

California Department Of Fish And Game

STREAM SURVEY

Date: _____

NAME: Gilliam Creek [(Gilman Creek)] COUNTY: Sonoma

STREAM SECTION: Partial FROM: Mouth TO: 3 miles upstream LENGTH: 3.5 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: East Austin Creek TWP: 8N R: 11W SEC: 2

OTHER NAMES: Unknown RIVER SYSTEM: Russian River

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation and local residents.

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| 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 |
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| FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS |
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| RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT |
| SKETCH MAP |
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - This tributary was checked out from the mouth to a point three miles upstream on April 11, 1962 and May 11, 1962 by John S. Day.

LOCATION - Heads in the eastern slopes of the East Austin Creek drainage in west Sonoma County and flows in a westerly direction where it enters East Austin Creek approximately 4.5 miles upstream from the confluence of East Austin Creek and main Austin Creek.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - This tributary sustains a good run of steelhead each winter. It is one of the most important steelhead spawning and nursery tributaries to East Austin Creek. Subsequently it adds significantly to the lower Russian River steelhead fishery. This tributary also acts as an excellent trout fishing area during the summer trout season. It also acts as a silver salmon spawning and nursery area for the silver salmon runs of the Austin Creek and Russian River. The basic value of this stream is as a spawning and nursery area for steelhead and silver salmon.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed - Immediate Drainage Basin - Gilliam Creek heads in the mountainous, steep East Austin Creek drainage in west Sonoma County. It flows through a steep oak conifer line channel throughout its entire length. Wild azaleas abound along this tributary in the upper mid section. Fair stands of redwood are present along the stream margin in the upper mid section. The lower mile and one-half flows with a slight gradient becoming moderate to steep in the upper mile and one-half. This area flows through large cuts of serpentine and a great deal of natural sliding is present in this area.

Altitude - 200-1100 feet. 4.8 feet rise per each 100 foot of gradient.

Gradient - Moderate to steep in mid and headwater section - flat in lower section.

Width - 6 ft. - Average (4-12 ft.)

Depth - Average 5" (2-8")

Flow - Estimated to be 4.5 cfs in the lower section on April 11, 1962, Estimated to be 2.4 cfs in headwater section on May 11, 1962.

Velocity - Rapid throughout.

Bottom - Predominately gravel, rubble with boulders and larger rocks scattered throughout the entire section.

Spawning Areas - Considered to be excellent steelhead spawning areas throughout. At present a barrier blocks spawning in this stream. Above the barrier there appears to be steelhead spawning areas although the gradient becomes much steeper. There is good trout spawning area, however.

Pools - Pool development is generally very good with some pools in the mid section averaging 10x20 by 5 ft. in depth.

Shelter - Very satisfactory for small salmonids mainly in the form of overhanging vegetation, rocks and roots.

Barriers - A natural log rock falls has been sanded in located approximately 2½ miles upstream from the mouth. No steelhead fish of the year were observed upstream from this barrier. This barrier is approximately 6 ft. in height. A second barrier is located approximately 50 yards upstream from the first barrier. It is estimated to be 12 ft. in height and is composed of large boulders and natural logs that have been sanded and graveled in. At a point of approximately 300 yards upstream from the mouth a partial log jam barrier exists. This appears to be the direct result of old logging that has taken place in the lower section of this stream.

Diversions - None observed.

Temperatures - Air 77° - Water 56° at 1200 on April 11, 1962.

On May 11, 1962 water temperature 54° - Air temperature 70° at 1500.

Food - Native insect and larvae common.

Aquatic Plants - None observed.

Winter Conditions - This tributary appears to be subject to moderately heavy run-off during the winter period.

Pollution - None observed. However, a dirt road had been pushed across the stream at a point approximately 1½ miles upstream. Erosion has been excessive because of this road construction and downstream one finds large amounts of silt deposited in many areas.

Springs - Spring development appeared to be very good throughout entire section.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Three silver salmon 2½-3" in length were observed in the lower 100 yards of this stream. Their condition was good. 100,000 rainbow trout steelhead 1½" in length were observed. 50 rainbow trout-steelhead 3-5" in length were observed and 50 rainbow trout-steelhead 6" in length were also observed. All fish were in excellent condition. In the area upstream from the natural falls barrier a small resident population exists. Fish up to 7" in length were observed, however, the numbers were few.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Large numbers of western [nutes] were observed along with an abundance of frogs. In the upper headwater section salamanders (mud puppies) were also observed.

FISHING INTENSITY - Light.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY - This tributary is reached by taking a private dirt road north of Guerneville through the Armstrong State Forest to a point midway between the mouth and headwaters of Gilliam Creek. At this point the road fords Gilliam Creek and parallels the stream for a short distance downstream. A spur road approximately ¼ mile upstream from this ford also gives access to Gilliam Creek. From this point to the headwaters access is by foot only and considered poor. The lower section has what is considered poor access and must be reached by following the East Austin Creek channel downstream to the confluence of Gilliam Creek. At that point Gilliam Creek may be walked out to reach the roads upstream.

OWNERSHIP - As far as can be determined, this stream lies entirely within private land owned by the Lumberman's Leasing Corporation.

POSTED OR OPEN - The immediate area is not posted, however, the access into this area is posted.

IMPROVEMENTS - The two barriers mentioned as blockages upstream could possibly be removed, thus opening up an estimated ½-¾ miles of spawning area for steelhead. Whether these barriers could be removed successfully or not is another question. They may perhaps create other barriers by gauging out the gravel that is presently behind these old barriers.

PAST STOCKING - Unknown

GENERAL ESTIMATE - This tributary is considered to be one of the most important spawning areas for steelhead and silver salmon of the upper East Austin Creek drainage. It is reported to sustain a year-round flow, which is evidenced by the large numbers of 3-5" to 7" rainbow-trout steelhead and also by the resident population upstream from the barriers. This was the only tributary in which silver salmon fish of the year were found during the East Austin Creek survey. East Austin Creek itself perhaps could produce young silver salmon, however, none were netted. Native residents state that this stream produces good trout fishing during the summer trout season.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - It is recommended that this stream be continued to be managed primarily as a steelhead spawning and nursery grounds and secondarily as a trout fishery.

SKETCH MAP - See attached.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - Sonoma County CDF, 1956. USGS Cazadero Quadrangle. 7½ minute series.

Gilman Creek
Gilliam Creek

T8N, R11W, Sec. 2

