

California Department Of Fish And Game

STREAM SURVEY

NAME: CUMMINSKY CREEK **COUNTY:** Mendocino App.
STREAM SECTION: FROM: Hibbard's Ranch House TO: Old Franklin Crossing **LENGTH:** 2½ mi.
TRIBUTARY TO: Russian River **TWP:** 12N **R:** 11W **SEC:** 23
OTHER NAMES: none **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian River
SOURCES OF DATA: Survey by Holman, September 24, 1957

- EXTENT OF OBSERVATION
- Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
- LOCATION
- RELATION TO OTHER WATERS
- GENERAL DESCRIPTION
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- Immediate Drainage Basin
- Altitude (Range)
- Gradient
- Width
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- Velocity
- Bottom
- Spawning Areas
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - This section of main stream was surveyed by Holman on Sept. 24, 1957 by traversing stream bottom on foot.

LOCATION - Cumminsky Creek heads in the vicinity of the county road between Yorkville and Hopland, flows generally southeast for approximately 10 miles and enters the main Russian River at a point approximately 6 miles north of Cloverdale.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Unimportant tributary to the Russian River.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

WATERSHED - The terrain of this watershed is fairly steep consisting mainly of oak, brush-covered hills with small stands of fir in evidence. Cumminsky Creek is part of the western drainage to the Russian River.

IMMEDIATE DRAINAGE BASIN - Cumminsky Creek generally flows thru fairly steep terrain and confined in a fairly narrow canyon. The lower 3 miles or so opens into a fairly wide, exposed stream channel. Portions of this lower three miles dry up in the summer time with no surface flow.

ALTITUDE - Some of the mountains in the headwaters of the stream reach an elevation of over 3,000 ft. while the mouth being between 200 and 300 ft. in elevation above sea level.

GRADIENT - The upper 5 or 6 miles of the stream is fairly steep in gradient with many falls and cascades. The balance of the stream is of medium gradient.

WIDTH - Range 2 ft. to 10 ft. Average 3 ft.

DEPTH - Range 2 inches to 4 ft. in some pool areas. Average 6 inches.

FLOW - The estimated flow in the area surveyed ranged from ¼ c.f.s. in the upper portion to ½ c.f.s. at the lower end surveyed.

VELOCITY - The estimated velocity of this section of the stream was one mile an hour.

BOTTOM - One-half of the area surveyed the bottom consist mainly of large boulders and rubbles. One-quarter of the area consist of exposed bedrock. The remaining ¼ of spawning gravel.

SPAWNING AREAS - Little spawning area exist in section surveyed except in the lowermost ¾ mile of stream which is possibly broken up in equal portions of bedrock, pools and spawning riffles.

POOLS - Very few large or deep pools were noted in the section surveyed. Host of these pools were less than 4 ft. deep, 10 ft. wide and 20 ft. long.

SHELTER - Shelter for both fingerling steelhead and resident trout were quite abundant in the form of large boulders, cut banks and over-hanging alder trees.

BARRIERS - Three barriers were found in the area surveyed. The two lowermost ones consist of a jumble of large boulders creating a series of falls up to 15 ft. high. The uppermost barrier is located approximately 100 ft. below the Old Franklin crossing. The other two are located approximately ¼ and ½ mile respectively downstream.

DIVERSIONS - Two direct diversions were noted by means of pumps in the vicinity of Hibbard's Ranch house.

TEMPERATURES - No temperatures were taken during this field trip but it is felt that low enough temperatures prevail during the low water stages.

FOOD - Aquatic insects were quite common throughout the area surveyed consisting mainly of caddis fly larvae and stonefly larvae.

AQUATIC PLANTS - No true aquatic plants were observed in the section surveyed.

WINTER CONDITIONS - Cumminsky Creek is subject to severe fluctuations being that it is quite steep in gradient and it can be anticipated that the open hills would provide a fast run-off pattern.

SPRINGS - Only one spring was observed which flowed 100 gallons per minute.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - In the upper section every pool contain several trout up to possibly 10 inches long. It was believed that these trout were of a resident strain of rainbow. Below the natural fish barriers, it was noted that trout up to 2 inches in length were quite abundant and presume to be steelhead of the year. One trout was observed that was approximately 16 to 18 inches long and presumed to be an adult steelhead, possibly stranded there from last winter. Schools of roach were quite common in the lower section of stream surveyed.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs were quite common throughout the area surveyed.

FISHING INTENSITY - It would appear that fishing intensity on this stream was comparatively light by the evidence of the number of catchable trout in the area.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - None that could be determined.

ACCESSIBILITY - In the area surveyed accessibility would be poor due to locked gates and poor roads.

OWNERSHIP - All the stream surveyed is in private ownership by Mr. Hibbard.

POSTED OR OPEN - All the areas surveyed was posted to no trespass.

IMPROVEMENTS - No improvements were in evidence throughout the section surveyed.

PAST STOCKING - Unknown and possibly none.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - The section of stream that was surveyed had such a small flow and little spawning gravel that it can be anticipated that it contributes to the winter steelhead fishery or the summer trout fishery on a very minor scale.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - It was felt that little could be gained from the removal of the three known steelhead barriers as the stream above the barriers is of inferior spawning quality and the flow in the summer time is so small that it would contribute very little to improve trout fishing in the general area.

SKETCH MAP - A sketch map of the area is attached. [sic]

REFERENCES AND MAPS - State of California, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, South Half, Mendocino County 1948.