

California Department Of Fish And Game  
**STREAM SURVEY**

NAME: CORRAL CREEK COUNTY: Mendocino  
 STREAM SECTION: FROM: Mouth TO: Headwaters LENGTH: 3 mi.  
 TRIBUTARY TO: West Branch Russian River TWP: 17 N R: 12 W SEC: 8  
 OTHER NAMES: E. Fork of the W. Branch Russian River RIVER SYSTEM: Russian River  
 SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation and information 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
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- Aquatic Plants
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- 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
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**EXTENT OF OBSERVATION -**

On March 23, 1966 Corral Creek was surveyed on foot from the mouth to the headwaters by Dave Netherby, a distance of approximately 3 miles.

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS -**

Corral Creek is an important spawning tributary used primarily by steelhead, which contributes its winter flow to the West Branch of the Russian River.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION -**

Watershed - Corral Creek flows through a foothill rangeland area with vegetation composed of manzanita, oak and pine trees. The soil seems light and sandy.

Immediate Drainage Basin - This stream is in a steep sided "U"-shaped canyon, discharging in a south-westerly direction, with a lens shaped channel. Willow and grass compose the common vegetation near the stream.

Altitude - The altitude ranges from 860 feet at the mouth to 2,000 feet in the headwaters of this creek.

Gradient - Moderate throughout.

Width - Average 10 feet; range 4 to 25 feet.

Depth - Average 6 inches; range 2 inches to 5 feet.

Flow - Estimate present flow at 20 cfs. This stream flows underground during the summer with water seen in only a few scattered pools.

Velocity - Rapid throughout.

Bottom - Bedrock (20 percent) fine gravel (20 percent) coarse gravel (20 percent) rubble (30 percent) boulders (5 percent) sand and silt (5 percent). The pools were either in bedrock basins or had bottoms composed of the finer gravels and sands, whereas the riffle areas were based mainly over the coarser gravels and rubble.

Spawning Areas - The spawning areas were good, composed mainly of smaller loose gravel, running upstream for approximately 1 1/2 miles.

Pools - The pools were excellent throughout the streams; caused by boulders, the digging action of the current and undercut banks. The pools were wide, deep and long, ranging from 4 to 25 feet wide, 1 to 6 feet deep, and 5 to 30 feet long. (60 percent pool, 40 percent riffle)

Shelter - The shelter was adequate in most pools; composed of roots, undercut banks, and overhanging plants.

Barriers - A series of falls, each over 2 feet high are formed by bedrock 2 1/2 to 3 miles upstream. These falls make the upper reaches of Corral Creek inaccessible to anadromous fish. A partial barrier at the mouth of the main tributary to Corral Creek is presented in the form of a log jam and shallow flow with a steep gradient for 8 to 10 feet. The other tributaries are inaccessible at the present time due to small channels and shallow flow.

**Diversions** - None.

**Temperatures** - This was a warm, sunny day.

**Food** - No observations.

**Aquatic Plants** - Moss was scarce in Corral Creek but algae was common.

**Winter Conditions** - Corral Creek rises approximately 2 feet during flood conditions.

**Pollution** - No pollution was observed.

**Springs** - Springs do contribute some flow to Corral Creek.

**FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS -**

Steelhead reportedly use this stream for spawning although no fry were observed at this time. I did see 3 fish *B* to 12 inches long in the lower 1/2 of this stream but was unable to catch the fish and classify them. These fish seemed to be in good shape although overall natural propagation is unknown. Local residents do say that much fewer fish utilize this stream now than in previous years.

**OTHER VERTEBRATES -**

This is a high intensity deer area with cattle, lizards, hawks, and snakes also present.

**OTHER RECREATIONAL USES -**

Hunting is the primary sport in this area.

**ACCESSIBILITY -**

Corral Creek is accessible from Senkins Road which runs off of Tomki Road and can be followed 2/3 of the way upstream by jeep trails. The headwaters are accessible by foot up the creek bed.

**POSTED - OWNERSHIP -**

Corral Creek is bordered by 3 or 4 different ranches. The entire stream flows through private land and is fenced and posted against trespass.

**IMPROVEMENTS -**

No improvements are deemed necessary at this time.

**PAST STOCKING -**

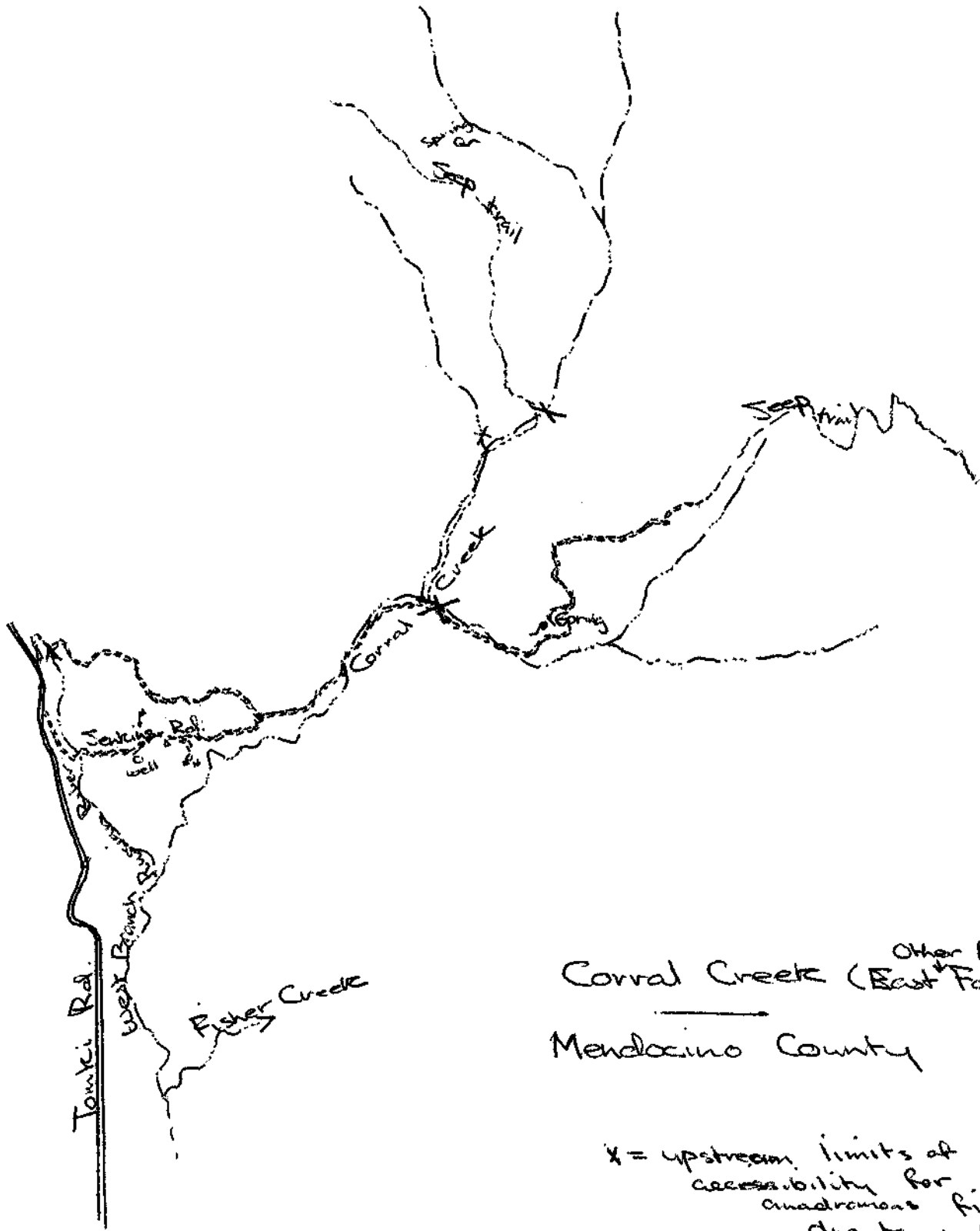
None.

**GENERAL ESTIMATE AND RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT -**

Corral Creek is an excellent spawning and nursery stream although it is intermittent during the summer months. Steelhead reportedly do utilize this stream but fewer come back each year. I can see no improvements that would greatly enhance this situation. Continue to manage as a spawning tributary for anadromous fish.

Willis A Evans  
Fisheries Management Supervisor  
Region 3

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Corral Creek (East Fork) <sup>Other Name</sup>

Mendocino County

X = upstream limits of  
 accessibility for  
 anadromous fish  
 due to natural  
 conditions or  
 log jams