

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

File form No _____ Date: _____
NAME: ROBINSON CREEK **COUNTY:** MENDOCINO
STREAM SECTION: _____ **FROM:** Headwaters **TO:** Mouth **LENGTH:** 7 mi.
TRIBUTARY TO: Russian River **TWP:** 14N **R:** 12W **SEC:** 4
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
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- Velocity
- Bottom
- Spawning Areas
- Pools
- Shelter
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- PAST STOCKING
- GENERAL ESTIMATE
- RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION -

Robinson Creek was surveyed on foot and by vehicle from the uppermost forks to the mouth on August 15th and 16th, 1962, by Jack Santos.

LOCATION -

The headwaters of this stream lies in rugged mountainous country about 4 miles southwest of the town of Ukiah. The stream flows west and east and enters the Russian River 1-1/2 miles south of Ukiah in Mendocino County.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS -

This stream lies in a fairly large drainage. Its primary value is that of a spawning area for steelhead.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin -

The headwaters of Robinson Creek lie in steep mountainous gorges, predominantly bedrock bottom 1/4 mile south of the headwaters the streambed begins to widen and the gradient becomes more gradual with boulder and rubble dominating the stream bottom. The middle section becomes even wider and the slopes are covered with an oak grass association. The lower third of the stream is in a well cultivated wide open valley. Here the stream bottom is made up of rubble and gravel.

Altitude -

Approximately: Mouth 500 ft. headwaters 2,000 ft.

Gradient -

Steep in the uppermost headwaters section, moderate in the middle section and very shallow and even through the lower section.

Width -

0 - 80 ft. average 25 ft. through middle and lower sections.

Depth -

0 - 9" average 1" ', deeper pools found in lower middle section.

Flow -

Throughout stream flows were intermittent ranging from 30 GPM on the south branch to an estimated 1 cfs on lower middle section of the main stream.

Velocity -

Rapid to slow throughout.

Bottom -

Predominantly bedrock, boulder, rubble and gravel.

Spawning Areas -

Spawning area in the lower miles of Robinson Creek was generally good to very good being about 70 percent spawning gravel and 30 percent larger rock and rubble. On the south fork or main tributary running south and north parallel to the Boonville Ukiah cutoff spawning area was generally fair to good and was considered less than 40 percent of the tributary.

From the south branch of Robinson Creek downstream approximately 1-1/2 miles spawning area was considered good to very good and ran about 60 percent - 70 percent of this section.

Pools -

Pool formations were found in lower middle section and lower section and averaged 0 - 12 ft. lengths, 0 - 8 ft widths, 0 - 9" depth. Some were observed to be 35 ft. in length, 12 ft. width and 9" in depth.

Shelter -

Considered good to very good in lower and lower mid-sections. Undercutting of banks, pools formed by boulders and large rocks provided most of the shelter.

Barriers -

An earth filled dam was found 1/4 mile downstream from the mouth of the south branch of Robinson Creek 40 ft wide 15 ft. long 4 ft. high. It was not determined to whom owned or constructed such dam. It is not believed to be of any consequence to upstream migration.

Another earth filled dam was found on the Steep Ranch approximately 1-1/2 miles upstream from the mouth of Robinson creek. 45 ft. width, 12 ft. high and 20 ft. long. This dam was constructed in order to provide a well for irrigation purposes. It is believed that this dam as well as the first mentioned dam are removed with the first rains.

Diversions -

One diversion was observed at the Steep Ranch well. It was not observed as to what size pipe or inlet to the well is being presently used because all pipes were underground at this point.

Temperatures -

Water temperatures were all in the 60's and it is believed that recorded temperatures of low 70's were taken in summers past.

Food -

Food in the form of mayfly and caddis fly larvae almost non-existent except in the middle section.

Aquatic Plants -

None observed.

Winter Conditions -

Moderate to heavy flows are experienced.

Pollution -

None observed.

Springs -

Poor spring development observed, throughout the drainage.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS –

Very few trout were observed except in the Upper Middle Section, They averaged 2" - 4" in length and about 5 to 10 to a pool. Their success seemed good. Roach were observed in the lower middle and lower sections. They averaged 3" - 6" in length and success seemed good.

OTHER VERTEBRATES –

Snakes and frogs only other vertebrates observed.

FISHING INTENSITY –

Fishing intensity believed to be very light.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES –

Hunting only other recreational use observed.

ACCESSIBILITY –

Entire drainage, with the exception of upper forks of Robinson and upper forks of South Branch Robinson Creek, is paralleled by roads accessible to the public although a privately owned road.

POSTED OR OPEN –

Privately owned and heavily posted.

IMPROVEMENTS –

See recommendations.

PAST STOCKING –

None known.

GENERAL ESTIMATE –

In general the entire stream in its present state provides some very good spawning areas, but provides little nursery area because of low flows.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT –

It is recommended that Robinson Creek be managed as a spawning area for Salmonoids. With placement of small dams on forks of headwaters and of South Branch of Robinson Creek, it might be in the realm of possibility to provide a year round flow which would improve the nursery area throughout the lower and middle sections.

REFERENCES AND MAPS –

USGS BOONVILLE QUAD; Elledge Peak Quad.