

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
California Department of Fish and Game

**STREAM SURVEY**

**Date:** June 16, 1977

NAME: HARASZTHY CREEK COUNTY: Sonoma

STREAM SECTION: Partial FROM: Mouth TO: Just above Thornsberry Road LENGTH: 2.9 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: Arroyo Seco Creek TWP: 5 N R: 5 W SEC: 16 (projected)

OTHER NAMES: Unknown RIVER SYSTEM: Sonoma Creek

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 - Haraszthy Creek was walked from the mouth to Thorns-berry Road by Jane Webb, Seasonal Aid, and Sally Spingla, Laboratory Assistant. Warden T. Kasnick inspected the reservoir and streambed modifications where East Napa Street crosses the stream.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - This creek is an ephemeral tributary to Arroyo Seco Creek and contributes winter flows. There is an appreciable amount of spawning gravel, shelter and cover for adult steelhead and may be useful to them when winter flows are normal. Haraszthy Creek is 2.9 miles long and has 1.4 miles of tributaries.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed - The stream channel can be divided into two sections. Section 1 (mouth to Haraszthy Falls) is relatively flat. The soil is adobe with gravel near the stream. Except for a strip of thick riparian vegetation including bay, buckeye and oak, along Haraszthy Creek, the land on either bank is under cultivation; vineyards on the south bank and hay fields on the north. Section 2 (Haraszthy Falls to the headwaters) is a dry wash through moderately steep terrain. The vegetation is chaparral (manzanita, coast live oak, bay, grass, thistle, Cytissus and Baccharis).

Immediate Drainage Basin - Haraszthy Creek drains approximately 1.5 square miles. The channel in Section 1 is 5 - 15 feet wide and U-shaped with terraces, 6' above the streambed, where there is a large bend in the creek (photo #6). Above Haraszthy Falls

(Section 2) the streambed is moderately steep and the U-shaped channel shallow and narrow, 2 feet high and approximately 3 feet wide.

Altitude - The mouth of Haraszthy Creek: 70 feet MSL. Headwaters: 870 feet MSL.

Gradient - In Section 1 (mouth to Haraszthy Falls) the average gradient is 1.9 feet per 100 feet. In Section 2 (Haraszthy Falls to the headwaters) the average gradient is 7.9 feet per 100 feet.

Width - In Section 1, the average streambed width was about 10 feet; range was 5 to 15 feet. In Section 2, the width averaged 3 feet.

Depth - The banks along Section 1 were 3 to 8 feet high. The small section of stream, 1/8 mile above and 1/8 mile below Thornsberry Road, that contained water had a depth averaging 2 inches in the riffles and 1 foot in the pools.

Flow - In the 1/4 mile of Haraszthy Creek that contained water (Thornsberry Road), the flow was visually estimated at less than 0.1 cfs. The remainder of the creek was dry.

Velocity - Sluggish (<1/2 foot/second) in the area near Thornsberry Road.

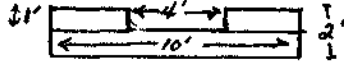
Bottom - Streambed composition in Section 1 (mouth to E. Napa Street) was estimated to be 40% fine gravel (1/8 to 1 inch diameter) and 60% sand. Above E. Napa Street to Thornsberry Road the streambed was dry and was adobe-clay hardpan overgrown with grass. In the vicinity of Thornsberry Road, the bottom was adobe hardpan with detritus and leaf litter, and fine rubble. Above Haraszthy Falls (Section 2) the bottom was adobe hardpan and rock hardpan.

Spawning Areas - The area approximately 1/2 mile above the mouth is potentially good spawning area for steelhead. The gravel is loose and ranges in size from 1/8 to 1" in diameter.

Pools - There are three pools, averaging 10 feet in diameter, in between the mouth and E. Napa Street. The depth appears to have been 3 to 5 feet when there was water. There are two shallow pools created by two rock dams 1 - 1 1/2 feet high just below Thornsberry Road. They were about 6 feet in diameter and one foot deep.

Shelter - There is abundant shelter from tree roots, overhanging banks, and fallen oak trees in the stream between the mouth and E. Napa St. Little shelter available in Section 2. Riparian vegetation and large trees provide about 70% cover in Section 1 below E. Napa St Little canopy provided by the chaparral vegetation in Section 2.

Barriers - There is a concrete sill on Arroyo Seco Creek approximately 15 feet below the mouth of Haraszthy Creek. It has a section cut away in the center which rises 1 foot



above the streambed and would allow steelhead to pass if the water level exceeds 1 foot. A log jam, approximately 1/4 mile above the mouth, caused by a fallen tree may create a barrier. A small flashboard dam has been built across the stream at 2024 Thornsberry Rd. Owner, Joe Curley, says he rebuilt a pre-existing wooden dam.



Diversions - A large pit was found on the property at the end of E. Napa St. by Warden Tom Kasnick. It was approximately 15 feet deep, 100 feet long and 70 feet wide.



Two pumps, one on the east bank and one at the south end of the pit, were observed. The tenant, Steve Gain, at 2000 E. Napa St., Sonoma, told Warden Kasnick that water from the pit is pumped to a reservoir (R-1 on sketch map) on the property of Frank Gelardi, 1900 E. Napa St., Sonoma. A pump and pipe were found at 2025 Thornsberry. Water is diverted from a small shallow pond created by a 1 - 1 1/2-foot rock dam across the creek.

Temperatures - None measured.

Food - Aquatic insects were observed in the stream in the vicinity of Thornsberry Road.

Aquatic Plants - Algae were observed in the wetted and damp portion of the stream near Thornsberry Road.

Winter Conditions - The winter high flow line appeared to be 6 feet above the streambed.

Pollution - The odor of sewage was perceptible at 2025 Thornsberry Road.

Springs - There were springs near Thornsberry Road and an artesian well that feeds the pond in back of 2024 Thornsberry.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - No fish were observed during this survey. A stream survey at Arroyo Seco Creek (June 28, 1976) indicates that steelhead used that creek until 1971 when low summer flows prevented further use. It is possible that steelhead used the lower portions of Haraszthy Creek also.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Domestic pigs, cattle and goats were observed in the vicinity of 2000 E. Napa St. The skull of a spotted skunk was found. Ducks and chickens used the pond at 2024 Thornsberry.

FISHING INTENSITY - Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY - Haraszthy Creek is accessible at the mouth by Denmark Street and at other places by E. Napa St., Thornsberry Road and Wood Valley Road.

OWNERSHIP - Haraszthy Creek is bounded on all sides by privately owned lands. The newly excavated pit and the reservoir (R-1) are apparently under the joint ownership of Frank Gelardi, 1900 E. Napa St. and John Marshall of 2000 E. Napa St., who leases it to Frank Bennett, 5614 Lakeville Highway, Petaluma.

POSTED OR OPEN - All of the property and private roads along Haraszthy Creek are posted with "No Trespassing" signs.

IMPROVEMENTS - A new channel has been excavated on the property at 1900 E. Napa St. (see sketch map). The banks are 5 feet high and the channel is 7 feet wide. The old streambed has been dammed behind the pit (see sketch map).

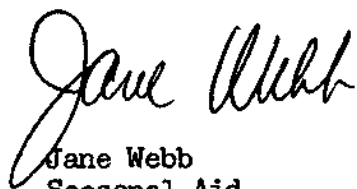
PAST STOCKING - Joe Curley, owner of 2024 Thornsberry Road had stocked his pond with rainbow trout and channel catfish without success.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Haraszthy Creek is experiencing a drought at present. When normal flows return, the 1/2 mile of stream above the mouth is potentially good spawning habitat for steelhead.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Haraszthy Creek, below Haraszthy Falls, should be managed for its value as spawning habitat for steelhead.

SKETCH MAP - Attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series, Sonoma Quadrangle. Stream survey of Arroyo Seco Creek by Charles Pinkham (Fish and Wildlife Seasonal Aid) June 1976.



Jane Webb  
Seasonal Aid  
Region 3

