

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### STREAM SURVEY

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

NAME: Sulphur Creek COUNTY: Mendocino

Natural barrier

STREAM SECTION: \_\_\_\_\_ FROM: Mouth TO: 20 to 30 foot falls LENGTH: 2.5 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: Russian River TWP: 15 N R: 12 W SEC: 16 - NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

OTHER NAMES: Vichy Creek RIVER SYSTEM: Russian River

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation - Talks with Mr. Stanley Watson (Rancher), Mr. Erickson (owner of Vichy Springs Resort), and the Mendocino County Road Maintenance Crew.

<p><b>EXTENT OF OBSERVATION</b>                  Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc</p> <p><b>LOCATION</b>                  RELATION TO OTHER WATERS</p> <p><b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</b>                  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</p> <p>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</p>
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**EXTENT OF OBSERVATION** - Sulphur Creek was surveyed June 22, 1962 by Rowell and Adams. Approximately two hours were spent gathering information from the local people. It took about three hours to check out the stream itself. From Vichy Springs Resort downstream to the mouth was checked from the truck with frequent stops for closer observation. The section from the Resort upstream to the falls and dam was checked on foot.

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS** - Sulphur Creek is one of the many foothill streams draining into the Russian River. Its major contribution is summer flows.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION -**

**Watershed** - Foothills to mountainous terrain with grass/ oak and brush cover.

**Immediate Drainage Basin** - Sulphur Creek drains about 12 square miles. The basin consists of a narrow valley at the lower end, changing to steep sided V shaped canyons to the headwaters section. The stream flows along a westerly course. The lower 1.5 miles is open grazing land. Some oak and alder. Above Vichy Springs Resort the stream is open, but the trees on the hillside provide almost constant shade.

**Altitude** - 3,000 feet at the headwaters, dropping to 600 feet at the mouth.

**Gradient** - Drops about 1,000 feet per mile in the headwaters section. The lower section is moderate, dropping about 200 feet per mile.

**Width** - 2 feet to 5 feet. Averages of 3 feet.

**Depth** - 2 inches to 2 feet. Averages of 4 inches.

**Flow** - 1.5 c.f.s. as measured by the float method.

**Velocity** - Rapid to sluggish in the section surveyed.

**Bottom** - Below Vichy Springs Resort, the bottom is composed of hardpan with a thin layer of gravel and sand. Above Vichy Springs Resort, gravel, rubble are abundant. Some bedrock was evident.

STREAM SURVEY  
Sulphur Creek (cont.)

**Spawning Areas** - Practically nil below Vichy Spring Resort. Above the Resort to the Falls, the stream is about 95% spawning area. Gravel and rubble is loose and appears to be of sufficient depth for Steelhead spawning.

**Pools** - Pool development caused by boulders and current action is considered good. They are generally long, narrow and about 1 foot in depth.

**Shelter** - Above Vichy Springs Resort, shelter is mostly of shade from trees with rocks and undercut banks next in abundance. Downstream from the Resort rocks form most of the shelter.

**Barriers** -

#1. a 10 to 12 foot falls approximately .5 miles upstream from the mouth, near 1st bridge crossing. This complete barrier is composed of gravel and sediment fused together to form a concrete like material (hardpan).

#2. Just above Vichy Springs Resort a 10 foot high dam forms a complete barrier to Steelhead when in operation. Dam boards placed in a keyway in the center of the dam determine the level of the impounded water. At the time of the survey the dam boards were only 2 feet high.

#3. A 25 to 30 foot falls 1 mile above Vichy Springs Resort forms a complete barrier to all fish.

#4. Several hundred feet above the falls a 20 foot high dam was constructed in 1918. The names of J.A. Ricemey? [sic] and W. H. White are inscribed on the top of the dam. This dam is 15 feet wide and 5 feet thick. A 1x3 foot hole at the foot of the, dam allows the water to be released. A 4 inch pipe carries water to the resort. At the time of the survey, the dam wasn't being used. Apparently hadnt been used for quite some time.

**Diversions** - Water from the two dams used by the Vichy Springs Resort the year round, for domestic use.

**Temperatures** - Air temperature was 60° in the morning rising to 73° by noon. Water Temperatures were 60° in the morning and 70° by 1 PM.

**Food** - Seemed adequate for the fishes present.

**Aquatic Plants** - Algae was common and grasses rare.

**Winter Conditions** - Didn't seem to be severe.

**Pollution** - None noted.

**Springs** - A mineral spring developed for the Vichy Springs Resort.

**FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS** - Trout were found in small numbers above the Vichy Springs resort. They ranged from 4 to 9 inches. Those observed appeared to be in excellent condition. Roach were very abundant thru-out the stream section surveyed. All were about 3 to 4 inches in length. A few suckers approximately 1 inch in length were noted.

**OTHER VERTEBRATES** - Frogs, Salamanders, Turtles and Snakes.

STREAM SURVEY  
Sulphur Creek (cont.)

**FISHING INTENSITY** - Light.

**OTHER RECREATIONAL USES** - Camping by Scout groups and picnicking by resort guests.

**ACCESSIBILITY** - By county road which parallels the stream from the mouth up to Vichy Springs Resort. On foot from the resort up to the falls.

**OWNERSHIP** - Private.

**POSTED OR OPEN** - Mostly posted.

**IMPROVEMENTS** - First falls should be eliminated. An agreement worked out with the Owners of Vichy Springs Resort to allow Steelhead to pass thru their dam during the spawning season.

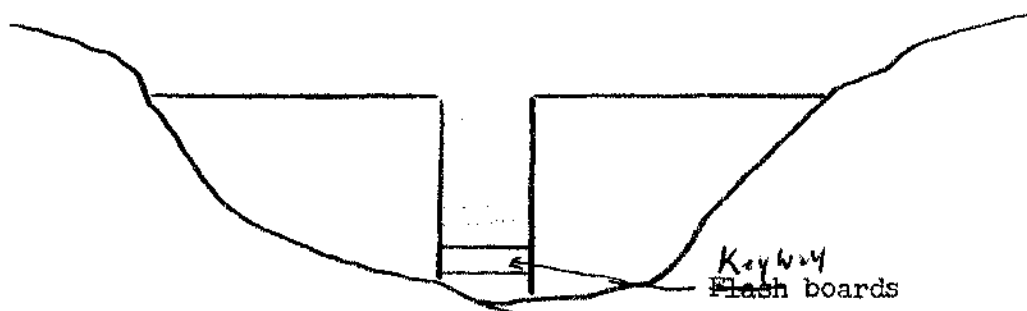
**PAST STOCKING** - None known.

**GENERAL ESTIMATE** - Four main barriers, 2 falls and 2 dams, prevent steelhead from utilizing this stream. Roach and a few trout are the main users at the present time. One mile of good spawning ground is available below the second falls. Food seems to be adequate to support a steelhead fingerling population.

**RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT** - Sulphur Creek should be managed as a steelhead stream. Removal of the lower falls and an arrangement for passage of steelhead thru the Vichy Springs resort dam would give the steelhead a mile of good spawning ground.

**SKETCH MAP** - Attached. [sic]

**REFERENCES AND MAPS** - Topographic map, 15 minute series. Ukiah Quadrangle - 1944



Vichy Springs Resort Dam.