

SEWARD CREEK

From mouth to confluence of Jack Smith and Eldridge Creeks
 No other names known.

Personal observation.

MENDOCINO

2 miles.

T. 16N. R. 12W. Sec. 7

Russian River System

EXTENT OF OBSERVATION : Seward Creek surveyed on foot from the mouth to the confluence of Jack Smith and Eldridge Creeks, about 2 miles, on July 13, 1972 by Steven C. Durkee and Robert R. Klamt.

LOCATION : Seward Creek enters Forsythe Creek about 1/2 mile upstream from where Uva Drive crosses Forsythe Creek.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS : Seward Creek contributes summer and winter flow to the Forsythe Creek system and potentially extends SH spawning and nursery grounds approximately 12 miles through its formation from Jack Smith and Eldridge Creeks.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION :

Watershed and Immediate Drainage Basin : Seward Creek is formed by the confluence of Eldridge and Jack Smith Creeks. This gives the Seward Creek system an overall drainage of about 13 square miles, of which only 2 square miles are on Seward Creek itself. In its 2 mile length, Seward can be divided into two parts by terrain. The lower section, of about a mile, flows through a wide flood plain under cultivation as vineyards. With a gradient of 80ft/mile the stream channel is meandering with a gravel base. The upper section of about a mile flows through a narrow bedrock canyon with a gradient of 80ft/mile. The natural vegetation of both sections is oak grassland, however the channel of the lower section is overgrown with willows.

Altitude : At mouth, 720ft.; at confluence, 880ft.

Gradient : Overall, 80ft/mile.; lower section, 80ft/mile; upper section 80ft/mile.

Width : Average, 4ft.; Range 1-10ft.

Depth : Average, 4 inches; Range, 1-36 inches.

Flow : 1 mile upstream, from mouth, 1 1/2cfs.; at confluence, 1cfs.

Velocity : Moderately rapid.

Bottom : 1 mile upstream from mouth; baseball and larger - 1/4, marble and golf - 1/4, pea, sand and silt - 1/2, at confluence; baseball and basketball - 1/3, marble and golf - 1/3, pea, sand and silt - 1/3.

Spawning area : Fair, 2/3 of area on average.

Pools : Pool to riffle ratio for both sections, 1:1

Shelter : Undercut banks, boulders and logs.

Barriers : 2 areas of loose litter.

Diversions : 1 6 inch intake and electric pump for irrigation.

<u>Temperatures</u> :	1 mile upstream	confluence
Air temp.	82°	95°
Water temp.	72°	78°
Altitude	800ft.	880ft
Weather	Clear	Clear
Time	1145	1305

Food : Mayfly, Caddisfly, Stonefly, beetle and diptera larva.

Aquatic Plants : Nutgrass, Juncus, Equisetum, Liverwort and algae.

Winter Conditions : 1 - 2ft. above summer levels.

Pollution : cattle on Eldridge Creek, Jack Smith Creek.

Springs : Few noted.

FISHES AND PRESENT SUCCESS : Squawfish, Roach and Rainbow Trout. Size, RT - 2 to 3 inches and 4 to 7 inches; Abundance, RT 2 to 3 inches - 20/100ft., 4 to 7 inches - 2/100ft.

OTHER INVERTABRATES : Frogs, tadpoles and salamanders.

FISHING INTENSITY : Unknown.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USES : Unknown.

ACCESSIBILITY : Accessible from Bel Arbes Drive leading from Uva Drive.

OWNERSHIP : Unknown.

POSTED OR OPEN : Posted.

IMPROVEMENTS : None noted.

GENERAL ESTIMATED : Seward Creek and its tributaries offer roughly 13 miles of potential steelhead spawning and nursery grounds. At present there is no evidence of such use apparently due to low winter flows preventing adult fish from entering the creek to any extent.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT : Further investigation should be made to determine just how winter flow is affecting fish passage, or/there are other factors also preventing use of this area,

SKETCH MAP : Attached.

REFERENCES : U.S.G.S. 15 minute series, (Willits and Potter Valley Quads) 1961. Scale - 1:62500.