

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
 Department of Fish and Game  
**STREAM SURVEY**

Date: January 21, 1976

NAME: Cloverdale Creek COUNTY: Sonoma  
 STREAM SECTION: Partial FROM: Mouth TO: Hwy. 101 crossing LENGTH: 1.0 mi.  
 TRIBUTARY TO: Russian River TWP: 11N R: 10W SEC: 7  
 OTHER NAMES: None RIVER SYSTEM: Russian River  
 SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observations and local residents

<b>EXTENT OF OBSERVATION</b> Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.
<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>RELATION TO OTHER WATERS</b>
<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
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: The creek was surveyed on January 21, 1976 by Fish and Wildlife Seasonal Aids Jerry Marco and Charles Holstine. The stream was walked from the mouth to the Highway 101 road crossing.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS: This creek is a fair steelhead stream. A local resident reported that he has not seen steelhead in the creek for 10 years. There is about 5% potential spawning gravel available in the area observed (lower 1.0 mile). No good nursery area was observed. The stream is 3.1 miles long with 0.5 miles of tributaries.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Watershed: Headwaters of the stream are located in mountainous, wooded terrain. Vegetation here is predominantly oak and shrubs on lower slopes with conifers on the high ridges. The lower 1.6 miles of creek flows through cleared pastureland, vineyards and the city of Cloverdale. Overall the watershed can be considered moderately stable.

Immediate Drainage Basin: The Cloverdale Creek drainage area is approximately 3.5 square miles. The creek flows in a southwesterly direction through a V-shaped valley for 1.5 miles then through a flat plane the final 1.6 miles to the mouth. As the stream meanders through this flat land the channel has become deeply incised. Riparian vegetation consists of oaks, bay, redwood and shrubs in the upper reach. Canopy here can be considered dense. Streamside vegetation in the lower reach consists of willow, oak and berry bushes. The canopy in the lower reach is sparse. Altitude: 280 feet to 400 feet.

Gradient: Average gradient in the upper reach is 11 ft./100 ft. while in the lower section it is 2 ft./100 ft.

Width: Pools; Average 3 ft., Range 1 ft. - 4 ft., Riffle; Average 1 ft., Range 6 inches - 2 ft.

Depth: Pools; Average 2 ft., Range 1 ft.-3 ft., Riffle; Average 3 in., Range 1 in.-6 in.

Flow: Stream flow was visually estimated at 0.1 cfs where the stream was running. Much of "the creek at this time was dry or had water in standing pools.

Velocity: Sluggish

Bottom: Bottom composition in stream section surveyed is bedrock 1%, boulders 4%, coarse rubble 20%, fine rubble 30%, coarse gravel 15%, fine gravel 10%, sand 10%, mud, clay, and detritus 10%.

Spawning Areas: The one mile section of stream observed had about 5% potential spawning; gravel.

Pools: Pools in the surveyed section of Cloverdale Creek were generally fair. Most pools were caused by digging action of the current and undercut banks. These pools were, therefore, longer than wide but relatively shallow (average depth 2 ft.). The pools to riffle ratio is about 75% pools/25% riffle due to the low flow at this time.

Shelter: Shelter is very good consisting of undercut banks and over-hanging terrestrial vegetation (e.g. berry bushes).

Barriers: There is one barrier about 2.3 miles upstream from the mouth. It was not observed by the surveyors but local residents reported that a falls barrier, called

Paradise Falls, exists there. Other potential barriers are the bridge crossings at 3rd Street and Triplett Street (see photo). The small culvert openings in these crossings may become choked with debris during high water years. These bridge crossings are approximately 0.5 miles upstream from the mouth.

Diversions: None observed

Temperatures: At 1540 the water temperature was 52°F. Mr. temperature was not taken. Food: Aquatic food organisms were common throughout the surveyed section. Types observed included Ephemeroptera, Odonata, Diptera and Coleoptera. No population estimates were made.

Aquatic Plants: Rooted aquatic plants are sparse or absent. Filamentous algae was common throughout the survey section.

Winter Conditions: The stream rises about two feet over summer flow conditions. Estimated average depth and width during a wet winter period are 4 ft. and 6 ft. respectively.

Pollution: There is much debris and refuge in the creek below the Hwy. 101 crossing. Instances of chemical pollution, e.g. detergent or oil scum on the water, were observed. No source could be found. The 1.0 mile stretch below Hwy. 101 has a sewage-like odor.

Springs: None observed

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS: Fishes were either visually observed or sampled with a dip net. Species; RT/SH, Abundance 2/100 ft., Size Range 2-4 in., Average size 3 inches. Roach, Abundance 20/100 ft., Size range 0.5-1.5 in., Average size 1 inch. The RT/SH and Roach were first observed approximately 0.1 mile above the mouth. Their limit at the time of the survey was the Hwy. 101 crossing. A report from a local resident indicated that there is a native rainbow trout population near the falls barrier, 2.0 miles upstream from the mouth. It was unclear as to whether this population was above or below the barrier.

OTHER VERTEBRATES: Cattle, domestic animals and an occasional frog.

FISHING INTENSITY: Light

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE: Swimming and camping near headwaters (report of local resident).

ACCESSIBILITY: Cloverdale Creek is readily accessible from a number of roads. The mouth is reached by 1st Street - River Road. The creek parallels this road for approximately 0.1 mile. Other sections of the creek can be reached by 3rd Street and Triplett Street. The creek is also readily accessible from Hwy. 101. The falls is accessible only by foot path which begins 1.6 miles above the mouth at the end of a dirt road (a continuation of Jefferson Street in Cloverdale). There is no access to the creek between the Hwy. 101 crossing and the aforementioned road except through a private, fenced vineyard. OWNERSHIP: Ownership above the Hwy. 101 crossing is private and posted. Below the crossing the creek is public and not posted, however, access is limited to road crossings and the creek bed is surrounded by private houses.

IMPROVEMENTS: None recommended

PAST STOCKING: None by the Department of Fish and Game

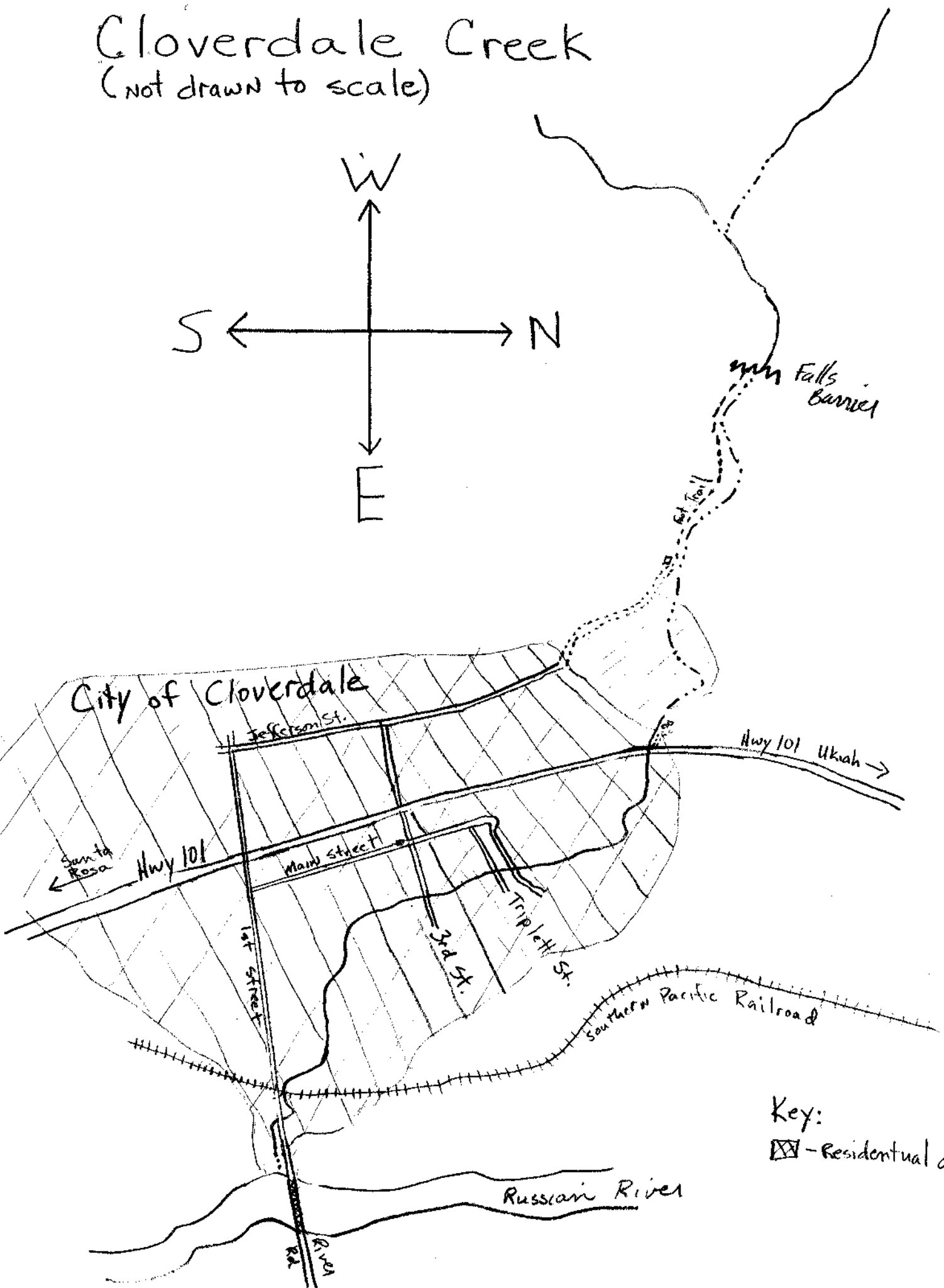
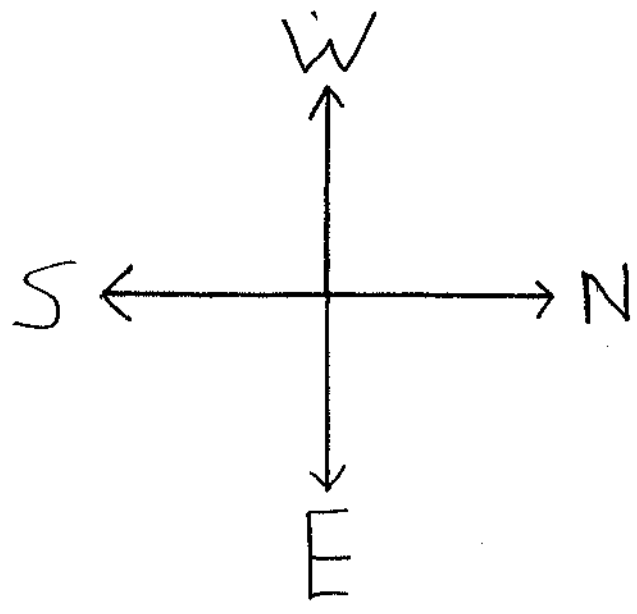
GENERAL ESTIMATE: Cloverdale Creek is a fair to poor steelhead stream dependent on the water year. It dries up in late spring so that only intermittent sections flow. The stream is fair as a steelhead juvenile stream and possibly as a spawning stream.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT: This stream should be managed as a steelhead stream. SKETCH

MAP: See attached

REFERENCE MAPS: USGS 7.5' series, Cloverdale, California

# Cloverdale Creek (Not drawn to scale)



Key:  
▨ - Residential areas