# CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
# STREAM SURVEY

**Date:** September 11 - 12, 1974

**NAME:** TYLER CREEK **COUNTY:** Mendocino

**STREAM SECTION:** Entire **FROM:** Mouth **TO:** Headwaters **LENGTH:** 7 miles

**TRIBUTARY TO:** Pieta Creek, thence Russian River **TWP:** 13 N **R:** 10 W **SEC:** 15 .

**OTHER NAMES:** None known **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian River

**SOURCES OF DATA:** Personal observations and information from local residents



**EXTENT OF OBSERVATION -** Tyler Creek was surveyed on foot by Brad Jackson on September 11 - 12, 1974.

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS -** Tyler Creek is an extremely important tributary to Pieta Creek, providing exceptional spawning and nursery area, as well as summer and winter flows.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION -**

**Watershed -** Tyler Creek flows through Tyler Valley for approximately two miles before descending into a steep-sided, well-shaded canyon for the remainder of its course to Pieta Creek, The upper slopes of the Tyler Creek watershed are primarily chaparral, while the land immediately bordering the creek is predominantly composed of oak, madrone, and conifers.

**Immediate Drainage Basin -** Tyler Creek drains an area of about five square miles. The basin is a V-shaped canyon in the lower and middle reaches. Tyler Valley creates an open basin in the upper reaches of the creek. Tyler Creek flows in a westerly direction through a generally lens-shaped channel. Streamside vegetation is generally abundant.

**Altitude -** 1700 feet - 2700 feet.

**Gradient -** Gradient was moderate (2 feet per 100 feet).

**Width -** Averaged 4 feet.

**Depth -** Averaged 1 foot.

**Flow -** Flow ranged from 1/10 cfs below the reservoir in Tyler Valley to 1 cfs in the lower creek.

**Velocity -** Velocity was slight.

**Bottom -** Composition was 30% boulders, 5% bedrock, 30% rubble, 30% gravel, 3% sand and silt, and 2% detritus.

**Spawning Areas -** Spawning areas were very good, comprising about 15% of the streambed.

**Pools -** Pool frequency was good to excellent throughout Tyler Creek. Pools averaged approximately 10 feet in length, 7 feet in width and 2 feet in depth.

**Shelter -** Cover was excellent in all but the last downstream mile of Tyler Creek. Boulders, undercut banks, logs, etc., all provided shelter for juvenile steelhead.

**Barriers -** (see attached map) Several log jams were present 2-3 miles downstream from where Pine Mt. Rd. crosses Tyler Creek. A reservoir was present in Tyler Valley which presents a total impasse to steelhead.

**Diversions -** None seen.

**Temperatures -** One mile upstream from the mouth: water 67 F, air *88* F, weather clear, time 1300 hours; 2 miles downstream from Tyler Valley crossing: water 62°F, air 85°F, weather clear at 1000 hours.

**Food -** Aquatic insects were abundant. Mayfly, caddis, stonefly, diptera, dragonfly, damselfly, and hemiptera larvae were present.

**Aquatic Plants -** Filamentous and encrusted algae, as well as sedge, were common throughout the creek.

**Winter Conditions -** The size of the entire creek channel indicates that flows increase significantly during the winter months. Scattered debris indicate flows of as much as 4 - 5 feet in depth during the winter months.

**Pollution –** Deer club roads built across the creek definitely contribute to silting.
**Springs –** Insignificant, however some springs are present all along the creek.
**FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS –** Juvenile steelhead were the only fishes observed, numbering 225 per 100 feet by visual count. Size ranged from 1.5 - 10 inches, averaging 2.5 inches. Natural propagation appeared to be excellent.
**OTHER VERTEBRATES –** Turtles, frogs, newts, garter snakes, kingfishers, mergansers.
**FISHING INTENSITY –** Light.
**ACCESSIBILITY –** Upper Tyler Creek can be reached via Pine Mountain Road. The mouth can be reached by turning off Pine Mountain Road 10.6 miles past the U.S. 101 exit onto Geysers Road. The dirt road is owned by Pieta Land Company.
**OWNERSHIP –** Private
**POSTED OR OPEN –** Posted
**IMPROVEMENTS –** None necessary.
**PAST STOCKING –** None known.
**GENERAL ESTIMATE –** Tyler Creek is a prime steelhead spawning and nursery area together with Pieta Creek, it provides one of the better tributaries to the Russian River. Steelhead production seems to be limited only by the size of the stream. Due to the private ownership of the stream, present regulations seem adequate.
**RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT –** Due to the high quality of Tyler Creek's spawning and nursery capacities for juvenile steelhead, the total absence of rough fish, and its remoteness from large populations of people, Tyler Creek should continue to be managed for wild steelhead production. Precautions should be taken to insure that Tyler Creek continues to exist in its present healthy state. Encroachment by geothermal developers should be monitored judiciously to prevent the Pieta Creek system and Tyler Creek in particular from encountering the same fate as Big Sulphur Creek.
**REFERENCES AND MAPS –** U.S.G.S. "Cloverdale", "Asti", "Highland Springs", "Hopland", and "The Geysers" Quadrangles.