feet.

**Depth** -- Two inches to six feet, average depth eight inches.

**Flow** -- Moderate flow throughout, summer minimum two cfs at the mouth, one cfs- at the headwaters; winter maximum 30 cfs+.

**Velocity** -- Fast, slowing through the pools, increasing in speed over the riffles.

**Bottom** -- Forty percent gravel, 30 percent rubble, 10 percent fine gravel, 15 percent sand, five percent silt. The bottom content was consistent throughout.

**Spawning Areas** -- Spawning area could only be called fair, with a little less than 50 percent of the streambed containing suitable spawning area and gravel. The gravel bed is approximately 4-1/4 miles long by 8 feet wide. Of this, 45 percent is suitable spawning area.

**Pools** -- The stream showed good pool development, with a pool/riffle relationship of 70 percent pool, 30 percent riffle. The pools had a length of four feet to 12 feet, with an average length of six feet. Pool width ran four feet to 12 feet, with an average width of eight feet. Pool depth was six inches to six feet, with an average of one foot.

**Shelter** -- Good; logs, rocks, and undercut banks provided good shelter.

**Barriers** -- Nine partial barriers consisting of log jams, five of which are very large dimensions 1 five are over 100 feet in length.

**Diversions** -- None noted.

**Temperatures** -- Temperatures ran from 63 degrees at the mouth to 62 degrees in the upper area. Air temperature was around 70 degrees. Temperatures were taken between 0930 and 1030 on 8/19/64 under clear skies.

**Food** -- Common, stonefly and caddisfly larvae, and many flying insects, such as mosquitoes, gnats, deerflies and dragonflies, were common near the streamside.

**Aquatic Plants** -- Aquatic plants were prevalent, with large amounts of joint grass present.

**Winter Conditions** -- The stream is subject to high winter flows and scouring.

**Pollution** -- Pollution consisted of debris and silt from logging operations.

**Springs** -- Springs were common and appeared at a ratio of three per mile.

**FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS** -- SH-RT and silver salmon, roach and sticklebacks were present. The fish ranged in size from one inch to 11 inches, with an average of two inches. Numbers of fish ran 150 per 100 feet of stream. Success looked good and the condition of the fish was good. Natural propagation was good. Estimated ratio of rough fish to game fish - 75 percent roach, 5 percent stickleback, 20 percent SH-RT.

**OTHER VERTEBRATES** -- Snakes, lizards, deer, raccoons, feral hogs, quail, kingfishers, doves, and hawks were observed.

**FISHING INTENSITY** -- Not known, probably light due to the fact that the area is all private and closed to the public and due to a lack of catchable-size fish.

**OTHER RECREATION** -- Limited hunting because of private ownership and closed area.

**ACCESSIBILITY** -- Area is accessible by a paralleling road, which crosses the stream at intervals of one per mile.

**OWNERSHIP** -- The area is completely private land and is closed to the public.

**POSTED OR OPEN** -- Heavily posted and closed.

**IMPROVEMENTS** -- Removal of log jams and erosion control.

**PAST STOCKING** -- Not known.

**GENERAL ESTIMATE** -- Fuller Creek is producing steelhead and silver salmon, but the spawning areas are not being fully utilized because of large log jams which hinder passage of fish, both up and downstream. Spawning areas present are fair, with less than 50 percent of the total area being suitable because of an overburden of debris and coarse rubble.

**RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT** -- Removal of log jams to improve passage for both adult steelhead and silver salmon on spawning runs, and downstream juveniles, is advisable. Possible planting of silver salmon to re-establish a self-supporting run.

**SKETCH MAP** -- See attached. (sic)

**REFERENCES AND MAPS** -- U.S. Geological Survey Map, 7-1/2 minute series, Quadrangle Annapolis. Accuracy of the map good.