

California Department Of Fish And Game

**STREAM SURVEY**

**NAME:** MARIPOSA CREEK [Unnamed Tributary to Russian River] **COUNTY:** Mendocino  
**STREAM SECTION:** Partial **FROM:** Mouth **TO:** 1-3/4 mi. upstream **LENGTH:** 2-3/4 mi.  
**TRIBUTARY TO:** Russian River **TWP:** 17N **R:** 12W **SEC:** 17  
**OTHER NAMES:** Unknown **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian River  
**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** - This stream was checked out on foot from the mouth to a point 1-3/4 miles upstream on October 23, 1962 by John S. Day.

**LOCATION** - Enters the Russian River from the west approximately 7 miles north of Calpella.

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS** - Primary value of this tributary is that of a spawning and nursery ground of the Russian River steelhead fishery.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION** - Watershed - Immediate Drainage Basin - This stream heads in the steep, mountainous terrain of Redwood, Douglas Fir, and tan oak and flows downstream through a steep sided V shaped canyon out into a narrow agricultural valley through a 5' incised channel, thence through a heavily shaded area of hardwoods, thence into the Russian River. The stream is well shaded in the upper and lower sections with the mid section open in some areas.

**Width** - Average 5' (2-12')

**Depth** - Average 6" (2"-5')

**Flow** - Estimated to be 4 cfs in lower section, 3.5 cfs at mid section and 2.0 cfs in upper section.

**Velocity** - Rapid throughout.

**Bottom** - Predominately gravels from 3-6" in diameter. Estimated 60% gravel 3-6", 30% gravels 1-3" and 10% silt and sediment.

**Spawning Areas** - Considered good throughout sections surveyed. Spawning areas have somewhat been disturbed in this area by logging in the headwater section. This stream appears to be a good steelhead spawning stream and also appears to have the potential of a good king salmon spawning stream because of the large amounts of large gravels from 3-6" in diameter.

**Pools** - Pool development is excellent throughout the entire section averaging 3' wide, 10' in length by 1' in depth.

**Shelter** - Good in the form of cut banks, overhanging vegetation and stream side growth.

**Barriers** - A natural rock falls barrier is located approximately 1-3/4 miles upstream from the mouth. This barrier is 8' in height and is of solid bedrock. No fish were observed above this falls and the landowner states that steelhead are unable to negotiate the falls. Two partial log jam barriers are located on the stream also (see attached map.)[sic]

**Diversions** - None observed.

**Temperatures** - Air 76° - Water 59° at 1230 on September 23, 1962.

**Food** - Not abundant. Few insects were found on the stream bottom. It is felt that a recent high storm moved the stream bottom considerably, thus not allowing for aquatic insects to grow in great numbers on the rocks this soon after a storm. (two weeks.)

**Aquatic Plants** - None observed.

**Winter Conditions** - This tributary sustains heavy winter runoffs.

**Pollution** - None observed.

**Springs** - Good development of springs in the headwater section. Two mineral springs also observed in the mid section; one flowing at approximately 2 gallons a minute.

**FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS** - Roach, sticklebacks, suckers observed in the lower half of the stream. Success considered good. Rainbow trout-steelhead observed from the mouth to the natural rock falls barrier 1-3/4 mile upstream. Success considered good, but it was felt that the stream could support a great deal more steelhead.

**OTHER VERTEBRATES** - Frogs common throughout.

**OTHER RECREATIONAL USES** - This stream contains a favorite swimming pool located at the base of the highway culvert beneath Tomki Road.

**ACCESSIBILITY** - This stream can be reached by taking the west Redwood Valley Road in Redwood Valley north to the junction of east Redwood Valley Road. At this point, continue north on Tomki Road for approximately 1 mile. At this point the unnamed tributary crosses beneath Tomki Road. A good dirt road thence parallels the stream for approximately 1/2 mile in the lower section. The headwater section can only be reached by foot.

**OWNERSHIP** - The entire stream passes through privately owned land.

**POSTED OR OPEN** - Posted throughout except for local swimming hole.

**IMPROVEMENTS** - None observed.

**PAST STOCKING** - Unknown.

**GENERAL ESTIMATE** - This stream is considered to be a good steelhead-spawning and nursery stream. Logging in recent years has damaged this stream somewhat, but it is still considered a, good steelhead spawning and nursery stream. Because of the preponderance of large gravels in the 3-6"size, it is felt that this stream could maintain a king salmon run if these fish were introduced to this tributary. during the winter months when adequate water for spawning and nursery requirements are present. The natural rock falls barrier is considered to be of little harm to the fishery because of the steep cascading figuration of the stream channel upstream from the barrier.

**RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT** - It is recommended that this stream continue to be managed as a steelhead spawning and nursery area. It is also recommended that winter run king salmon eggs be planted in this stream if the eggs are available.

**SKETCH MAP** - See attached.[sic]

**REFERENCES AND MAPS** - CDF map South-half Mendocino County, 1948.