

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**STREAM SURVEY**

**NAME:** COBB CREEK **COUNTY:** Sonoma

**STREAM SECTION:** Partial **FROM:** Confluence with Big Sulphur Creek **TO:** Approx. ½ mi. of stream **LENGTH:** ½ mi.

**TRIBUTARY TO:** Big Sulphur Creek **TWP:** 11 No. **R:** 8W **SEC:** 19

**OTHER NAMES:** None known **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian River

**SOURCES OF DATA:** Personal observations of Bruce Thomson and Jim Michaels.

<p><b>EXTENT OF OBSERVATION</b> Include: Name of Surveyor, Date, Etc.</p> <p><b>LOCATION</b></p> <p><b>RELATION TO OTHER WATERS</b></p> <p><b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p>Watershed</p> <p>Immediate Drainage Basin</p> <p>Altitude (Range)</p> <p>Gradient</p> <p>Width</p> <p>Depth</p> <p>Flow (Range)</p> <p>Velocity</p> <p>Bottom</p> <p>Spawning Areas</p> <p>Pools</p> <p>Shelter</p> <p>Barriers</p> <p>Diversions</p> <p>Temperatures</p> <p>Food</p> <p>Aquatic Plants</p> <p>Winter Conditions</p> <p>Pollution</p> <p>Springs</p> <p>FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS</p> <p>OTHER VERTEBRATES</p> <p>FISHING INTENSITY</p> <p>OTHER RECREATIONAL USE</p> <p>ACCESSIBILITY</p> <p>OWNERSHIP</p> <p>POSTED OR OPEN</p> <p>IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>PAST STOCKING</p> <p>GENERAL ESTIMATE</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT</p> <p>SKETCH MAP</p> <p>REFERENCES AND MAPS</p>
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**EXTENT OF OBSERVATION** - Cobb Creek was surveyed on foot on the date of August 28, 1968.

**RELATION TO OTHER WATERS** - Cobb Creek is a minor tributary to the Big Sulphur Creek drainage, contributing both summer and winter flows. The stream has excellent nursery area and limited spawning areas for steelhead and/or rainbow trout.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION - and Immediate Drainage Basin** - Cobb Creek drains approximately 5 square miles of mountainous terrain north of Big Sulphur Creek. Vegetative cover is composed primarily of grasslands, scattered oak and bay trees. Riparian vegetation is present along ¾ of the streams and was composed primarily of alders and bay. The soils in the Cobb Creek drainage appear to be rocky.

**Altitude** - Altitude ranges from about 1,600 feet near the confluence with Big Sulphur Creek to about 3,200 feet in the headwaters.

**Gradient** - Approximately 15 feet per 100 feet of stream.

**Width** - Average width was about 1½ feet and ranged from approximately 2 inches to 15 feet.

**Depth** - Average depth was estimated to be 6 inches and ranged from 1 inch to 4 feet.

**Flow** - Was estimated at about ½ c.f.s. near the confluence with Big Sulphur Creek.

**Velocity** - Generally rapid with cascading flows near the lower portion of the stream.

**Bottom** - 60 percent boulders, 15 percent gravel, 15 percent rubble and 10 percent bedrock.

**Spawning Areas** - Approximately 1 percent of the first ¼ mile of stream was believed to be usable as steelhead and/or rainbow trout spawning area.

**Pools** - Averaged 5 feet long by 5 feet wide by 3 feet deep and were generally circular in dimension. Frequency was approximately 80% pools and 20% ripples.

**Shelter** - Under logs, undercut boulders and deep pools.

**Barriers** - A (roughs) located approximately ¼ mile upstream from the mouth formed what was believed to be an impassable barrier to upstream migration of salmonids. No fish were observed above this point.

**Diversions** - None observed.

**Temperatures** - Air temperature 74°F. Water temperature 64°F., as recorded at 11:00 am.

**Food** - Mayfly larvae were found in numbers of approximately 1 per sq. foot of stream. Caddisfly larvae were found in numbers of approximately 50 per sq. foot of stream.

**Aquatic Plants** - Algae was observed in small quantities throughout the observed area.

**Winter Conditions** - High water marks indicated that the stream appears to rise from 2 to 4 feet above the present level.

**Pollution** - None observed.

**Springs** - None observed.

**FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS** - Steelhead and/or rainbow trout averaged 3 inches and ranged from 2 inches to 5 inches in size. Numbers were approximately 30 per 100 feet of stream. No fish were observed upstream from the roughs.

**OTHER VERTEBRATES** - Frogs, salamanders and deer.

**FISHING INTENSITY** - None observed.

**OTHER RECREATIONAL USE** - Camping sites were observed along the banks of the stream.

**ACCESSIBILITY** - A private road belonging to the Geysers Resort passes about 500 feet south from the mouth of Cobb Creek.

**OWNERSHIP** - Private.

**POSTED OR OPEN** - Not posted.

**IMPROVEMENTS** - None observed.

**PAST STOCKING** - Unknown.

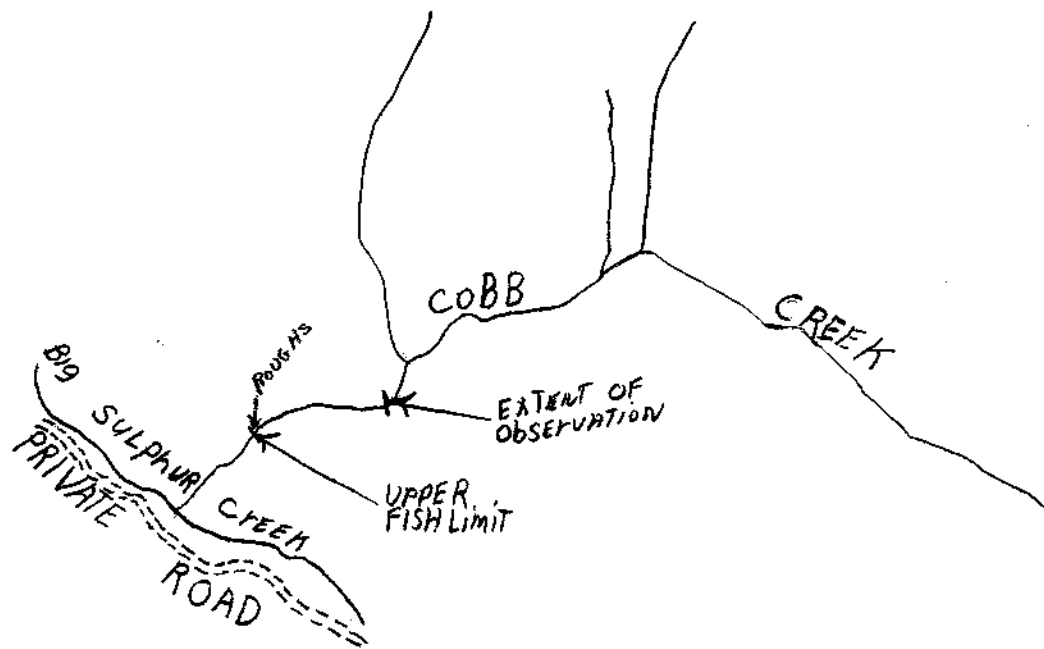
**GENERAL ESTIMATE** - Cobb Creek is a small- tributary to Big Sulphur Creek contributing about 5 percent of the summer stream flow of Big Sulphur Creek at their confluence. Spawning area appears limited. The stream appears to be an excellent nursery area.

**RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT** - This stream should be managed for its limited steelhead and/or rainbow trout spawning area. The nursery area was believed to be under-utilized. Consideration should be given to planting rescued steelhead upstream from the roughs.

**REFERENCES AND MAPS** - USGS - 15 minute series. Kelseyville Quad. - 1959.

JM:ka  
11/7/68

# SKETCH MAP COBB CREEK



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SCALE IN MILES