

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

File form No _____ Date: _____

Name: Tennessee Valley Creek **County:** Marin

Stream Section: _____ **From:** Headwaters **To:** Mouth **Length:** 2½ mi. approx.

Tributary To: _____ **Twp:** 1S **R:** 6W **Sec:** 17 MBD & 1

Other Names: _____ **River system:** Tennessee Valley Creek

Sources of Data: Personal Observation and from Local Residents

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
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 stream was surveyed by auto from the road which parallels the stream along its entire length. Sections were also walked out on foot along the entire drainage. The survey was conducted by Jack T. Allen on October 6, 1961.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Tennessee Valley Creek is a small, unimportant coastal drainage a few miles north of the Golden Gate which has little fisheries value

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed - This stream rises in the coastal foothills on the Marin peninsula between Coyote Ridge and Wolf Ridge and enters the Pacific Ocean after flowing for a distance of about one-half mile through Fort Cronkite Military Reservation. Soil of the area is of a silty, clay type with a few outcroppings of sandstone. The stream flows through a rather open valley in the steep coastal foothills with a primary brush type of vegetation with scattered patches of grass.

Immediate Drainage Basin - The rather open, grass-covered valley floor is used primarily for the grazing of dairy cattle. Approximately one-third of the stream, in the headwaters section, flows through an alternant V-type and incised type channel ranging from about five to fifteen feet deep. As the stream progresses downstream and the valley broadens, the channel becomes shallower so that in the lower third of the drainage the

channel is only about one to three feet deep. Streamside vegetation is limited to scattered clumps of willows in the upper section which become more abundant as one progresses downstream. In the lower half of the drainage, willow thickets up to 200 or 300 yards long are present.

Gradient - Gradient is moderate throughout.

Width - The channel varied in width from about 2 to 20 feet average about 3 feet. Sections of live water varied from 0 to about 3 feet, with an average of from 3 to 6 inches.

Depth - Zero to one foot average about one inch.

Flow - Estimated 50 gallons a minute in the headwaters section to 100 gallons a minute entering the farm pond near the mouth.

Velocity - Rapid throughout.

Bottom - Bottom material along almost the entire length of the stream was composed of a sandy silt—mud. Gravel of any type was almost nonexistent.

Spawning Areas - None observed

Pools - Almost nonexistent.

Shelter - Scattered to moderately dense stands of willows along the banks.

Barriers - A farm pond formed by a 15 to 20 ft. high dam exists approximately 100 yards upstream from the mouth. No fishway exists and the stream is therefore a complete barrier. The farm pond contained only about one or two acre-feet of water at the time of inspection. Water is diverted for domestic use at three ranch houses in the drainage. Primary use of the water is for stock watering.

Temperature -

Food - Aquatic types, scarce; terrestrial types, moderately plentiful. Aquatic plants: lather thick beds of water cress present in some sections remainder of the stream too muddy for algae to get a foothold.

Aquatic Plants -

Winter Conditions - Due to the rather small size of the drainage (approximately 2-1/2 Square miles), it does not appear to be subject to severe fluctuation.

Pollution - Extensive siltation has occurred from poor land use in the form of overgrazing of the range. Dairy cattle in the area which utilize this stream as a source of water, keep the stream continually muddy.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - None observed

OTHER VERTEBRATES - One water snake observed.

FISHING INTENSITY - None.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES - Possible picnicking at the Bay at the mouth of the stream.

ACCESSIBILITY - The stream is accessible from Marin City via Highway 1 to Tamalpais Valley; hence past the Tamalpais Valley School to Tennessee Valley.

OWNERSHIP - Private.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted against trespassing.

IMPROVEMENTS -

PAST STOCKING -

GENERAL ESTIMATE - This drainage has little or no fisheries value. Almost the entire drainage is used for dairy farming. Cattle use the creek as a trail so it is muddy most of the time. Overgrazing of the range, poor farming practices causes the stream to be heavily silted and muddy most of the time. A small farm pond exists near the mouth of this stream. Due to its close proximity to the ocean and the frequent encroachment of coastal fog, it is questionable whether a worth-while fishery could be established at this location.

RECOMMENDATIONS - No management of this stream is necessary, as it has no fisheries value.

Jack T. Allen/mh

cc: Jack T. Allen

