

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
STREAM SURVEY

File form No. _____

NAME: SONOMA CREEK **COUNTY:** Sonoma
STREAM SECTION: _____ **FROM:** mouth **TO:** Headwaters **LENGTH:** _____
TRIBUTARY TO: San Pablo Bay **TWP:** 4 N **R:** 5 W **SEC:** 29
OTHER NAMES: none. **RIVER SYSTEM:** _____
SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation and local residents

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION Include: Name of Surveyor, Date
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 -

Stream was checked by auto via Sears Point road, Highway 12, Warm Springs road, and various county roads, from the mouth upstream to the headwaters area north of Kenwood on 2-4-57 by R. F. Elwell. Stops were made at frequent intervals for closer inspection on foot.

LOCATION -

Enters San Pablo Bay from the north, approximately 9 miles south of Sonoma.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS -

Stream is utilized by steelhead as a spawning and nursery grounds.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION -

Watershed - General area is characterized by wide, heavily populated and extensively cultivated valley, bounded by well wooded hills.

Immediate Drainage Basin - The main stream is situated almost entirely in the broad, flat Valley of the Moon in Sonoma County. The entire section is rather heavily populated and is either agricultural or irrigated pasture land. Most of the mid- and upper section runs through dense shade. The lower half lacks shade and is devoted primarily to agricultural land and pasture.

Altitude - 0' - 2000'

Gradient - Moderate to shallow throughout. [lwr section.]

Width - Average 10 ft. (3-25 ft.).

Depth - Average 8 in. (6 in. - 3 ft.).

Flow - Estimated 1 c.f.s. in upper section; 2 c.f.s. in mid-section; 3 c.f.s. in lower section.

Velocity - Generally rapid to cascading throughout entire [upper] stream section, [sluggish in lwr section.]

Bottom - Gravel, rubble and boulder.

Spawning Areas - Very good throughout the adobe canyon and main branches down to Boyes Hot Springs and below.

Pools - Very good pool development in upper section, fair mid-section and poor in lower.

Shelter - Good in mid- and upper sections, poor in lower section.

Barriers - Many open center flashboard dams are scattered along the entire stream and tributaries. No permanent barriers were observed.

Diversions - There are large number of diversions along the main stream and tributaries [both] for individual home use and large-scale irrigation. One of the larger diversions is [that] of the Saunders Sonoma County Golf course, located in Boyes Springs, across from the Valley of the Moon Recreation District catchable trout pond. Heavy pumping for the watering of the lawns in this golf course draws the water down very low in this area during the summer.

Temperatures - Maximum water temperatures probably range well above 70° in the open, unshaded lower section during the summer. Temperatures are probably considerably cooler in the mid- and upper sections along the densely shaded areas.

Food - Native insects and larvae.

Aquatic Plants - Few.

Winter Conditions - This stream is subject to heavy winter runoffs.

Pollution - Heavily populated areas occur along entire stream section including wineries and dairies.

Springs - None noted.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS -

Steelhead fingerling averaging 2-3 in. in length are quite common along the entire stream section. Success is evidently good in those nursery areas above Boyes Springs.

OTHER VERTEBRATES -

None observed.

FISHING INTENSITY -

Heavy in some sections of stream.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE -

There are considerable number of summer dams along the entire stream which are utilized for swimming during the summer months.

ACCESSIBILITY -

Stream is accessible from Highway 12 for almost the entire length.

OWNERSHIP -

Most of the land bordering the stream is privately owned.

POSTED OR OPEN -

Although some sections of the stream are heavily posted against trespass, most of the stream is open.

IMPROVEMENTS -

The construction of several earth-fill check dams below Boyes Hot Springs is proposed by the Valley of the Moon Recreation District.

PAST STOCKING -

The 7-acre impoundment area behind the Valley of the Moon Recreation District flashboard dam is stocked with catchable trout.

GENERAL ESTIMATE -

This appears to be a very good steelhead producing stream. The best spawning areas occur from the Highway 37 - 12 bridge upstream to the headwaters area above Kenwood. The best nursery areas occur from Glen Ellen upstream.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT -

It is recommended that this stream be managed as a steelhead spawning and nursery ground. The number of water diversions should be held to a minimum above the tidewater section, particularly the main stream section between Boyes Hot Springs and Kenwood.

The continuation of catchable trout planting in the Valley of the Moon Recreation District Park pool at Boyes Hot Springs is recommended.

SKETCH MAP -

See attached.

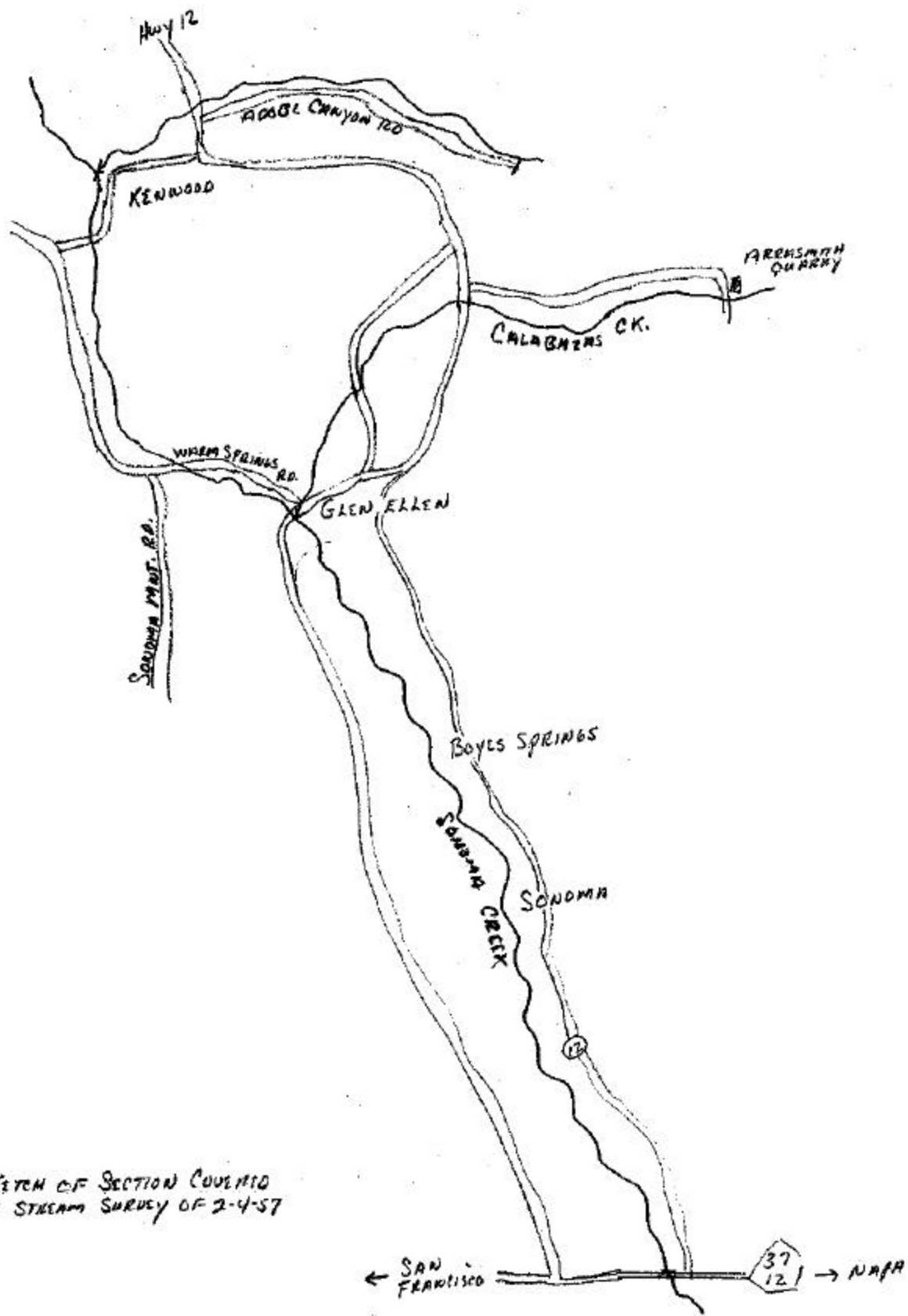
REFERENCES AND MAPS -

Sonoma County (Division of Forestry 1956)[; *U.S.G.S. Quads: Sonoma, 1942; Mare Island, Santa Rosa, 1944; Rutherford, 1951.*]

R.F. Elwell

RFE:cd

SONOMA CREEK
SONOMA CO.
2-4-57 R.F.E.



NOTE: ROUGH SKETCH OF SECTION COVERED
ON BRIEF STREAM SURVEY OF 2-4-57