



Ref 90461

File FM

1996 REDWOOD CREEK SUMMER STEELHEAD SURVEY

DATES: July 31, August 1, and August 22 1996

LOCATION: Redwood Creek, Humboldt County, California
 Chezem Rd. bridge downstream to Stover Creek

DISTANCE: 12 miles

CREW: Thomas J. Weseloh* and Patrick Dellasega*
 (* denotes prior Redwood Creek summer steelhead survey experience)

METHOD: Mask and snorkel (visual observation). Survey proceeded in the downstream direction.

ITINERARY: 7/31-Chezem Rd. bridge to Bair Rd. bridge (8 SSHD)
 (Weseloh and Dellasega)

8/1 -Bair Rd. bridge to Beaver Creek (6 SSHD)
 (Weseloh)

8/22-Beaver Creek to Stover Creek (7SSH)
 (Weseloh)

TOTAL NUMBER OF ADULT (OVER 16") SUMMER STEELHEAD OBSERVED: 21

LOCATIONS OF ADULT (OVER 16") SUMMER STEELHEAD:

Date	# of SSHD	Length (inches)	Map Site	Location/Description
7/31/96	4	22" 26" 28" 32"	1	In impoundment formed by earthen dam at Chezem Rd.. Impoundment stratified. Thermal barrier at mouth of Captains Creek. Rough skinned newts and suckers present.



Date	# of SSHD	Length (inches)	Map Site	Location/Description
7/31/96	1	23"	2	In hole about 0.75 miles upstream of Sweathouse Creek.
7/31/96	1	19"	3	In cascade area about 0.6 miles upstream of Sweathouse Creek.
7/31/96	2	21" 18"	4	In "caves" pool at confluence of Greenpoint Creek. Pool stratified. Fish spotted in "caves".
8/1/96	1	18"	5	In pool 150 meters above Moon Creek. First seen in head of riffle then swam under root mass.
8/1/96	2	17" 21"	6	In head of pool 100 meters above Molasses Creek.
8/1/96	2	19" 22"	7	Just below Pilchuck Creek.
8/1/96	1	20"	8	Under bridge abutment in Simpson hole (200 meters upstream of Beaver Creek.
8/22/96	1	21"	9	At confluence with Garcia Creek in pool tailout. Seen from bank before swimming near rock in 2 feet of water. Also seen diving.
8/22/96	1	19"	10	At confluence w/ Karen Creek in pool tailout then darted to upper pool.
8/22/96	5	19" 20" 22" 25" 28"	11	Impoundment at Advent. Camp. Two adults and two half-pounders were in one group in deep spot on left bank with woody debris. Three adults in deepest area on right bank by large wood and logs. All hiding and stationary. Stratified at 2.5 feet. 21.0 °C on surface, 17.0 °C on bottom.

Notes: Only fish over 16" fork length were counted as adults. A total of twenty-two(22) fish between 12" and 16" were observed. Juvenile coho salmon far were less abundant than in 1993 to 1995 (three were observed at the mouth of Minor Creek and one in the Chezem impoundment). Dozens of juvenile chinook were observed in the Chezem impoundment (in the riffle at the head) and a total of three were seen during the remainder of the dive. Juvenile steelhead densities were slightly higher than in 1993 to 1995 and were most abundant near bubble curtains, cool water sources (stratified areas, tributaries and seeps), and cover (fallen trees, large boulders). Suckers, sculpin, sticklebacks, rough skinned newts, lamprey (one adult and ammocetes) garter snakes, crayfish, frogs, ouzels, blue and green herons, kingfishers, mergansers, mallards, grouse, and pileated woodpeckers were observed. The only observed signs of fishing were near the Chezem Rd. and Adventist Camp impoundments.

Future Recommendations: In order to maintain and improve conditions for summer steelhead a list of future recommendations has been developed.

1. Continue adult summer steelhead surveys in the entire accessible reach of Redwood Creek on an annual basis. Collect more specific information regarding habitat in holding areas (temperatures, cover, etc.) to determine preferred habitat. Monitor half pounders and juveniles also.

2. Standardize survey protocols and data collection.

3. Monitor any man made impoundments for beneficial/detrimental impacts on summer steelhead.

4. Utilize information from recommendations 1 and 3 to develop a restoration plan for summer steelhead (there should be both short term and long range goals for implementation strategies).

5. Encourage regulatory agencies and private landowners to review land use practices as related to upslope and instream habitat.

This report was written by Thomas J. Weseloh of California Trout. If you have any questions or comments please call (707) 839-1056 or write 1976 Archer Rd. McKinleyville, CA 95519.

Table 1. Water temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) measured during the 1996 Redwood Creek summer steelhead trout survey. Locations are listed south to north. Alignment refers to tributary watershed position: E = eastside, W = westside, and REDW = mainstem Redwood Creek.

LOCATION	ALIGNMENT	1996 DATE	TIME	TEMPERATURE $^{\circ}\text{C}$ WATER
Redwood Creek (Chezem Rd Br)	REDW	7/31	1100	19.5
Captains Creek	E	7/31	1130	18.0
Redwood Cr. (bottom outlet)	REDW	7/31	1145	21.0
Redwood Cr. (surface outlet)	REDW	7/31	1145	25.0
Sweathouse Creek	E	7/31	----	dry
Greenpoint Creek	W	7/31	1515	16.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	7/31	1515	25.0
Santa Fe Creek	W	7/31	1530	17.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	7/31	1530	25.5
Loin Creek	W	7/31	1615	17.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	7/31	1615	26.0
Minor Creek	E	7/31	1700	19.5
Redwood Creek	REDW	7/31	1700	26.0
Redwood Creek (Bair Rd. Br.)	REDW	8/1	1140	21.0
Wiregrass Creek	W	8/1	1210	16.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/1	1210	22.0
Moon Creek	E	8/1	1250	dry
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/1	1250	23.0
Toss-up Creek	W	8/1	1330	16.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/1	1330	25.0
Mill Creek	E	8/1	1425	16.5
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/1	1425	25.0
Pilchuck Creek	W	8/1	1435	16.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/1	1435	25.0
Beaver Creek	E	8/1	1600	17.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/1	1600	25.0
Beaver Creek	E	8/22	1030	12.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/22	1030	17.0
Cashmere Creek	W	8/22	1130	11.5
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/22	1130	17.0
Garcia Creek	W	8/22	1140	11.5
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/22	1140	17.0
Roaring Gulch	E	8/22	1300	dry
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/22	1300	18.5
Lee Creek	W	8/22	1400	12.5
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/22	1400	19.5
Karen Creek	W	8/22	1420	12.5
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/22	1420	19.5
Redwood Creek (above AD dam)	REDW	8/22	1545	21.0
Redwood Creek (below AD dam)	REDW	8/22	1625	20.0
Stover Creek	E	8/22	1700	16.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/22	1700	20.5

FIGURE 1. Redwood Creek

1996 Summer Steelhead Survey

Observation Locations

Chezem Rd. to Stover Creek

21 adult fish observed

site # sshd observed

site	# sshd observed
1	4
2	1
3	1
4	2
5	1
6	2
7	2
8	1
9	1
10	1
11	5

