

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STREAM SURVEY

Date: August 19, 1977

NAME: Canshea Creek **COUNTY:** Sonoma

STREAM SECTION: entire **FROM:** month **TO:** headwaters **LENGTH:** 1.3 miles

TRIBUTARY TO: East Austin Creek **TWP:** 9 N **R:** 11 W **SEC:** 28

OTHER NAMES: none known **RIVER SYSTEM:** Russian

SOURCES OF DATA: Personal observation

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|---------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 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 - Canshea Creek was surveyed on foot from its mouth to its headwaters by Valli Boccone and Bill Rowser on August 18, 1977.

LOCATION - Canshea Creek is located in the northeastern portion of the East Austin Creek drainage area. The creek enters East Austin Creek 8.7 miles upstream from the confluence of East Austin Creek and Austin Creek.

RELATION TO OTHER WATERS - Canshea Creek provides spawning and nursery habitat for steelhead from its mouth to .3 miles upstream. It also provides year-round flow to East Austin Creek.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION - Watershed - Canshea Creek flows through a sloping mountainous canyon. The area of the headwaters is an oak grassland used for cattle grazing. The mid section is an oak grassland with a few scattered conifers. This area shows signs of intensive logging. The lower section is a mixed conifer and hardwood forest. One house with a barn is located near the mouth.

Immediate Drainage Basin - Canshea Creek flows in a northwesterly direction from its headwaters to 0.7 miles downstream, then in a northeasterly direction to its confluence with East Austin Creek. The drainage area is approximately 0.9 square miles. At the confluence of unnamed tributary W-1, a large open unshaded flat area exists. This area was the scene of a large log landing area. The stream channel through this area is cut through 4 to 6 feet of fill material, which was used to build the landing. Canopy is scarce (5% cover) consisting of oak and bay. The lower 0.4 miles flows through a heavily wooded area. The streamside vegetation consists of oak, bay, small stands of redwood, Douglas fir, red

alder, fern, liver wort, *Equisetum*, annual grasses and sedges. Slash and small log jams are common throughout this section. Canopy is abundant (80% cover).

Altitude - Altitude at the mouth is 425' MSL and at the confluence of unnamed tributary E-1, 650' MSL.

Gradient - The gradient was moderate throughout (4.3 ft per 100 ft).

Width - Average 2 feet, range 1 to 10 feet.

Depth - Average 2-4 inches, range 1 inch to 5 feet.

Flow - Flow was small (several gallons per minute) but continuous from a point near unnamed tributary W-1 to within 200 yards of the mouth. Unnamed tributary W-1 and E-1 were dry. All other areas were dry with the exception of a few pools (2 per 100 feet).

Velocity - Sluggish throughout area of flow.

Bottom - The average bottom type from the mouth to 0.4 miles upstream from the mouth was 5% boulder, 35% rubble, 25% gravel, 5% detritus, 5% sand, 25% soil and silt. Above this area the bottom type was dominated by soil from erosion and landfill (60 to 100%).

Spawning Areas - An estimated 20% of the area from the mouth to 0.3 miles upstream from the mouth is considered good spawning gravel. The gravel is loose and relatively clean.

Pools - The frequency of pools in the lower 0.4 miles was good, approximately 3 pools to 2 riffles. The average pool size 4'x2'x12". Pools were formed by undercut banks, log jams, and boulders.

Shelter - Shelter was provided by boulders, roots, undercut banks and logs. Canopy provided 60% to 90% cover.

Barriers - Four log jams were observed from the mouth to 0.4 miles upstream from the mouth (see sketch map). The upper 3 log jams are causing a build-up of silt and soil raising the streambed upstream from the log Jam. The severe siltation and lack of cover in the remaining 0.9 miles makes the area uninhabitable to fish.

Diversions - Two diversions were located 0.2 miles upstream from the mouth. The diversions were 2" plastic pipes not in use at the time of the survey.

Temperatures - Air temperature 82°F., water temperature 61°F.; at 1230 hours; 0.1 miles upstream from the mouth.

Food - Water striders, caddisfly larvae, and other unidentified aquatic insects were common in the lower section.

Aquatic Plants - Equisetum, sedges and filamentous green algae were common.

Winter Conditions - The average rainfall of the area is 50 inches. This drainage area appears to have a moderately heavy winter runoff. Channels in some areas were 6 ft high. Channel width ranged from 3 to 30 ft., average 8-12 feet.

Pollution - none observed other than heavy siltation in the upper area. The upper section may be subject to pollution from cattle excretion.

Springs - Spring development in the drainage area was fair.

FISHES PRESENT AND SUCCESS - Juvenile steelhead were observed from 200 yards upstream from the mouth to unnamed tributary W-1. There was approximately 5 fish per 100 feet ranging from 1 inch to 6 inches in length.

OTHER VERTEBRATES - Frogs and California newts were common. Other vertebrates observed were quail, doves, deer, woodpeckers, and turkey vultures. A common invertebrate observed was an aquatic snail.

FISHING INTENSITY - Light.

OTHER RECREATIONAL USE - unknown

ACCESSIBILITY - Canshea Creek is accessible near the mouth by a private dirt road which may be reached by taking the Armstrong Grove Park dirt road. (see sketch map) The keys for the first 2 locked gates may be obtained from the Park headquarters. A third gate is privately owned, the keys may be obtained from the local Game Warden. The creek is also accessible at any point from a dirt road paralleling its entire length.

OWNERSHIP - The entire creek is privately owned.

POSTED OR OPEN - Posted at points of access near the roads.

IMPROVEMENTS - Removal of the 4 log jams would be beneficial, as well as stabilization of erosion prone areas within the watershed.

PAST STOCKING - None known

GENERAL ESTIMATE - Canshea Creek provides good steelhead spawning and nursery habitat in the lower 0.4 miles. The upper 0.9 miles has been subject to poor logging practices leaving it with no present fishery value.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT - Canshea Creek should be managed as steelhead spawning and nursery habitat.

SKETCH MAP - attached

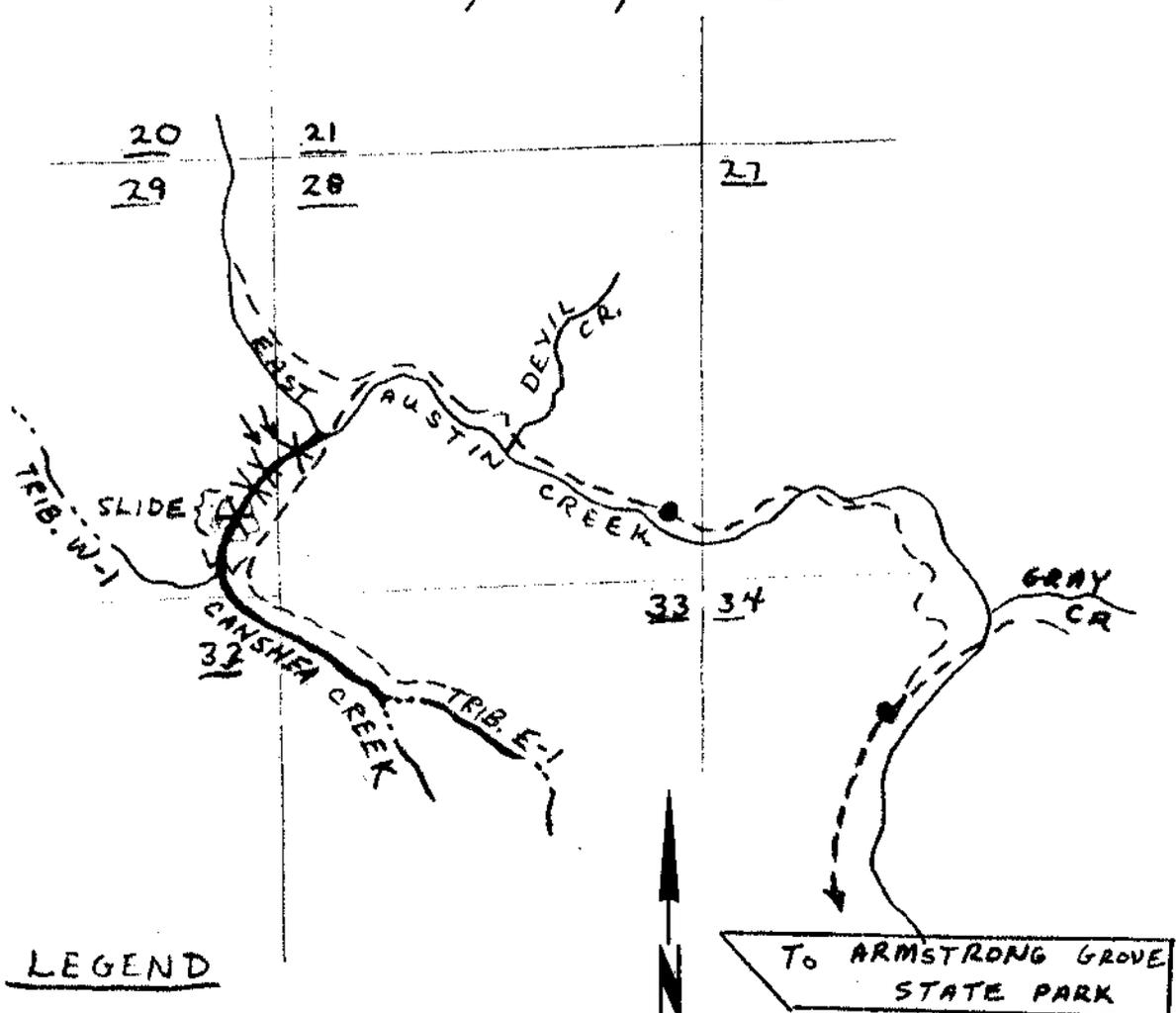
REFERENCES AND MAPS - USGS, Cazadero Quadrangle, 7½ minute series, 1943.

Alan Baracco
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Region 3

AWB/klS

CANSHEA CREEK

T9N, R11W, SEC. 28



LEGEND

- UNPAVED ROAD - - - - -
- UPPER FISH LIMIT Z
- LOG JAM X
- UNNAMED TRIB. W-1
- DIVERSION →
- SECTION NO. 4
- LOCKED GATE ●