

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

File form No _____ Date: _____

NAME: Atascadero Creek COUNTY: Sonoma

STREAM SECTION: Entire FROM: Headwater TO: Green Valley Creek LENGTH: 8½ mi.

TRIBUTARY TO: Green Valley Creek hence Russian R. TWP: 7 N R: 9 W SEC: 17

OTHER NAMES: None known RIVER SYSTEM: Russian River

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation by Jim Thompson and Jim Michaels

<p>EXTENT OF OBSERVATION Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.</p> <p>LOCATION</p> <p>RELATION TO OTHER WATERS</p> <p>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>
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EXTENT OF OBSERVATION - Atascadero Creek was surveyed on July 9 and 10, 1969. The headwater area upstream from the State Highway 12 Bridge was walked out on foot. The lower section was spot checked from a car with frequent stops for closer observation on foot.

LOCATION - Atascadero Creek enters Green Valley Creek about 1½ miles upstream from the town of Forestville.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Atascadero Creek is a major tributary to Green Valley Creek, contributing winter and some summer flow. The stream is of limited spawning and nursery area for steelhead.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed & Immediate Drainage Basin - Atascadero Creek drains an area of about 14 square miles of rolling hills and open valley, and discharges its flow in a north westerly direction. The stream within the channel is bowl shaped and is covered by an extremely dense growth of riparian vegetation. This riparian vegetation is generally composed of willows, maple, black berries and poison oak. The riparian canopy covers about 95% of the stream.

Altitude - Range 160 feet to 400 feet. Gradient: Approximately 30 feet per mile.

Width - Range 1 inch to 500 feet, average 5 feet.

Depth - Range ¼ inch to 8 feet, average 1 foot.

Flow - Flow in the headwaters was intermittent. Flow measured with the aid of a pygmy flow meter near Highway 12 Bridge was .068 c.f.s. Flow measured near the mill station road bridge was 0.50 c.f.s.

Velocity - Velocity was sluggish throughout the area surveyed.

Bottom - 70% mud, 10% gravel, 5% bedrock, 15% hardpan-clay.

Spawning Areas - Less than 1% of the stream appeared suitable for steelhead spawning. Most of the available spawning area was located in the headwater area.

Pools - Average pool dimensions were: 25 feet long x 7 feet wide x 2 feet deep. Pool to riffle ration was 80:20 respectively.

Shelter - Deep pools and dense overhanging vegetation comprised most of the shelter.

Barriers - One 4 foot fall was observed located about 200 feet downstream from Burnett Valley Bridge. No fish were observed above this falls.

Diversions - None observed.

Temperatures - $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downstream from Burnett Valley Bridge. Air 67°F., Water 58°F. Temperature near the highway 13 bridge was; air 76°F., water 59°F. Temperature near the mill station road bridge was; air 70°F., water 67°F.

Food - Caddisfly larvae were observed in numbers of about 15 per 10 inch rock. Snails were found to number about 5 per 10 inch rock.

Aquatic Plants - Algae, cattails and duckweed were observed.

Winter Conditions - Debris and high water marks indicate the stream raises about 10 feet near the highway 13 bridge.

Pollution - Numerous private dumps were observed along the stream banks.

Springs - None other than seepage was observed.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Juvenile steelhead and/or rainbow trout, stickleback, roach and sculpin. Juvenile steelhead and/or rainbow trout were observed only in a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile section of stream within the headwaters. Numbers were about 15 per 100 feet of stream. Size ranged from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch. Stickleback were observed within the stream in numbers of approximately 100 per 100 feet of stream. The length ranged from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch long. Roach were observed within the stream in numbers of about 100 per 100 feet of stream. The size ranged from about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch. Sculpin ranging in size from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches and numbering about 3 per 100 foot section of stream were also observed.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Deer, quail, cattle and horses.

ACCESSIBILITY - The stream is accessible from Burnside Road, Burnett Valley Road, Watertrough Road, Mill Station Road, Gratton Road, Occidental Road and Long Valley Road.

FISHING INTENSITY - None observed.

OWNERSHIP - Private Property.

POSTED OR OPEN - Most of the stream is posted against trespass.

IMPROVEMENTS - None observed.

PAST STOCKING - Unknown.

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Atascadero Creek is a major tributary to Green Valley Creek contributing winter as well as some summer flow. Spawning area appears limited to small isolated areas primarily in the headwater. Nursery area occurs only in the headwater.

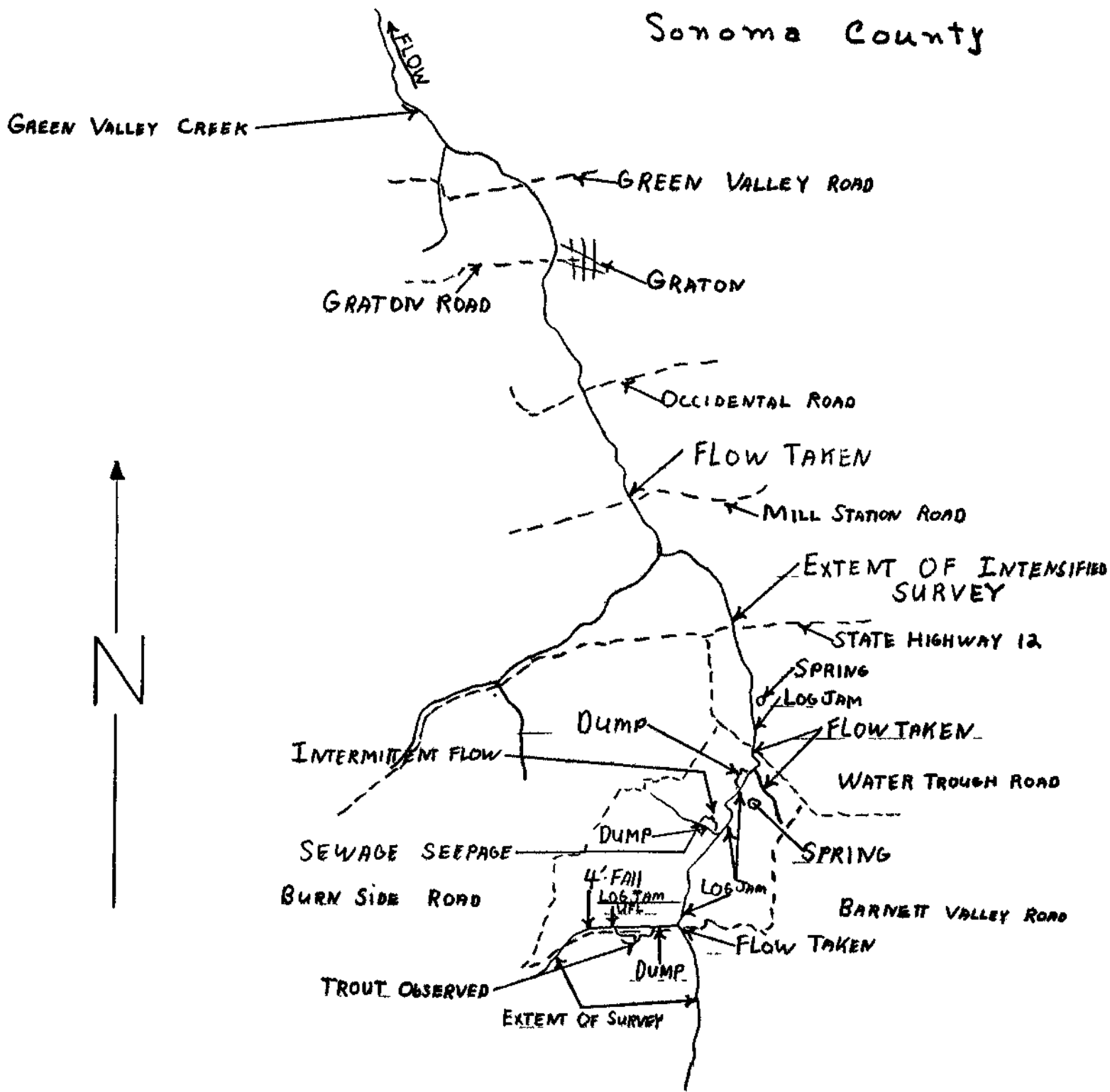
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - The stream should be managed for its limited steelhead spawning and nursery value.

SKETCH MAP - See attached map.

REFERENCES AND MAPS - U.S.G.S. Sebastopol Quad. 1954, 15 minute series map.

ATA SCADERO CREEK

Sonoma County



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SCALE IN MILES

July 9 and 10, 1969

Jim Michaels