



CRITFC

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File FM

Humboldt

DRAFT
REF 90462

1995 REDWOOD CREEK SUMMER STEELHEAD SURVEY

DATES: August 28, 1995
LOCATION: Redwood Creek, Humboldt County, California
 Chezem Rd. bridge downstream to Bair Rd. bridge
DISTANCE: 4 miles
CREW: Thomas J. Weseloh* and Patrick Dellasega*
 (* denotes prior Redwood Creek summer steelhead
 survey experience)
METHOD: Mask and snorkel (visual observation)
ITINERARY: 8/28 - Chezem Rd. bridge to Bair Rd. bridge
TOTAL NUMBER OF ADULT (OVER 16") SUMMER STEELHEAD OBSERVED: 8
LOCATIONS OF ADULT (OVER 16") SUMMER STEELHEAD:

Date	# of SSHD	Est. Length (inches)	Location/Description
8/28/95	4	17" 20" 24" 27"	In impoundment formed by earthen dam at Chezem Rd.. Impoundment stratified. Thermal barrier at mouth of Captains Creek. Rough skinned newts and suckers present.
8/28/95	1	23"	In large hole about 1/3 mile upstream of Sweathouse Creek. First seen in tailout then moved to bubble curtain at head of pool.
8/28/95	1	22"	In "caves" pool at confluence of Greenpoint Creek. Pool stratified. Fish spotted at head of pool, then disappeared.
8/28/95	1	25"	In pool 1/4 mile above Santa Fe Creek. First seen in tailout then swam under boulder.
8/28/96	1	17"	In tailout of pool 1/4 below Loin Creek.

Notes: Only fish over 16" fork length were counted as adults. Three fish between 12" and 16" were observed. Juvenile coho salmon and steelhead trout were more abundant than in 1993 or 1994 (especially coho which were sighted three or four times more frequently). Juveniles were most abundant near bubble curtains, cool water sources (tributaries and seeps), and cover (fallen trees, large boulders). Suckers, rough skinned newts, garter snakes, and crayfish were observed. The only observed signs of fishing were near the Chezem Rd. impoundment.

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 2 to develop a restoration plan for summer steelhead (there should be both short term and long range goals for implementation strategies).

5. Protect all adult summer steelhead from legal harvest through sportfishing regulation amendments. A 14 inch maximum size limit or zero limit regulations will be submitted to the Fish and Game Commission by CalTrout.

6. 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 (C) measured during the 1995 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	1995 DATE	TIME	TEMPERATURE C WATER
Redwood Creek (Chezem Rd Br)	REDW	8/28	1010	14.5
Captains Creek	E	8/28	1030	12.0
Redwood Creek (dam outlet)	REDW	8/28	1050	17.0
Sweathouse Creek	E	8/28	1235	dry
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/28	1315	18.5
Greenpoint Creek	W	8/28	1400	13.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/28	1400	19.0
Santa Fe Creek	W	8/28	1415	13.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/28	1500	21.0
Loin Creek	W	8/28	1500	13.5
Minor Creek	E	8/28	1545	15.0
Redwood Creek	REDW	8/28	1545	21.0