

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

NAME: Devil's Gulch Creek **COUNTY:** Marin

STREAM SECTION: FROM: Mouth TO: Headwaters **LENGTH:** 3 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: Lagunitas Creek (Papermill Creek) **Twp:** 2N **R:** 8W **Sec:** 10 M.D.B.M.

OTHER NAMES: River system: Lagunitas Creek

SOURCES OF DATA: Field survey 6/2/55 and data from Warden Giddings

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

A survey made on foot by W. A. Evans from mouth to headwaters of stream on 6/2/55. The stream is nearly in the center of Marin County, lying largely within the Samuel P. Taylor State Park.

It is one of the principal tributaries of Lagunitas Creek. Typical inland coastal watershed, good vegetative stand, stable and little evidence of fire damage. The north-facing slopes are covered with dense stands of trees and brush, while the south-facing slope is largely open grasslands. The immediate drainage basin is stable and well protected by a dense growth of bay, fir, maple, as well as occasional alders. **Altitude** - ranges from approximately 200 feet to 500 feet. **Gradient** - moderate throughout except in the extreme headwaters.

Width - average 5-6 feet.

Depth - 8-12 inches.

Flow - Ranges from approximately 1/4 c.f.s. to possibly 150 c.f.s. during winter storms. Average spring-summer flow is 1 c.f.s.

Velocity - moderate.

Bottom - Bedrock and gravel.

Spawning Areas - Excellent throughout the majority of its length.

Shelter - Fair.

Pools - Small, interspersed throughout entire stream.

Barriers - A natural falls occurs on the main stream approximately 1/2 mile above the south fork junction. This is the upstream limit for fishlife. Insufficient suitable trout area exists above the barrier to cause concern. A debris barrier was noted approximately 1/4 mile upstream on the South Fork. The stream is too small above this point to be concerned. This was the last point at which fishlife was noted.

Diversions - None.

Temperatures - Due to dense shade, adequate cold water temperatures exist throughout the summer months. Water temp. 56 degrees, Air temp. 80 degrees 10 a.m. - Cool, clear 6/2/55.

Food - Good. The abundant riffle areas seem to supply normal abundance of aquatic insects, such as caddis flies and Mayflies and diptera. The small fingerlings appear continuously hungry, and possibly during low water periods when fish are concentrated, food may be a problem.

Aquatic Plants - Few observed, with the exception of watercress in certain areas.

Winter Conditions - Moderate, although the drainage is occasionally subjected to heavy rains.

Pollution - None.

Springs - Spring seepages and small tributaries were noted at intervals along the entire length of the stream. This undoubtedly accounts for the maintenance of flow and good cold water conditions.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Fishes observed were silver salmon, steelhead and stickleback, large numbers of silver salmon fingerlings were noted. Steelhead fingerlings were also present in fair numbers. It is not unusual to see 40 to 50 small fingerlings in a pool. Only a few yearling steelhead were noted in the larger pools. Stickleback were not abundant.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs and salamanders common. Frogs were especially abundant in the headwaters area above the limit of fishlife.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - This stream is closed to fishing; it is, however, commonly used by hiking parties and picnic facilities are being prepared within the State Park area.

ACCESSIBILITY - A main county highway passes the mouth of the stream. Public access up the stream is limited to foot travel. There is, however, a good dirt road which parallels the stream throughout its length. The gates are kept locked by State Park personnel.

OWNERSHIP - The lower two-thirds of the stream lies within the Taylor State Park. The upper one-third appears to be in private ranch ownership. Cattle are run throughout the majority of the drainage.

POSTED OR OPEN - This stream has been closed to all fishing by the Department of Fish and Game. It is classed as a salmon spawning area.

IMPROVEMENTS - Approximately one mile above the mouth is an area of fairly heavy stream bank erosion. This might be improved through riprapping.

PAST STOCKING - To our knowledge this stream has never been stocked with trout. It receives its entire supply of fish from natural salmon and steelhead runs.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - This stream is an important spawning and nursery stream for silver salmon and steelhead. It offers probably the best spawning areas available in the Lagunitas Creek drainage. Fingerlings abound throughout its length. There are approximately 3 miles of good stream. Principal limiting factor is the low summer-fall water flow. At this time, fish are heavily concentrated in the larger pool areas. It is possible that available food may become a limiting factor at this time also.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Due to the importance of this stream as a spawning area, it is recommended that it be continued on a basis of complete closure. Suitable spawning areas within the general Lagunitas Creek drainage will undoubtedly continue to become poorer. Stream conditions, other than the low flow, are nearly ideal at the present time and little management required. Consideration might be given to the reduction of stream bank erosion in one critical quarter mile area.

SKETCH MAP - One prepared to accompany this survey.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - U.S.G.S. Petaluma Quadrangle 1937.

Willis A. Evans