

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**STREAM INVENTORY REPORT**

Big Austin Creek  
*Report Revised April 14, 2006*  
*Report Completed 2000*  
*Assessment Completed 1995*

INTRODUCTION

Stream inventories were conducted during the summers of 1995 and 1996 on Big Austin Creek. The inventories were conducted in two parts: habitat inventory and biological inventory. The objective of the habitat inventory was to document the amount and condition of available habitat to fish, and other aquatic species with an emphasis on anadromous salmonids in Big Austin Creek. The objective of the biological inventory was to document the salmonid and other aquatic species present and their distribution.

The objective of this report is to document the current habitat conditions, and recommend options for the potential enhancement of habitat for Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead trout. Recommendations for habitat improvement activities are based upon target habitat values suitable for salmonids in California's north coast streams.

WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Big Austin Creek is a tributary of the Russian River, located in Sonoma County, California (see Big Austin Creek map, page 2). The legal description at the confluence with the Russian River is T7N, R11W. Its location is 38°27'58" N. latitude and 123°2'57" W. longitude. Year round vehicle access exists from Austin Creek Road via Highway 116 near Cazadero. The upper road was only accessible through private locked gates.

Big Austin Creek and its tributaries drain a basin of approximately 68.7 square miles. Big Austin Creek is a fourth order stream and has approximately 13 miles of blue line stream, according to the USGS Guerneville, Duncans Mills, Fort Ross, and Cazadero 7.5 minute quadrangles. Major tributaries including East Austin Creek and Ward Creek are described in separate stream reports. Elevations range from about 20 feet at the mouth of the creek to 2,111 feet in the headwaters. Coniferous forest dominates the watershed, but there are zones of grassland and oak-woodland in the upper areas. The watershed is primarily privately owned, except for a portion in Austin Creek State Recreation Area. Major land uses include timber production, quarry mining (historical), gravel mining and urban development. Historically many residences were only occupied

seasonally, today most are year-round.

## METHODS

The habitat inventory conducted in Big Austin Creek follows the methodology presented in the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual (Flosi et al. 1998). The Neap crew that conducted the inventory were trained in standardized habitat inventory methods by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). This inventory was conducted by a two person team and was supervised by Bob Coey, Russian River Basin Planner (DFG).

## HABITAT INVENTORY COMPONENTS

A standardized habitat inventory form has been developed for use in California stream surveys and can be found in the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual. This form was used in Big Austin Creek to record measurements and observations. There are nine components to the inventory form: flow, channel type, temperatures, habitat type, embeddedness, shelter rating, substrate composition, canopy, and bank composition.

### 1. Flow:

Flow is measured in cubic feet per second (cfs) at the bottom of the stream survey reach using standard flow measuring equipment, if available. In some cases flows are estimated. Flows were also measured or estimated at major tributary confluences.

### 2. Channel Type:

Channel typing is conducted according to the classification system developed and revised by David Rosgen (1985 rev. 1994). This methodology is described in the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual. Channel typing is conducted simultaneously with habitat typing and follows a standard form to record measurements and observations. There are five measured parameters used to determine channel type: 1) water slope gradient, 2) entrenchment, 3) width/depth ratio, 4) substrate composition, and 5) sinuosity.

### 3. Temperatures:

Water and air temperatures, and time, are measured by crew members with hand held thermometers and recorded at each tenth unit typed. Temperatures are measured in Fahrenheit at the middle of the habitat unit and within one foot of the water surface.

#### 4. Habitat Type:

Habitat typing uses the 24 habitat classification types defined by McCain and others (1988). Habitat units are numbered sequentially and assigned a type identification number selected from a standard list of 24 habitat types. Dewatered units are labeled "DRY". Big Austin Creek habitat typing used standard basin level measurement criteria. These parameters require that the minimum length of a described habitat unit must be equal to or greater than the stream's mean wetted width. All unit lengths were measured, additionally, the first occurrence of each unit type and a randomly selected 10% subset of all units were completely sampled (length, mean width, mean depth, maximum depth and pool tail crest depth). All measurements were in feet to the nearest tenth.

#### 5. Embeddedness:

The depth of embeddedness of the cobbles in pool tail-out reaches is measured by the percent of the cobble that is surrounded or buried by fine sediment. In Big Austin Creek, embeddedness was visually estimated. The values were recorded using the following ranges: 0 - 25% (value 1), 26 - 50% (value 2), 51 - 75% (value 3), 76 - 100% (value 4). Additionally, a rating of "not suitable" (NS) was assigned to tail-outs deemed unsuited for spawning due to inappropriate substrate particle size, having a bedrock tail-out, or other considerations.

#### 6. Shelter Rating:

Instream shelter is composed of those elements within a stream channel that provide salmonids protection from predation, reduce water velocities so fish can rest and conserve energy, and allow separation of territorial units to reduce density related competition. Using an overhead view, a quantitative estimate of the percentage of the habitat unit covered is made. All shelter is then classified according to a list of nine shelter types. In Big Austin Creek, a standard qualitative shelter value of 0 (none), 1 (low), 2 (medium), or 3 (high) was assigned according to the complexity of the shelter. The shelter rating is calculated for each habitat unit by multiplying shelter value and percent covered. Thus, shelter ratings can range from 0-300, and are expressed as mean values by habitat types within a stream.

#### 7. Substrate Composition:

Substrate composition ranges from silt/clay sized particles to boulders and bedrock elements. In all fully measured habitat units, dominant and sub-dominant substrate elements were visually

estimated using a list of seven size classes.

#### 8. Canopy:

Stream canopy density was estimated using modified handheld spherical densimeters as described in the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, 1998. Canopy density relates to the amount of stream shaded from the sun. In Big Austin Creek, an estimate of the percentage of the habitat unit covered by canopy was made from the center of approximately every third unit in addition to every fully-described unit, giving an approximate 30% sub-sample. In addition, the area of canopy was estimated visually into percentages of evergreen or deciduous trees.

#### 9. Bank Composition:

Bank composition elements range from bedrock to bare soil. However, the stream banks are usually covered with grass, brush, or trees. These factors influence the ability of stream banks to withstand winter flows. In Big Austin Creek, the dominant composition type and the dominant vegetation type of both the right and left banks for each fully measured unit were selected from the habitat inventory form. Additionally, the percent of each bank covered by vegetation was estimated and recorded.

### BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY

Biological sampling during stream inventory is used to determine fish species and their distribution in the stream. Biological inventory is conducted using one or more of three basic methods: 1) stream bank observation, 2) underwater observation, 3) electrofishing. These sampling techniques are discussed in the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual.

### DATA ANALYSIS

Data from the habitat inventory form are entered into Habitat, a dBASE IV data entry program developed by Tim Curtis, Inland Fisheries Division, California Department of Fish and Game. This program processes and summarizes the data, and produces the following tables and appendices:

- Riffle, flatwater, and pool habitat types
- Habitat types and measured parameters
- Pool types
- Maximum pool depths by habitat types
- Shelter by habitat types
- Dominant substrates by habitat types

- Vegetative cover and dominant bank composition
- Fish habitat elements by stream reach

Graphics are produced from the tables using Lotus 1,2,3. Graphics developed for Big Austin Creek include:

- Level II Habitat Types by % Occurrence and % Total Length
- Level IV Habitat Types by % Occurrence
- Pool Habitat Types by % Occurrence
- Maximum Depth in Pools
- Pool Shelter Types by % Area
- Substrate Composition in Low Gradient Riffles
- Percent Cobble Embeddedness by Reach
- Mean Percent Canopy
- Mean Percent Canopy by Reach
- Percent Bank Composition and Bank Vegetation

#### HISTORICAL STREAM SURVEYS:

The Department of Fish and Game conducted two partial surveys of Big Austin Creek in 1977. The partial survey from the mouth to Ward Creek was conducted in April 1977 and the partial survey from Ward Creek to the headwaters was conducted in July 1977. In addition, biological inventories were conducted in June 1954, August 1956, and October 1968. A brief summary of each survey follows. In the 1977 survey, between Highway 116 and the mouth, the stream was intermittent. Fifty yards south of Ward Creek, a flow of 1.6 cfs was measured with a pygmy meter. Seventy yards upstream of Ward Creek, the flow was estimated to be 2.6 cfs. A 1 mile section near Red Slide Creek and a 1 mile section in the headwaters were intermittent. The wetted width ranged from 3" to 40' below Ward Creek and less than 1' to approximately 60' in areas with seasonal dams above Ward Creek. The depth ranged from less than 1" to 4' below Ward Creek and less than 1" to approximately 15' above Ward Creek.

Above Ward Creek, natural pools were most common in the upper 2 miles and artificial dammed pools occurred in the lower 3 miles. Shelter was provided by undercut banks and boulders. Below Ward Creek, pools were most common in the lower half of the survey. Shelter was provided by terrestrial vegetation, aquatic vegetation and deep pools.

Below Ward Creek, the substrate was 60% gravel, 15% small cobble and 25% sand. Forty-one steelhead redds and three lamprey redds were observed. Between Ward Creek and Red Slide Creek, the substrate consisted of 10% boulders, 30% cobble, 50% gravel, 5%

sand, and 5% organic debris/silt with many areas containing usable spawning gravel. One mile upstream of Red Slide Creek, the substrate was predominantly gravel. In the headwaters, the streambed was approximately 60% boulders, 35% cobble and 5% gravel with few areas available for spawning.

Partial barriers below Ward Creek included a temporary road crossing with a 36" culvert below the town of Cazadero, streambed alterations in an area opposite a gravel plant located north of the old Austin Creek Bridge, and remnants of some of the summer dams. Above Ward Creek, the only barriers were those created by gravel dams located downstream of the Arroyo Gun Club.

No pollution was observed, although septic tank leakage from homes along the creek was suspected. Two diversions were noted. Water Temperatures ranged from 53-73°F and air temperatures ranged from 56-84°F.

#### HABITAT INVENTORY RESULTS

\* ALL TABLES AND GRAPHS ARE LOCATED AT THE END OF THE REPORT \*

Habitat inventories of Big Austin Creek were conducted on August 8-31, 1995 and September 16-25, 1996. The 1995 inventory was conducted by Pamela Higgins, Kurt Gregory, and Julie Maggi (AmeriCorps). The 1996 inventory was conducted by Nancy and Bob Barney (NEAP). The data for both years was combined into one database and analyzed by Ken Bunzel (DFG). The stream was not inventoried from its mouth to the confluence with Ward Creek, because of its large size. The 1996 survey began at the confluence with Ward Creek and ended at the confluence with Bearpen Creek. The 1995 survey began at the confluence with Bearpen Creek, and extended to a point 500 feet past the end of anadromous fish passage at a 14 foot waterfall. The total length of the stream surveyed was 47,300 feet, with an additional 2,257 feet of side channel.

On July 21, 1995 summer flows were measured as approximately 2.45 cfs just above the confluence of Bearpen Creek and 5.72 cfs at the crossing of Old Cazadero Road and Cazadero Highway. On September 7, 1995 flows were measured as 0.984 near the confluence of Bearpen Creek, below the bridge. On May 25, 1996 flows were measured as 16.59 cfs at 150 yards north of the confluence with Ward Creek.

This section of Big Austin Creek has seven channel types in nine separate reaches: from the mouth to 18,874 feet an F3; next 1,563 feet an F2; next 2,220 feet an F3; next 3,523 feet an F4; next

3,403 feet a D4; next 6,257 feet a D3; next 1,153 feet an F3; next 4,536 feet an F1 and the upper 5,772 feet a B1.

F1 channel types are entrenched meandering riffle/pool channels on low gradients (<2%) with a high width/depth ratio and a predominantly bedrock substrate. F2, F3 and F4 channels are similar with boulder, cobble and gravel substrates, respectively.

B1 channel types are moderately entrenched, moderate gradient (2-4%), riffle dominated channels, with infrequently spaced pools, a very stable plan and profile, stable banks and have a predominantly bedrock substrate.

D3 channel types are multiple channels with longitudinal and transverse bars. They have a very wide low gradient (<2%) channel with eroding banks and a predominantly cobble substrate. D4 channels are similar except with a gravel substrate.

The un-surveyed section from the mouth to the confluence with Ward Creek can generally be described as a D4 channel type. It is characterized by long riffle/flatwater units with intermittent flow with few pools, except bedrock or boulder outcroppings and little shelter except where terrestrial vegetation exists.

Water temperatures ranged from 59-76°F. Air temperatures ranged from 54-91°F.

Table 1 summarizes the Level II riffle, flatwater, and pool habitat types. Based on frequency of **occurrence** there were 44% pool units, 29% flatwater units, and 27% riffle units. Based on total **length** there were 36% pool units, 36% flatwater units, and 28% riffle units (Graph 1).

Eight hundred, ten habitat units were measured and 13% were completely sampled. Twenty-four Level IV habitat types were identified. The data is summarized in Table 2. The most frequent habitat types by percent **occurrence** were low gradient riffles at 21%, runs 11%, and bedrock scour pools 9% (Graph 2). By percent total **length**, low gradient riffles made up 24%, runs 14%, and glides 9%.

Three hundred, fifty-nine pools were identified (Table 3). Scour pools were most often encountered at 54%, and comprised 48% of the total length of pools (Graph 3).

Table 4 is a summary of maximum pool depths by pool habitat types. Pool quality for salmonids increases with depth. Eighty-three of

the 359 pools (23%) had a depth of three feet or greater (Graph 4). These deeper pools comprised 12% of the total length of stream habitat.

A shelter rating was calculated for each habitat unit and expressed as a mean value for each habitat type within the survey using a scale of 0-300. Riffle types had the highest shelter rating at 28. Flatwater had the lowest rating with 17 and pools rated 20 (Table 1). Of the pool types, scour pools rated 24, backwater pools 21, and main channel pools 15 (Table 3).

Table 5 summarizes fish shelter by habitat type. By percent area, the dominant pool shelter types were boulders at 53%, bedrock ledges at 21%, and root masses at 10%. Graph 5 describes the pool shelter in Big Austin Creek.

Table 6 summarizes the dominant substrate by habitat type. Gravel was the dominant substrate observed in seven of the fifteen low gradient riffles measured. Small cobble was dominant in four of the low gradient riffles (Graph 6).

The depth of cobble embeddedness was estimated at pool tail-outs. Of the 352 pool tail-outs measured, 73 had a value of 1 (21%); 79 had a value of 2 (22%); 93 had a value of 3 (26%); and 107 had a value of 4 (30%). On this scale, a value of one is best for fisheries. Graph 7 describes percent embeddedness by reach.

The mean percent canopy density for the stream reach surveyed was 51%. The mean percentages of deciduous and evergreen trees were 36% and 64%, respectively. Graph 8 describes the canopy for the entire survey and graph 9 describes the canopy by reach.

For the entire stream reach surveyed, the mean percent right bank vegetated was 61% and the mean percent left bank vegetated was 63%. For the habitat units measured, the dominant vegetation types for the stream banks were: 48% evergreen trees, 30% deciduous trees, 8% brush, 7% bare soil and 6% grass. The dominant substrate for the stream banks were: 33% cobble/gravel, 28% silt/clay/sand, 20% bedrock and 19% boulder (Graph 10).

#### HABITAT INVENTORY RESULTS FOR UNNAMED TRIBUTARY

*The habitat inventory of August 25-31, 1995 was conducted by Pamela Higgins and Kurt Gregory (Americorps) and data analyzed by Ken Bunzel (DFG). The survey began at the confluence with Big Austin Creek and ended 2,970 feet upstream where fish were no longer observed.*

The surveyed section of this tributary is an F1 channel type. These channel types are entrenched meandering riffle/pool channels on low gradients (<2%) with a high width/depth ratio and a predominantly bedrock substrate.

Water temperatures ranged from 68°-72°F. Air temperatures ranged from 73-81°F. Based on total **length** there were 38% pool units, 33% flatwater units, and 29% riffle units. Forty-five habitat units were measured and 7% were completely sampled. By percent total **length**, high gradient riffles made up 28%, step pools 28%, step runs 25%, and runs 8%.

Twenty-four pools were identified. Main Channel pools were most often encountered at 54%, and comprised 80% of the total length of pools. Half of the pools had a depth of two feet or greater. These deeper pools comprised 18% of the total length of stream habitat. Pool types in general had a mean shelter rating at 21, with shelter consisting of 78% boulders and 22% bedrock ledges.

The mean percent canopy density for the stream reach surveyed was 36%. The mean percentages of deciduous and evergreen trees were 10% and 90%, respectively. Both right and left banks were 100% vegetated, with vegetation consisting of 83% evergreen trees and 17% brush. The stream banks were 83% bedrock and 17% cobble/gravel.

## BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY

### JUVENILE SURVEYS:

In July 1954, two sites were electroshocked using a 230 volt D.C. shocker. The first site was located 3 miles above the mouth at the Dic-A-Dero Rancho Resort. The water temperature was 65°F and the air temperature was 73°F. The flow was estimated at approximately 5 cfs. For 200 feet in pools and riffles 21 0+ and six 1+ steelhead were observed along with 1 juvenile Coho Salmon, 10 California Roach, 9 Sacramento Suckers, 1 Threespine Stickleback, 1 Sacramento Pikeminnow and 12 sculpin (Cottus Sp.). In addition, lamprey ammocoetes and crayfish were abundant.

The second site was located .5 miles above Austin Creek School. For 200 feet in pools and riffles 341 0+, 27 1+, and two 2+ steelhead were observed. Both of the 2+ steelhead had been feeding almost exclusively on caddis fly larvae. In addition, 56 California Roach, 5 Sacramento Suckers, and 2 sculpin were observed. No crayfish or lamprey were found at this site.

In August 1956, two sites were electroshocked for evaluation of the Russian River rough fish control project. The first site, located just above the mouth of Bearpen Creek, was nearly dry. A 4' deep pool still existed at the base of a large rock. Only 4 large Sacramento Suckers 10-11" long were seen.

The second site was located near the lower end of Ohmens Resort Campground. The water was fairly low in this area, with a flow of less than 0.5 cfs, which was lower than observed in previous years at this time. Three 0+ steelhead, 5 Sacramento Suckers and 1 Sacramento Pikeminnow were observed.

In 1968, nineteen tributaries of the Russian River were checked for the presence of Juvenile coho Salmon. Capture and identification was done by the use of a brail net. No coho were found in Austin Creek, although it was noted that a period of low rainfall occurred during the previous spawning season. Species present during this survey included steelhead, California Roach, large (adult) Sacramento Pikeminnow and Sacramento Suckers.

In the April 1977 survey below Ward Creek, young of the year Steelhead and California Roach were abundant, averaging 100/100' for each species. In addition, 13 adult steelhead, numerous Threespine Sticklebacks, 10 Sacramento Suckers, and 5 Sacramento Pikeminnow were observed.

In the July 1977 survey above Ward Creek, Young of the year steelhead were observed at 15-25/100' upstream to the Ohmen Resort area. It was noted that low winter flows during the past two years had probably limited both the range and number of steelhead in the stream. California Roach were observed up to Laton Mine in the headwaters and were the most abundant species found in this section. Approximately 80 Sacramento Suckers ranging in size from 3-10" were observed from 0.1 miles downstream of the headwaters to Ward Creek, with many observed in the pools downstream of Red Slide Creek. Three sculpin (*Cottus* sp.) were observed approximately 0.75 miles downstream of the headwaters.

On September 7, 1995 a biological inventory was conducted in four sites of Big Austin Creek to document fish species composition and distribution. Each site was single pass electrofished using one Smith Root Model 12 electrofisher. Fish from each site were counted by species, and returned to the stream. The air temperature ranged from 86-88°F and the water temperature ranged from 68-73°F. The observers were Higgins and Gregory (AmeriCorps).

The inventory of Reach 4 started in habitat unit 28 and ended 394

feet upstream in habitat unit 45. In two lateral scour pools 28 0+ and 4 1+ steelhead (8/100') and 1 coho were observed along with 10 California Roach, 1 sculpin (Cottus sp.) and 1 Threespine Stickleback.

The inventory of Reach 7 started in habitat unit 262 and ended 233 feet upstream in habitat unit 268. In two lateral scour pools 30 0+ and 7 1+ steelhead (18/100') were observed along with 14 California Roach and 6 sculpin. Five 0+ steelhead were also observed in a run habitat type.

The inventory of Reach 8 started in habitat unit 348 and ended 620 feet upstream in habitat unit 356. In pool and run habitat types 39 0+ and 2 1+ steelhead (7/100') were observed along with 18 sculpin, 7 California Roach and 3 unidentified salamanders.

The inventory of Reach 9 started in habitat unit 462 and ended 330 feet upstream in habitat unit 470. Eight 0+ steelhead (2/100') were observed in pool habitats and one California Roach and six sculpin were observed in pool, run and riffle habitats.

A summary of historical and recent data collected appears in the table below.

Species Observed in Historical and Recent Surveys			
YEARS	SPECIES	SOURCE	Native/Introduced
1954, 1956, 1968, 1977, 1995	Steelhead Trout	DFG	N
1954, 1995	Coho Salmon	DFG	N
1954, 1956, 1968, 1977	Sacramento Pikeminnow	DFG	N
1954, 1956, 1968, 1977	Sacramento Sucker	DFG	N
1954, 1968, 1977, 1995	California Roach	DFG	N
1954, 1977, 1995	Sculpin	DFG	N
1954, 1977, 1995	Threespine Stickleback	DFG	N
1954	Lamprey Ammocoetes	DFG	N

No introduced fish species were found in any of the surveys. The following table summarizes fish hatchery stocking, transfers or rescues for Big Austin Creek.

<b>Summary of hatchery stocking, transfers or rescues</b>				
YEAR	SPECIES	SOURCE	#	SIZE
1956	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	4335	FING
1957	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	18069	FING
1958	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	15824	FING
1958	SH	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	6694	FING
1959	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	7718	FING
1959	SH	BEAR PEN*	5625	FING
1959	SH	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	41494	FING
1959	SH	HULBERT CREEK*	5000	FING
1960	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	21423	FING
1960	SH	BEAR PEN CREEK*	12791	FING
1960	SH	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	7690	FING
1961	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	24926	FING
1961	SH	BEAR PEN CREEK*	12680	FING
1961	SH	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	18527	FING
1962	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	21448	FING
1962	SH	BEAR PEN CREEK*	18906	FING
1962	SH	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	5651	FING
1963	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	13440	FING
1963	SH	BEAR PEN CREEK*	2120	FING
1963	SH	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	2624	FING
1964	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	131007	FING
1964	SH	BEAR PEN CREEK*	7787	FING

<b>Summary of hatchery stocking, transfers or rescues</b>				
1964	SH	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	13520	FING
1965	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	8656	FING
1966	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	63970	FING
1966	SH	BEAR PEN CREEK*	11400	FING
1967	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	15717	FING
1967	SH	BEAR PEN CREEK*	2088	FING
1967	SH	SONOMA CREEK*	5556	FING
1968	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	86499	FING
1968	SS	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	30032	FING
1969	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	27100	FING
1969	SS	DARRAH <b>Hatchery t</b>	10000	YEAR
1969	SS	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	29684	FING
1969	SH	RUSSIAN RIVER*	2460	FING
1970	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	56436	FING
1970	SH	BEAR PEN CREEK*	4305	FING
1970	SS	DARRAH <b>Hatchery t</b>	15015	YEAR
1970	SS	DUTCH BILL CREEK*	4277	FING
1972	SH	AUSTIN CREEK*	5965	FING
1978	SS	GARCIA POND #1 <b>t</b>	4455	YEAR
1978	SS	GARCIA POND #2 <b>t</b>	3965	YEAR
1983	SH	WARM SPRINGS HATCHERY	24800	FING
1984	SH	WARM SPRINGS HATCHERY	13770	FING
1986	SH	WARM SPRINGS HATCHERY	13500	FING

SH = steelhead

SS = coho (silver) salmon  
\* = rescue actively  
t = transfer

## DISCUSSION

Big Austin Creek has seven channel types: F3, F2, F4, D4, D3, F1, and B1. There are 22,247 feet of F3 channel type in Reaches 1, 3 and 7. According to the DFG Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, F3 channel types are good for bank-placed boulders as well as single and opposing wing-deflectors. They are fair for low-stage weirs, boulder clusters, channel constrictors and log cover.

There are 1563 feet of F2 channel type in Reach 2. These channel types are fair for low-stage weirs, single and opposing wing-deflectors and log cover.

There are 3523 feet of F4 channel type in Reach 4. These channel types are good for bank-placed boulders and fair for low-stage weirs, single and opposing wing-deflectors, channel constrictors and log cover.

There are 3403 feet of D4 channel type in Reach 5. D4 channel types are fair for bank-placed boulders, single and opposing wing-deflectors and channel constrictors.

There are 6257 feet of D3 channel type in Reach 6. D3 channel types are fair for bank-placed boulders, single and opposing wing-deflectors and channel constrictors. They are poor for low and medium-stage weirs, boulder clusters and log cover.

There are 4536 feet of F1 channel type in Reach 8. These channel types are good for bank-placed boulders and fair for single wing-deflectors and log cover.

There are 5772 feet of B1 channel type in Reach 9. These channel types are excellent for bank-placed boulders and bank cover and good for log cover.

Any work considered in the D channel type areas must take into consideration the meandering stream channel created by the low gradient and excess gravel supply from the headwaters. Bioengineering erosion control techniques could be suitable in some areas to decrease channel width thereby increasing riparian and sediment scour.

The F and B channel types have suitable gradients and the stable stream banks that are necessary for the installation of instream

structures designed to increase pool habitat, trap spawning gravels, and provide protective shelter for fish. However, any work considered will require careful design, placement, and construction, due to high stream energies, and must include protection for any unstable banks.

The water temperatures recorded on the survey days August 8-31, 1995 and September 16-25, 1996 ranged from 59-76°F. Air temperatures ranged from 54-91°F. Water temperatures above the threshold stress level (65°F) for salmonids were recorded in all reaches. To make any further conclusions, temperatures need to be monitored for a longer period of time through the critical summer months, and more extensive biological sampling conducted.

Pools comprised 36% of the total **length** of this survey. In third and fourth order streams a primary pool is defined to have a maximum depth of at least three feet, occupy at least half the width of the low flow channel, and be as long as the low flow channel width. In Big Austin Creek, the pools are relatively shallow with only 23% having a maximum depth of at least 3 feet. These pools comprised 12% of the total length of stream habitat. Landowners indicate historically Austin Creek had many large deep pools. These pools have now filled with gravel due to historic quarry mining activities, sedimentation from road building, urban development and a recent major fire. Seasonal dams built may have also led to instream erosion through bank saturation and slumping.

The mean shelter rating for pools was 20. However, a pool shelter rating of approximately 80 is desirable. The relatively small amount of pool shelter that now exists is being provided primarily by boulders and bedrock ledges. Log and root wad cover in the pool and flatwater habitats would improve both summer and winter salmonid habitat. Landowners indicate that many large logs have been removed from the channel over time for lumber, firewood and to reduce the threat of erosion and flooding. However, this practice has led to diminished fish habitat quality and likely increased stream velocities leading to increased erosion and flooding in downstream areas. Log cover provides rearing fry with protection from predation, rest from water velocity, and also divides territorial units to reduce density related competition.

Seventy-three percent of the low gradient riffles measured had either gravel or small cobble as the dominant substrate. This is generally considered good for spawning salmonids. Fifty-seven percent of the pool tail-outs measured had embeddedness ratings of either 3 or 4. Only 21% had a rating of 1. Cobble embeddedness measured to be 25% or less, a rating of 1, is considered best for

the needs of salmon and steelhead. In a reach comparison, Reaches 1-5, and 7 had fair ratings while Reaches 6, 8 and 9 had poor ratings.

The higher the percent of fine sediment, the lower the probability that eggs will survive to hatch. This is due to the reduced quantity of oxygenated water able to percolate through the gravel, or because of fine sediment capping the redd and preventing fry emergence. In Reaches 6-9, stream bank erosion adjacent to road areas is prevalent. These sediment sources should be mapped and rated according to their potential sediment yields, and control measures taken.

The mean percent canopy for the survey was only 51%. Although 80 percent is generally considered desirable, canopy could only be improved in this wide alluvial stream with large native conifers. Cooler water temperatures are desirable in Big Austin Creek. Elevated water temperatures could be reduced by increasing stream canopy, particularly in the lower un-surveyed areas. The large trees required for adequate stream canopy would also eventually provide a long term source of large woody debris needed for instream structure and bank stability.

The headwater area of Big Austin Creek is geologically made up of highly erodible materials. This natural instability has been exacerbated by historic mining activities and a more recent devastating fire. Although much of the quarry mining activity has healed over, the effects of the fire in reducing riparian vegetation are still evident, and several large landslides exist which will be active for some time.

#### DISCUSSION FOR UNNAMED TRIBUTARY

*There are 2970 feet of F1 channel type in this tributary. These channel types are good for bank-placed boulders and fair for single wing-deflectors and log cover.*

*The water temperatures were high (68-72°F) and the canopy density was very low (36%) in this creek. In addition, the amount and quality of pool shelter is inadequate. Large woody debris would increase pool habitat with protective shelter for juvenile salmonids. Increasing the shade canopy by planting native trees would keep water temperatures cool and provide a long term source of woody debris for instream structure and shelter.*

*Road related erosion is prevalent in some areas, particularly downstream in the un-surveyed section. Eleven diversions were noted*

*in this section. Downstream where seasonal vacation residences have been converted to year round homes, water diversion is likely reducing flows.*

#### SUMMARY

Biological surveys were conducted to document fish distribution and are not necessarily representative of population information. Steelhead were documented consistently during each past survey year and coho only in the 1954 and 1995 surveys. This is likely because physiological and environmental requirements for coho are more stringent than for steelhead, or coho were absent or present only in small numbers in some years. The survey documented few 0+ fish indicating unsuccessful spawning or poor rearing conditions. Fewer 1+ fish were noted indicating poor holding-over conditions in general.

In general, Big Austin Creek is inadequate for salmonid rearing habitat. Stream shade canopy is very low and water temperatures are high. The #'s and presence of species such as Sacramento Pikeminnow and Sacramento Suckers indicate temperature levels favor warm water species and are marginal for salmonids.

There are adequate quantities of spawning gravel throughout the surveyed section; however, Reaches 6-9 have high levels of fine sediment. The stream for its entire length is severely aggraded. This can be attributed mainly to the natural geologic instability of the region which has been exasperated by historic quarry mining and wildfire, road building and urban development. Relatively few pools of adequate depth exist for salmonid rearing habitat and there is a lack of large woody debris shelter. Downstream of the surveyed section, habitat for salmonids is almost nonexistent and largely serves as a migration corridor.

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Big Austin Creek should be managed as an anadromous, natural production stream.

The recent winter storms brought down many large trees and other woody debris into the stream, which increased the number and quality of pools since the drought years. This woody debris, if left undisturbed, will provide fish shelter and rearing habitat. Many signs of recent and historic tree and log removal were evident in the active channel during our survey. Efforts to increase flood protection or improve fish access in the short run, have led to long term problems in the system. Landowners should be sensitive about the natural and positive role woody debris plays in the system, and encouraged not to remove woody debris from the stream, except under extreme buildup and only under guidance by a fishery professional.

## SPECIFIC FISHERY ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Numerous roads with inadequate erosion protection were observed in the headwaters of Big Austin Creek. Active and potential sediment sources related to the road system need to be mapped, and treated according to their potential for sediment yield to the stream and its tributaries.
- 2) A geological/hydrological assessment of the headwater area, and adjoining historic mine should be conducted to develop a restoration plan for the aggraded channel. This should include a sediment-budget analysis and the possibility of increased gravel mining in the lower and uppermost reaches.
- 3) There is a bank culvert in habitat unit 114 (Reach 1) in need of maintenance. This culvert has rusted and is causing erosion. There are also major bank erosion problems in habitat units 232 (Reach 2, below Bearpen Creek), 204 and 210 (both Reach 6, above Bearpen Creek). These sites should be treated with bank stabilization structures and/or revegetation techniques to reduce the amount of fine sediment entering the stream.
- 4) Increase the canopy on Big Austin Creek by planting willow, alder, redwood, and Douglas fir along the stream where shade canopy is not at acceptable levels. In many cases, planting will need to be coordinated to follow bank stabilization or upslope erosion control projects.

PROBLEM SITES AND LANDMARKS - BIG AUSTIN CREEK SURVEY COMMENTS

The following landmarks and possible problem sites were noted. All distances are approximate and taken from the beginning of the survey reach.

HABITAT UNIT #	STREAM LEN (FT.)	COMMENTS
1.00	48	START AT WARD CREEK
2.00	124	FEW FISH
15.00	957	MAN MADE DAM
16.00	1033	2" WATER INTAKE
17.00	1090	DRY TRIB LF BANK
23.00	1432	SM. MAN MADE ROCK DAM , NO FORM
25.00	1735	WELL CASING RT & LF BANKS
26.00	1841	SM. CULVERT LF BANK
27.00	2023	MAN MADE SM. ROCK DAM W/ VISQUENE 45' X 2' X 25'
29.00	2290	SM. MANMADE ROCK DAM
31.00	2331	PUMP CASING LF BANK
36.00	2597	CONCRETE WALL CASING RT BANK
40.00	2805	FISH
44.00	2974	UNSTABLE RT BANK
46.00	3035	SUCKER FISH
69.00	4329	YELLOW-LEGGED FROGS
71.00	4499	FROGS
73.00	4594	CULVERT LF BANK
74.00	4732	DRY TRIB RT BANK
78.00	4988	CONCRETE CULVERT LF BANK 4'X4'X30' DOWN CUTTING SLIGHTLY. HAS A SILL. NO PROBLEMS
84.00	5634	DRY TRIB RT BANK
86.00	5902	SAW NUMEROUS 0+ FISH
90.10	6216	FROGS
91.00	6374	SM. FROGS
92.00	6492	MAN MADE SM. ROCK DAM
96.00	6783	FROGS
99.00	7114	FROGS & FISH
103.00	7473	BRIDGE 10.5'H X 13.5'W X 45'L
105.00	7940	SM. CULVERT LF BANK 12X12 NO PROBLEMS
110.00	8371	DRY TRIB RT BANK
114.00	8543	CULVERT
117.00	9087	DRY TRIB RT BANK
123.00	9767	NUMEROUS FISH
125.00	9931	TEMP. INSTREAM CULVERT DUE TO LOGGING
135.00	10914	BRIDGE
138.00	11162	WELL CASING LF BANK

157.00	12632	MAN MADE VERY LOW ROCK DAM
162.00	12972	PIC #14 TRIB RT BANK HOLMES CANYON
171.00	14282	DAMMED POOL FLASH BOARD
176.00	14908	MANY 0+ FISH
188.00	15742	MANY FISH
190.00	16007	UNSTABLE RT BANK
191.00	16073	PUMP CASING RT BANK
196.00	16550	1+, 2+ FISH
200.00	17619	MAN MADE DAM POOL; DRY TRIB LF BANK
209.00	18697	EROSION PROBLEM RT BANK
214.00	19107	SEVERAL 0+ FISH
215.00	19141	EROSION LF BANK
218.00	19337	UNSTABLE RT BANK
220.00	19426	UNSTABLE RT & LF BANKS
221.00	19464	SEVERAL 1+, ONE 2+
227.00	19789	50 - 70 0+ FISH THIS POOL
231.00	20092	UNSTABLE BANK
232.00	20127	BLOW OUT RT BANK
251.00	22409	IN BANK CULVERT RT BANK
257.00	22697	BEAR PEN CREEK RT BANK
1.00	22728	FISH PRESENT; ROACH?/STEELHEAD
43.00	24430	SH/ROACH?
46.00	24761	MANY FISH CUT OFF FROM CHANNEL
58.00	25516	A FEW 1+ SH; MANY 0+ SH AND ROACH
68.00	26123	STEELHEAD OBSERVED
90.00	27430	EROSION LF BK
98.00	27985	DIRT CROSSING
107.00	28640	MANY FISH
124.00	29858	SUMMER CROSSING
127.00	29967	EROSION RT BK
130.00	30144	SUMMER CROSSING
137.00	30550	LARGE FISH
167.00	32080	TRIB LF BK STEEP, BOULDERS (61°F)
176.00	32444	MANY FISH (ROACH/SH)
189.00	32964	DRY TRIB LF BK (LG. BOULDERS)
190.00	32990	MANY 0+ SALMONIDS
194.00	33140	WET TRIB LF BK (60°F)
195.00	33200	EROSION OF FINE SEDIMENT ON RT BK
204.00	33623	BLOWOUT LF BK
206.00	33671	OLD BLOWOUT/EROSION RT BK
207.00	33685	NEW BLOWOUT, SMALLER RT BK
211.00	33776	MASSIVE LOG ACCUMULATION
219.00	34158	RESUMED TYPING OF BIG AUSTIN AT TRIB CONFLUENCE
236.00	34615	EROSION RT BK
237.00	34645	EROSION RT BK
239.00	34776	TRIB OR GULLY (DRY) RT BANK

249.00	35436	BRIDGE XING
256.00	35710	SUMMER XING
260.00	35896	"GRAVELY SPRING" TRIB ON LF BK, TOP OF UNIT (63°F)
274.00	36397	E.F. SPOT/SNORKEL; 1+/2+? SALMONIDS
276.00	36449	DRY TRIB/GULLY LF BANK
302.00	37452	POSS. DRY TRIB ON RT BK, LARGE LOGS
304.00	37555	EROSION LF BK
307.00	37643	EROSION RT BK
335.00	38742	CULVERT FOR ROAD (6.5' X 16'L) RT BK, TRIB (66°F)
337.00	38806	LARGE 2+ SH
348.00	39138	SUMMER ROAD XING
367.00	40197	TRIB LF BK 61°F (FISH) 3'W, .5' AVG. DEPTH.
375.00	40487	EROSION RT BANK
378.00	40532	TRIB RT BK STEEP/NARROW 1'W, 66°F
387.00	40789	1+/2+ FISH OBSERVED
395.00	41090	EROSION/BLOWOUT RT BK
398.00	41206	TRIB RT BK (62°F) SHALLOW, AVG. DPTH .5, FISH PRESENT
402.00	41370	TRIB LF BK (64°F) STEEP/BOULDERS/VERY SHALLOW TRICKLE
426.00	42446	2" PIPE LF BK PUTTING TRICKLE INTO CREEK
427.00	42578	DRY TRIB LF BK
432.00	42866	TRIB LF BK (TRICKLE, VERY STEEP)
434.00	43017	SUMMER ROAD XING
444.00	43324	SUMMER XING
460.00	43876	SPRING LF BK
479.00	44688	LF BK SPRING
481.00	44750	TINY TRIB LF BK, STEEP, 63°F
485.00	44943	SPRING LF BK INTO POOL
492.00	45377	BEDROCK SUBSTRATE
494.00	45481	1+ OR 2+ SALMONID
495.00	45502	BEDROCK SUBSTRATE
497.00	45666	WHITE SUBSTANCE COVERING POOL BOTTOM
499.00	45733	WHITE SUBSTANCE COVERING POOL BOTTOM (FISH OBSERVED, SP.?)
500.00	45770	ALL BEDROCK SUBSTRATE
502.00	45851	BEDROCK SHEET?
503.00	45879	CREEK BECOMING NARROW/SHALLOW
506.00	46226	DRY TRIB LF BK
510.00	46433	DRY ABOVE HERE SOME DISTANCE
512.00	46503	FISH OBSERVED

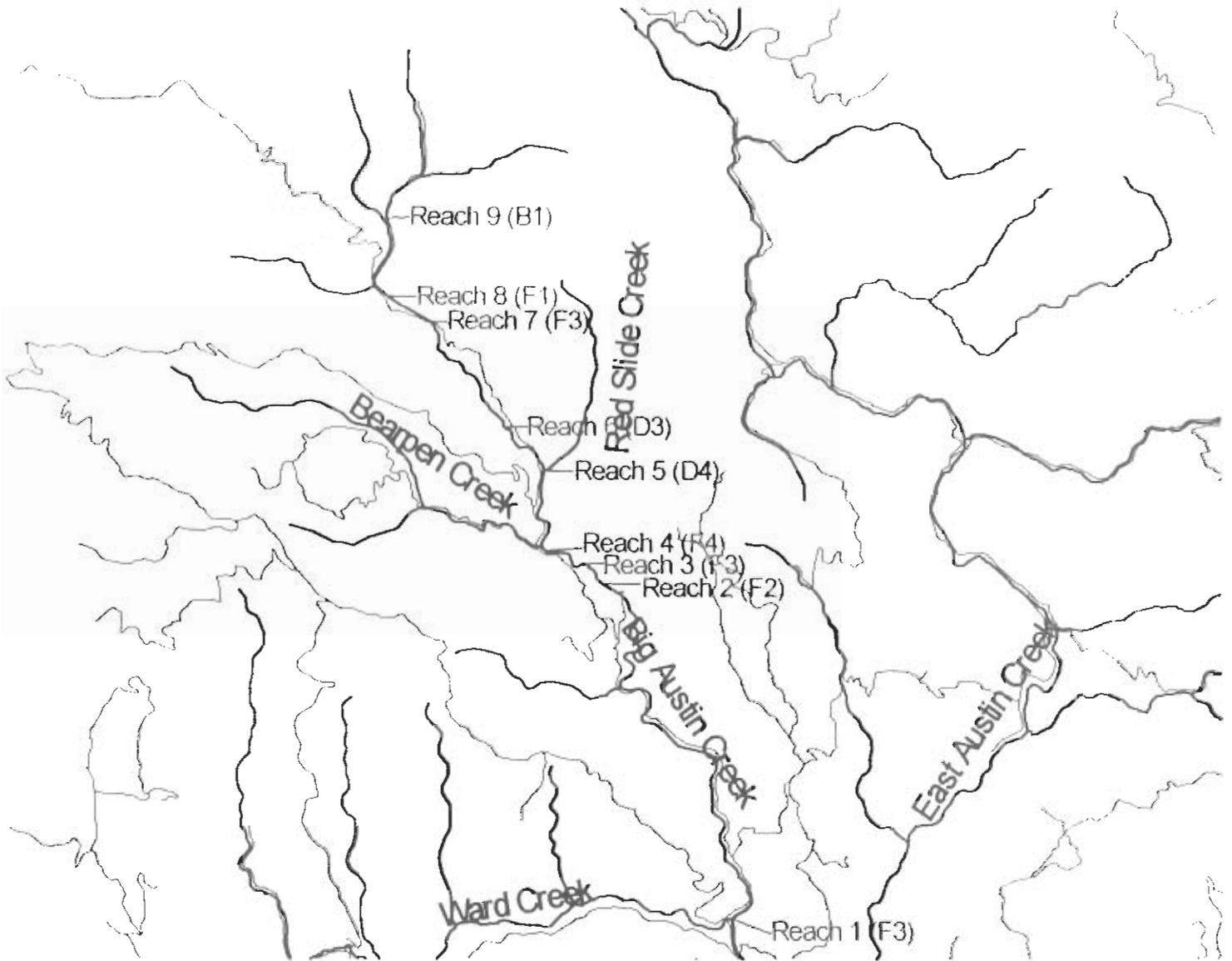
517.00	46837	2" METAL PIPE RT BK, LARGE VOLUME WATER COMING INTO CREEK
518.00	46868	14' FROM POOL SURFACE TO TOP OF PLUNGE. FISH PRESENT IN POOL
520.00	47026	TRIB RT BK (FORK, 71°F) ONLY A TRICKLE, VERY SHALLOW/STEEP/BOULDERS, VARIED BEDROCK SUBSTRATE
521.00	47336	NO FISH OBSERVED ABOVE UNIT #518
522.00	47367	CREEK GOES DRY HERE, NO FISH OBSERVED

PROBLEM SITES AND LANDMARKS - UNNAMED TRIBUTARY SURVEY COMMENTS

<i>HABITAT UNIT #</i>	<i>STREAM LEN (FT.)</i>	<i>COMMENTS</i>
18.00	794	FISH FRY OBSERVED
22.00	1003	9' FROM POOL SURFACE TO TOP OF PLUNGE
25.00	1134	FISH PRESENT
30.00	1370	NO FISH
33.00	1522	NO FISH
35.00	1747	TRIB LF BK (STEEP/BEDROCK) FRY PRESENT 63°F
45.00	2973	ENDED SURVEY HERE. NEXT 1000' WAS VERY NARROW, BOULDER AND BEDROCK STEP RUN WITH SOME INFREQUENT SHALLOW POOLS. ONLY A COUPLE 1/2" FRY. WATER 73°F, ALMOST ZERO CANOPY. ROCKY/BEDROCK TERRAIN.

# Big Austin Creek

## Channel Typing Reaches



Inland Fisheries Division  
Dept. of Fish and Game  
April 16, 1997

2 Big Austin Creek Tables Graphs Map  
Assessment Completed 1995  
Page 1 of 20

2 Miles



Big Austin Creek

APPENDIX A. Summary of Mean Percent Vegetative Cover for Entire Stream

Mean Percent Canopy	Mean Percent Evergreen	Mean Percent Deciduous	Mean Right bank % Cover	Mean Left Bank % Cover
51.26	63.86	35.70	61.39	63.26

APPENDIX B.

Mean Percentage of Dominant Substrate

Dominant Class of Substrate	Number Units Right Bank	Number Units Left Bank	Total Mean Percent
Bedrock	25	37	20.26
Boulder	33	24	18.63
Cobble/Gravel	49	52	33.01
Silt/clay	46	40	28.10

Mean Percentage of Dominant Vegetation

Dominant Class of Vegetation	Number Units Right Bank	Number Units Left Bank	Total Mean Percent
Grass	5	13	5.88
Brush	14	12	8.50
Deciduous Trees	51	42	30.39
Evergreen Trees	74	74	48.37
No Vegetation	9	12	6.86

APPENDIX C. FISH HABITAT INVENTORY DATA SUMMARY

STREAM NAME: Big Austin Creek  
 SAMPLE DATES: 09/16/96 to 08/31/95  
 STREAM LENGTH: 47300 ft.  
 LOCATION OF STREAM MOUTH:

USGS Quad Map: Fort Ross                      Latitude: 38°27'58"  
 Legal Description: T7NR11W                      Longitude: 123°2'57"

SUMMARY OF FISH HABITAT ELEMENTS BY STREAM REACH

STREAM REACH 1

Channel Type: F3	Canopy Density: 55%
Channel Length: 18874 ft.	Evergreen Component: 65%
Riffle/Flatwater Mean Width: 16 ft.	Deciduous Component: 35%
Total Pool Mean Depth: 1.4 ft.	Pools by Stream Length: 30%
Base Flow: 0.0 cfs	Pools >=3 ft. deep: 49%
Water: 59 - 67 °F    Air: 54 - 84 °F	Mean Pool Shelter Rtn: 27
Dom. Bank Veg.: Evergreen Trees	Dom. Shelter: Boulders
Vegetative Cover: 24%	Occurrence of LOD: 13%
Dom. Bank Substrate: Cobble/Gravel	Dry Channel: 0 ft.
Embeddness Value: 1. 64%    2. 13%    3. 14%    4. 9%	

STREAM REACH 2

Channel Type: F2	Canopy Density: 36%
Channel Length: 1563 ft.	Evergreen Component: 56%
Riffle/Flatwater Mean Width: 18 ft.	Deciduous Component: 44%
Total Pool Mean Depth: 1.3 ft.	Pools by Stream Length: 21%
Base Flow: 0.0 cfs	Pools >=3 ft. deep: 38%
Water: 63 - 66 °F    Air: 67 - 79 °F	Mean Pool Shelter Rtn: 35
Dom. Bank Veg.: Evergreen Trees	Dom. Shelter: Boulders
Vegetative Cover: 12%	Occurrence of LOD: 7%
Dom. Bank Substrate: Cobble/Gravel	Dry Channel: 0 ft.
Embeddness Value: 1. 83%    2. 0%    3. 0%    4. 17%	

STREAM REACH 3

Channel Type: F3	Canopy Density: 61%
Channel Length: 2220 ft.	Evergreen Component: 61%
Riffle/Flatwater Mean Width: 31 ft.	Deciduous Component: 39%
Total Pool Mean Depth: 1.3 ft.	Pools by Stream Length: 12%
Base Flow: 0.0 cfs	Pools >=3 ft. deep: 17%
Water: 65 - 67 °F    Air: 70 - 75 °F	Mean Pool Shelter Rtn: 41
Dom. Bank Veg.: Evergreen Trees	Dom. Shelter: Boulders
Vegetative Cover: 25%	Occurrence of LOD: 40%
Dom. Bank Substrate: Cobble/Gravel	Dry Channel: 0 ft.
Embeddness Value: 1. 86%    2. 14%    3. 0%    4. 0%	

STREAM REACH 4

Channel Type: F4	Canopy Density: 59%
Channel Length: 3523 ft.	Evergreen Component: 17%
Riffle/Flatwater Mean Width: 13 ft.	Deciduous Component: 83%
Total Pool Mean Depth: 0.9 ft.	Pools by Stream Length: 38%
Base Flow: 0.0 cfs	Pools >=3 ft. deep: 18%
Water: 66 - 72 °F    Air: 64 - 87 °F	Mean Pool Shelter Rtn: 16
Dom. Bank Veg.: Evergreen Trees	Dom. Shelter: Root masses
Vegetative Cover: 79%	Occurrence of LOD: 57%
Dom. Bank Substrate: Cobble/Gravel	Dry Channel: 20 ft.
Embeddness Value: 1. 31%    2. 22%    3. 22%    4. 19%	

STREAM REACH 5

Channel Type: D4  
Channel Length: 3403 ft.  
Riffle/Flatwater Mean Width: 16 ft.  
Total Pool Mean Depth: 1.2 ft.  
Base Flow: 0.0 cfs  
Water: 72 - 75 °F Air: 82 - 91 °F  
Dom. Bank Veg.: Evergreen Trees  
Vegetative Cover: 85%  
Dom. Bank Substrate: Cobble/Gravel  
Embeddness Value: 1. 0% 2. 61% 3. 28% 4. 11%

Canopy Density: 30%  
Evergreen Component: 48%  
Deciduous Component: 53%  
Pools by Stream Length: 32%  
Pools >=3 ft. deep: 28%  
Mean Pool Shelter Rtn: 39  
Dom. Shelter: Root masses  
Occurrence of LOD: 20%  
Dry Channel: 0 ft.

STREAM REACH 6

Channel Type: D3  
Channel Length: 6257 ft.  
Riffle/Flatwater Mean Width: 11 ft.  
Total Pool Mean Depth: 1.2 ft.  
Base Flow: 0.0 cfs  
Water: 62 - 74 °F Air: 66 - 91 °F  
Dom. Bank Veg.: Evergreen Trees  
Vegetative Cover: 81%  
Dom. Bank Substrate: Cobble/Gravel  
Embeddness Value: 1. 3% 2. 30% 3. 34% 4. 34%

Canopy Density: 47%  
Evergreen Component: 69%  
Deciduous Component: 31%  
Pools by Stream Length: 50%  
Pools >=3 ft. deep: 11%  
Mean Pool Shelter Rtn: 22  
Dom. Shelter: Boulders  
Occurrence of LOD: 23%  
Dry Channel: 51 ft.

STREAM REACH 7

Channel Type: F3  
Channel Length: 1153 ft.  
Riffle/Flatwater Mean Width: 11 ft.  
Total Pool Mean Depth: 1.0 ft.  
Base Flow: 0.0 cfs  
Water: 65 - 68 °F Air: 70 - 74 °F  
Dom. Bank Veg.: Evergreen Trees  
Vegetative Cover: 91%  
Dom. Bank Substrate: Cobble/Gravel  
Embeddness Value: 1. 18% 2. 47% 3. 18% 4. 18%

Canopy Density: 54%  
Evergreen Component: 62%  
Deciduous Component: 18%  
Pools by Stream Length: 58%  
Pools >=3 ft. deep: 18%  
Mean Pool Shelter Rtn: 16  
Dom. Shelter: Boulders  
Occurrence of LOD: 100%  
Dry Channel: 0 ft.

STREAM REACH 8

Channel Type: F1  
Channel Length: 4536 ft.  
Riffle/Flatwater Mean Width: 9 ft.  
Total Pool Mean Depth: 1.2 ft.  
Base Flow: 0.0 cfs  
Water: 62 - 69 °F Air: 65 - 78 °F  
Dom. Bank Veg.: Evergreen Trees  
Vegetative Cover: 86%  
Dom. Bank Substrate: Cobble/Gravel  
Embeddness Value: 1. 3% 2. 19% 3. 44% 4. 34%

Canopy Density: 69%  
Evergreen Component: 78%  
Deciduous Component: 22%  
Pools by Stream Length: 52%  
Pools >=3 ft. deep: 16%  
Mean Pool Shelter Rtn: 18  
Dom. Shelter: Boulders  
Occurrence of LOD: 21%  
Dry Channel: 0 ft.

STREAM REACH 9

Channel Type: B1  
Channel Length: 5772 ft.  
Riffle/Flatwater Mean Width: 9 ft.  
Total Pool Mean Depth: 1.8 ft.  
Base Flow: 0.0 cfs  
Water: 63 - 76 °F Air: 70 - 82 °F  
Dom. Bank Veg.: Evergreen Trees  
Vegetative Cover: 85%  
Dom. Bank Substrate: Cobble/Gravel  
Embeddness Value: 1. 0% 2. 5% 3. 82% 4. 67%

Canopy Density: 35%  
Evergreen Component: 82%  
Deciduous Component: 18%  
Pools by Stream Length: 48%  
Pools >=3 ft. deep: 23%  
Mean Pool Shelter Rtn: 11  
Dom. Shelter: Boulders  
Occurrence of LOD: 37%  
Dry Channel: 40 ft.

Big Austin Creek

Drainage: Russian River

Table 1 - SUMMARY OF RIFFLE, FLATWATER, AND POOL HABITAT TYPES Survey Dates: 09/16/96 to 08/31/95

Confluence Location: QUAD: Fort Ross LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T7NR11W LATITUDE: 38°27'58" LONGITUDE: 123°21'57"

HABITAT UNITS	HABITAT FULLY MEASURED	HABITAT TYPE	HABITAT PERCENT OCCURRENCE	MEAN LENGTH (ft.)	TOTAL LENGTH (ft.)	TOTAL PERCENT LENGTH	MEAN WIDTH (ft.)	MEAN DEPTH (ft.)	MEAN AREA (sq.ft.)	ESTIMATED TOTAL AREA (sq.ft.)	MEAN VOLUME (cu.ft.)	ESTIMATED TOTAL VOLUME (cu.ft.)	MEAN RESIDUAL POOL VOL (cu.ft.)	MEAN SHELTER RATING
217	8	RIFFLE	27	63	13668	28	12.8	1.5	481	104313	3202	694747	0	28
231	26	FLATWATER	29	77	17809	36	13.0	0.6	777	179549	493	113942	218	17
359	75	POOL	44	50	17970	36	15.3	1.3	1058	379776	1544	554147	1251	20
3	0	DRY	0	37	111	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TOTAL HABITAT UNITS 810  
 TOTAL LENGTH (ft.) 49557

TOTAL AREA (sq. ft.) 663638  
 TOTAL VOL. (cu. ft.) 1362836

Big Austin Creek

Drainage: Russian River

Table 2 - SUMMARY OF HABITAT TYPES AND MEASURED PARAMETERS

Survey Dates: 09/16/96 to 08/31/95

Confluence Location: QUAD: Fort Ross LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T7NR11W

LATITUDE: 38°27'58" LONGITUDE: 123°2'57"

HABITAT UNITS	UNITS MEASURED	HABITAT FULLY TYPE	HABITAT OCCURRENCE	MEAN LENGTH	TOTAL LENGTH	MEAN WIDTH	MAXIMUM DEPTH	MEAN DEPTH	MEAN AREA	TOTAL AREA	MEAN VOLUME	TOTAL VOLUME	MEAN RESIDUAL	TOTAL RESIDUAL	MEAN SHELTER	TOTAL SHELTER	MEAN CANOPY	TOTAL CANOPY
#			%	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	sq.ft.	sq.ft.	cu.ft.	cu.ft.	sq.ft.	cu.ft.	sq.ft.	cu.ft.	%	%
172	3	LGR	21	68	11653	16	2.3	1.1	643	110639	5663	974028	0	15	0	15	47	47
40	1	HGR	5	46	1830	10	0.6	1.1	305	12207	174	6941	0	30	0	30	37	37
5	4	CAS	1	37	184	9	0.7	1.4	241	1207	170	851	0	47	0	47	68	68
43	9	POM	5	79	3384	17	0.8	2.7	616	26468	503	21642	218	17	218	17	58	58
64	3	GLD	8	71	4546	15	0.5	1.2	874	55911	442	28318	0	5	0	5	54	54
93	6	RUN	11	77	7115	13	0.6	2.1	958	89092	605	56249	0	28	0	28	50	50
27	5	SRN	3	91	2454	9	0.7	1.8	606	16351	441	11907	0	9	0	9	38	38
4	3	EDW	0	77	310	11	0.5	1.5	712	2848	290	1162	0	23	0	23	68	68
1	1	TRP	0	46	46	8	2.0	3.7	366	366	731	731	548	0	548	0	70	70
66	12	MCP	8	39	2604	16	1.3	6.0	681	44928	1010	66671	813	21	813	21	52	52
6	2	CCP	1	28	165	16	1.2	2.6	420	2522	523	3136	365	3	365	3	52	52
56	7	STP	7	65	3658	12	1.0	3.1	799	44737	828	46387	574	10	574	10	40	40
3	3	CRP	0	78	235	13	1.2	4.2	931	2792	1135	3405	780	30	780	30	42	42
4	1	LSL	0	34	135	16	1.2	2.8	799	3197	896	3584	702	25	702	25	60	60
42	9	LSR	5	42	1760	14	1.1	4.9	695	29205	867	36426	673	37	673	37	64	64
70	8	LSBK	9	52	3614	16	1.4	5.2	1132	79274	1645	115151	1328	14	1328	14	60	60
44	9	LSBO	5	47	2059	18	1.4	5.9	1247	54872	1898	83506	1502	19	1502	19	58	58
30	9	PLP	4	25	757	12	1.6	10.5	293	8799	552	16575	428	33	428	33	57	57
2	2	SCP	0	21	42	10	1.3	2.2	192	384	230	459	151	8	151	8	22	22
19	4	BPB	2	29	558	10	0.9	3.1	372	7068	356	6767	246	15	246	15	46	46
3	0	BPR	0	61	183	7	0.5	2.0	224	672	112	336	67	43	67	43	90	90
4	3	BPL	0	41	164	7	1.1	3.1	311	1244	375	1500	252	41	252	41	50	50
9	5	DPL	1	221	1991	29	1.5	5.5	5606	50450	8956	80605	8433	21	8433	21	53	53
3	0	DRY	0	37	111	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23

TOTAL UNITS	810	TOTAL LENGTH (ft.)	49557	TOTAL AREA (sq.ft)	645233	TOTAL VOLUME (cu.ft)	1566338
-------------	-----	--------------------	-------	--------------------	--------	----------------------	---------

Big Austin Creek

Drainage: Russian River

Table 3 - SUMMARY OF POOL TYPES

Survey Dates: 09/16/96 to 08/31/95

Confluence Location: QUAD: Fort Ross LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T7NR11W LATITUDE: 38°27'58" LONGITUDE: 123°21'57"

HABITAT UNITS	HABITAT FULLY MEASURED	HABITAT TYPE	HABITAT PERCENT OCCURRENCE	MEAN LENGTH (ft.)	TOTAL LENGTH (ft.)	MEAN WIDTH (ft.)	TOTAL LENGTH (ft.)	MEAN DEPTH (ft.)	TOTAL AREA (sq.ft.)	MEAN AREA (sq.ft.)	TOTAL AREA (sq.ft.)	MEAN VOLUME (cu.ft.)	TOTAL VOLUME (cu.ft.)	MEAN RESIDUAL EST. (cu.ft.)	TOTAL VOLUME (cu.ft.)	MEAN SHELTER RATING
129	22	MAIN	36	50	6473	36	14.7	1.2	670	86451	916	118128	706	15		
193	39	SCOUR	54	44	8559	48	15.7	1.3	962	185668	1392	268639	1099	24		
37	14	BACKWATER	10	79	2938	16	15.1	1.1	1895	70108	2889	106881	2525	21		
TOTAL UNITS	75			TOTAL LENGTH (ft.)	17970				TOTAL AREA (sq.ft.)	342228		TOTAL VOLUME (cu.ft.)	493648			

Big Austin Creek

Drainage: Russian River

Table 4 - SUMMARY OF MAXIMUM POOL DEPTHS BY POOL HABITAT TYPES Survey Dates: 09/16/96 to 08/31/95

Confluence Location: QUAD: Fort Ross LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T7NR11W LATITUDE: 38°27'58" LONGITUDE: 123°2'57"

UNITS MEASURED	HABITAT TYPE	<1 FOOT		1-<2 FOOT		2-<3 FOOT		3-<4 FOOT		>=4 FOOT	
		PERCENT OCCURRENCE	MAXIMUM DEPTH								
1	TRP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0
66	MCP	18	0	0	32	30	45	5	8	10	15
6	CCP	2	0	4	67	2	33	0	0	0	0
56	STP	16	0	0	71	14	25	2	4	0	0
3	CRP	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	67	1	33
4	LSL	1	0	0	75	1	25	0	0	0	0
42	LSR	12	0	0	38	17	40	6	14	3	7
70	LSBK	19	1	1	24	24	34	14	20	14	20
44	LSBo	12	0	0	36	16	36	5	11	7	16
30	PLP	8	0	0	43	10	33	2	7	5	17
2	SCP	1	0	0	50	1	50	0	0	0	0
19	BPB	5	0	0	68	5	26	1	5	0	0
3	BPR	1	0	0	67	1	33	0	0	0	0
4	BPL	1	0	0	25	2	50	1	25	0	0
9	DPL	3	1	11	11	3	33	2	22	2	22

TOTAL UNITS 359

Big Austin Creek

Drainage: Russian River

Table 5 - Summary of Shelter by Habitat Type

Survey Dates: 09/16/96 to 08/31/95

Confluence Location: QUAD: Fort Ross LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T7NR11W LATITUDE: 38°27'58" LONGITUDE: 123°2'57"

UNITS MEASURED	UNITS SHELTER	HABITAT TYPE	SQ. FT. UNDERCUT BANKS	SQ. FT. SWD	SQ. FT. LWD	SQ. FT. ROOT MASS VEGETATION	SQ. FT. TERR. VEGETATION	SQ. FT. AQUATIC VEGETATION	SQ. FT. WHITE WATER	SQ. FT. BOULDERS	SQ. FT. BEDROCK LEDGES
172	5	LGR	0	69	0	0	0	0	0	745	0
40	2	HGR	0	15	7	0	0	0	30	97	0
5	4	CAS	0	0	0	12	0	0	28	211	0
43	17	POW	43	0	0	15	0	0	0	839	0
64	3	GLO	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	184	0
93	6	RUN	142	169	0	30	30	110	0	329	0
27	5	SRN	0	0	0	0	0	103	0	192	0
4	3	EDW	0	73	0	0	0	29	0	95	0
1	1	TRP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
66	64	MCP	0	29	4	57	5	9	47	1232	91
6	5	CCP	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
56	56	STP	0	8	0	7	0	9	25	117	9
3	3	CRP	13	26	13	77	0	0	0	0	0
4	4	LSL	0	132	112	0	0	0	0	168	0
42	42	LSR	209	350	142	1182	32	32	0	99	0
70	67	LSBK	0	42	16	0	31	312	0	908	2170
44	43	LSBo	52	48	76	129	40	30	0	3220	75
30	30	PLP	0	5	0	0	0	0	82	409	23
2	2	SCP	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	27	0
19	17	BPB	65	95	15	16	0	0	0	264	51
3	3	BPR	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
4	4	BPL	0	9	99	22	0	22	0	43	0
9	8	DPL	0	138	20	204	114	97	0	2241	960
3	0	DRY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	810	394	525	1209	536	1735	279	753	212	11426	3379
			3%	6%	3%	9%	1%	4%	1%	57%	17%

TOTAL FOR POOLS	359	349	340	883	497	1705	222	511	154	8734	3379
	2%	5%	3%	5%	3%	10%	1%	3%	1%	53%	21%

Big Austin Creek

Drainage: Russian River

Table 6 - SUMMARY OF DOMINANT SUBSTRATES BY HABITAT TYPE

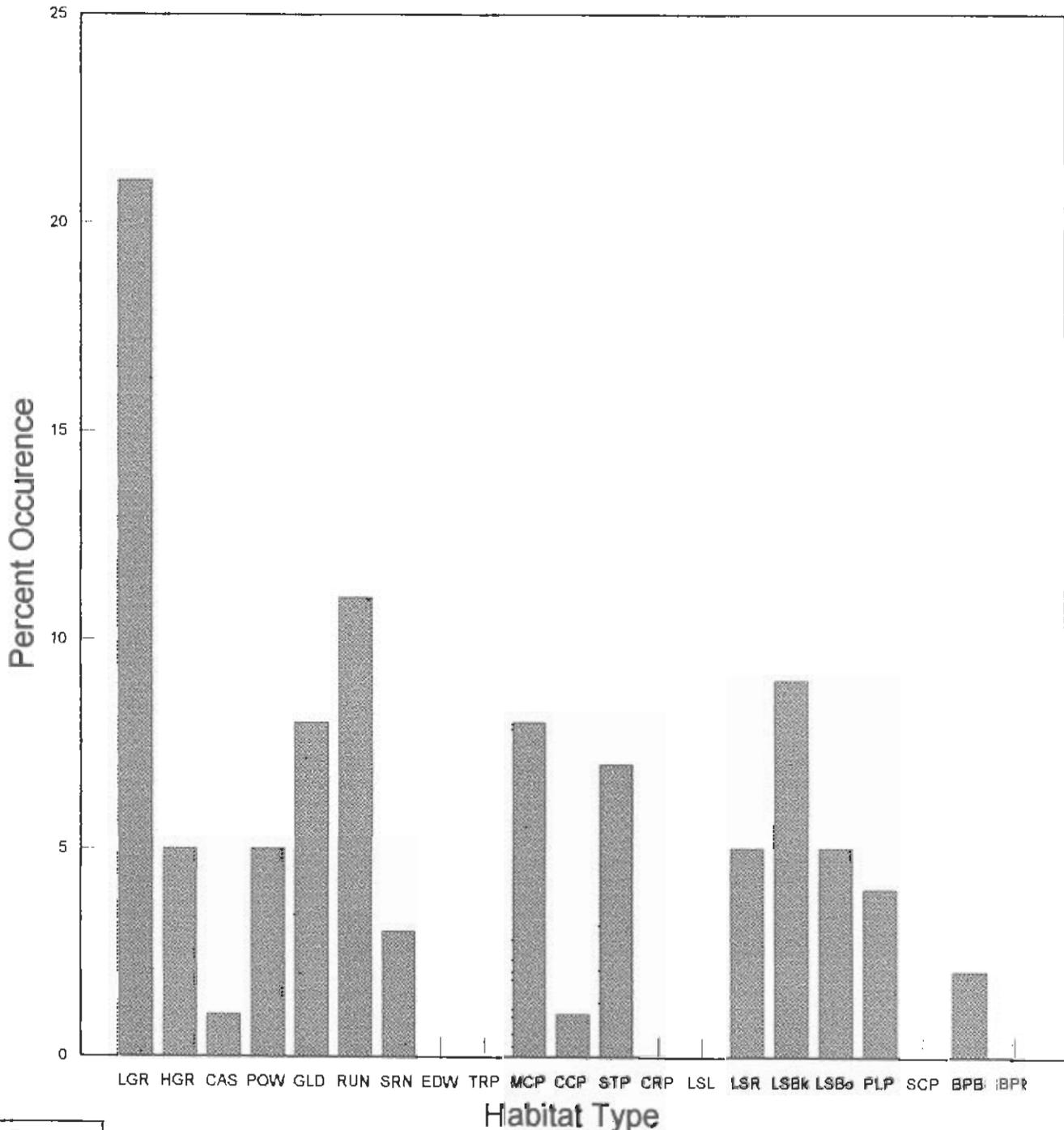
Survey Dates: 09/16/96 to 08/31/95

Confluence Location: QJAD: Fort Ross LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T7NR11W LATITUDE: 38°27'58" LONGITUDE: 123°21'57"

TOTAL HABITAT UNITS MEASURED	UNITS SUBSTRATE	HABITAT TYPE	% TOTAL		% TOTAL		% TOTAL		% TOTAL		% TOTAL	
			SILT/CLAY DOMINANT	SAND DOMINANT	GRAVEL DOMINANT	SM COBBLE DOMINANT	LG COBBLE DOMINANT	BOULDER DOMINANT	BEDROCK DOMINANT			
15	LGR		0	0	47	27	20	7	7	0	0	
8	HGR		0	0	0	50	25	25	0	0	0	
5	CAS		0	0	20	20	60	0	0	0	0	
9	POM		0	0	67	33	0	0	0	0	0	
6	GLD		0	0	67	17	17	0	0	0	0	
12	RUN		0	8	50	33	8	0	0	0	0	
6	SRN		0	0	17	67	0	0	0	17	0	
4	EDW		0	0	25	75	0	0	0	0	0	
1	TRP		0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13	MCP		0	31	46	23	0	0	0	0	0	
3	CCP		0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	STP		0	0	29	43	14	0	0	14	0	
3	CRP		0	67	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	LSL		0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10	LSR		0	40	40	20	0	0	0	0	0	
9	LSBK		0	33	56	11	0	0	0	0	0	
9	LSBO		0	11	78	11	0	0	0	0	0	
9	PLP		0	11	56	0	11	11	0	11	0	
2	SCP		0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	
8	BPB		0	38	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	BPR		0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	BPL		0	75	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5	DPL		0	0	40	20	40	0	0	0	0	
3	DRY		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

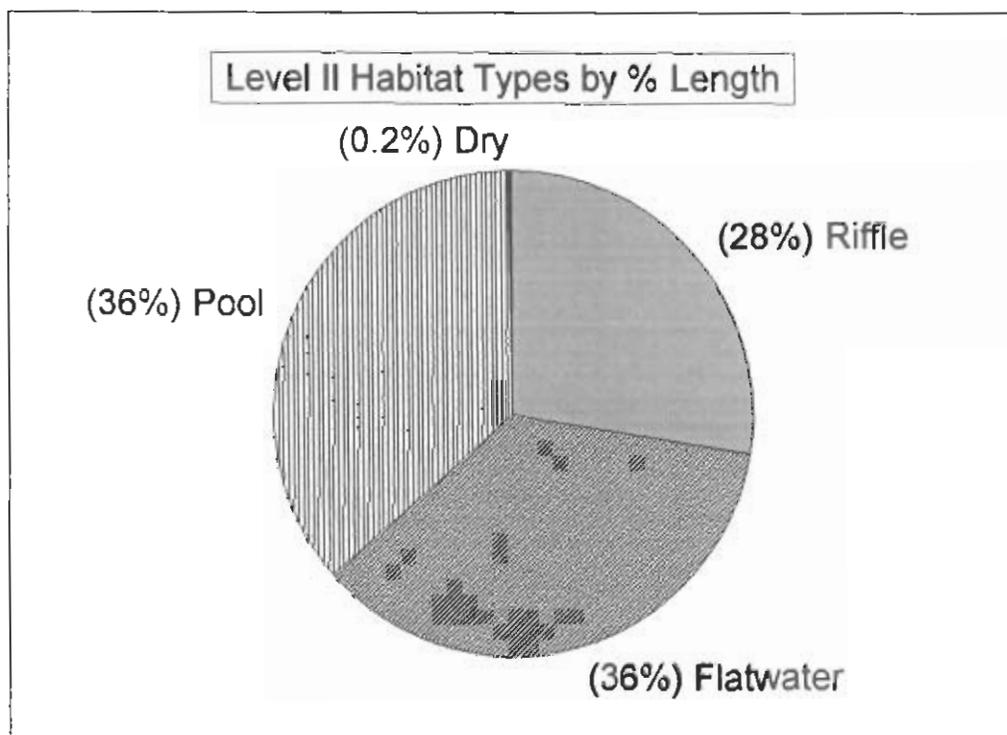
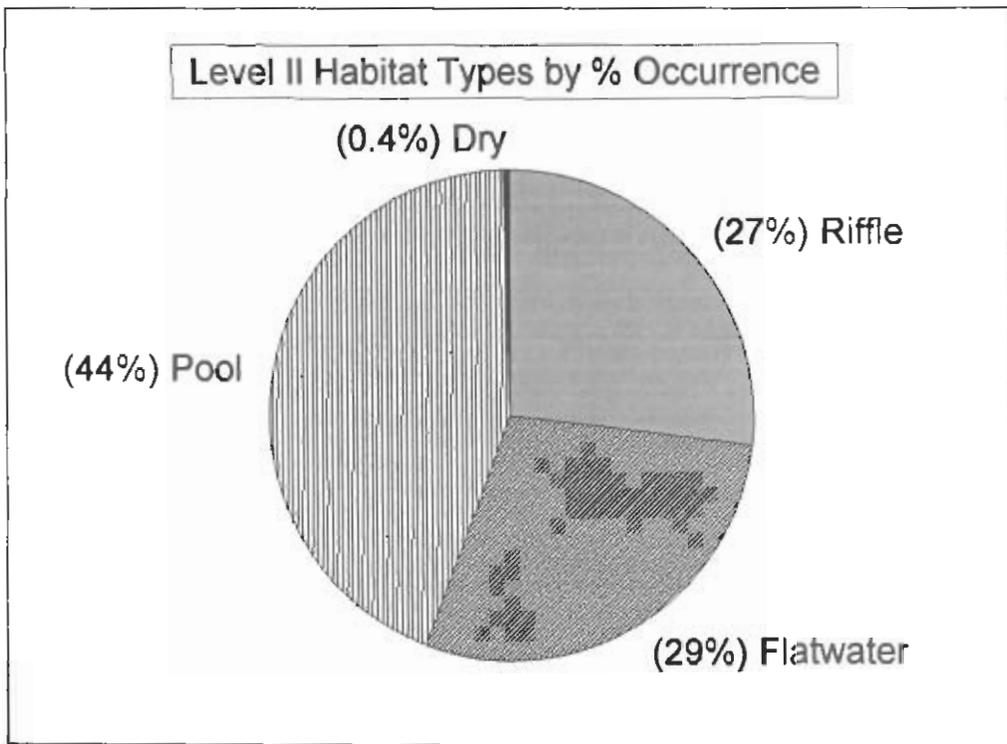
# Big Austin Creek

Level IV Habitat Types by % Occurrence



Graph 2

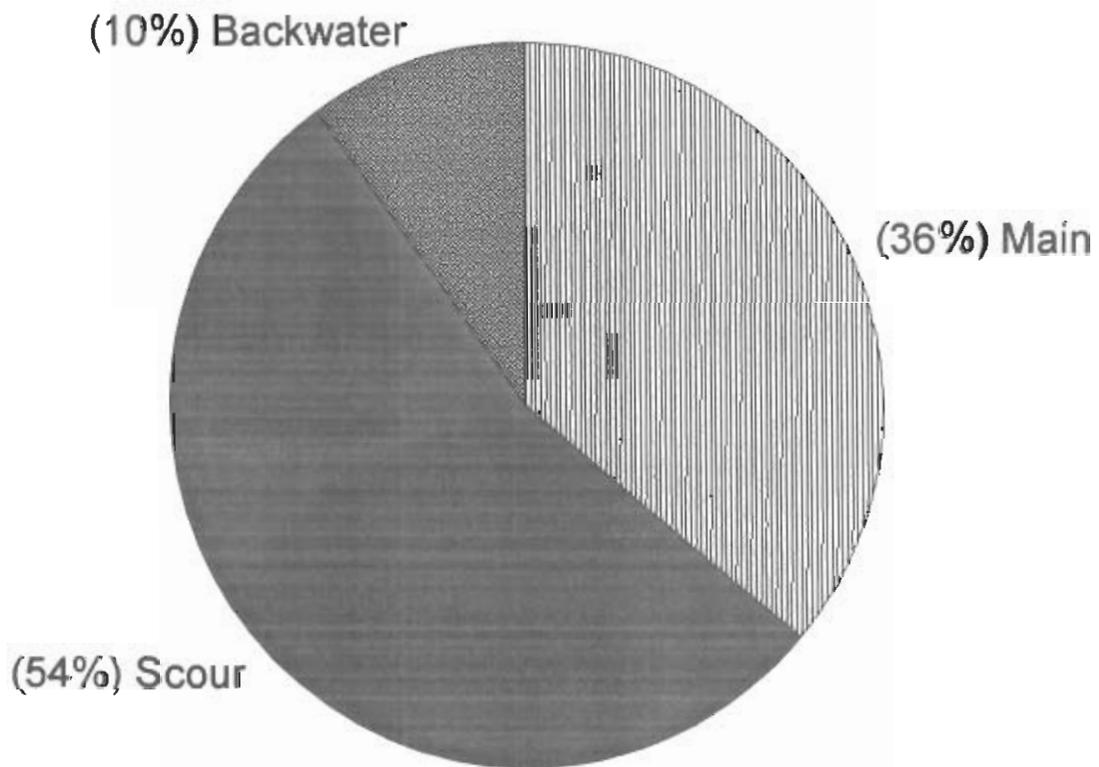
# Big Austin Creek Level II Habitat Types



Graph 1

# Big Austin Creek

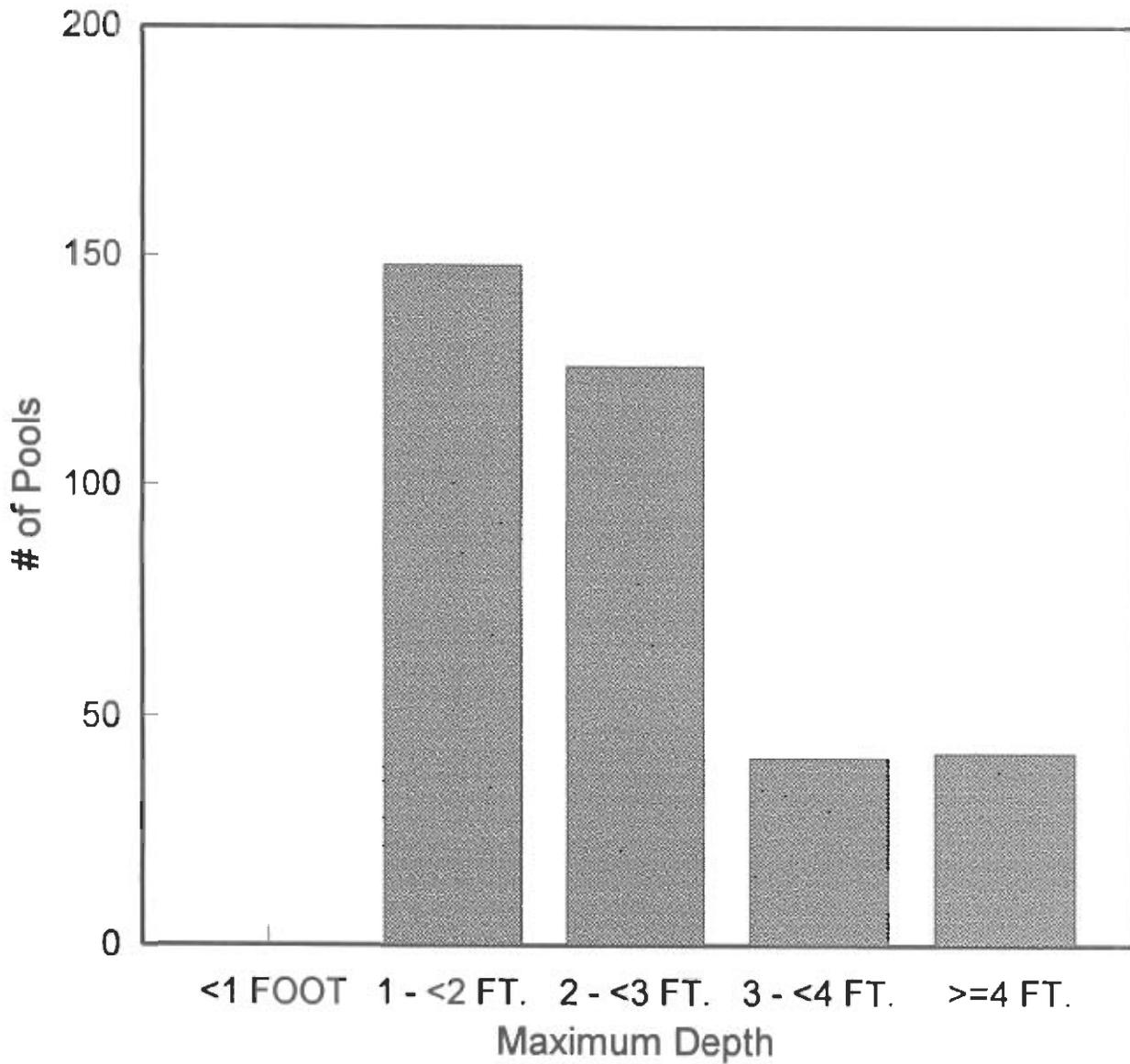
Pool Habitat Types by % Occurrence



Graph 3

# Big Austin Creek

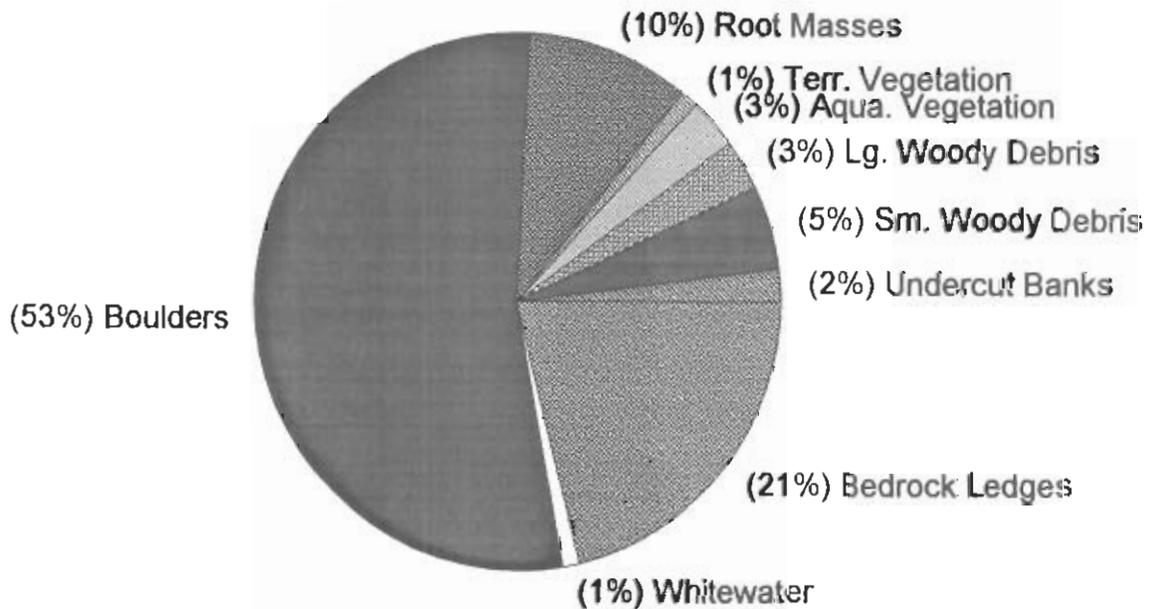
Maximum Depth in Pools



Graph 4

# Big Austin Creek

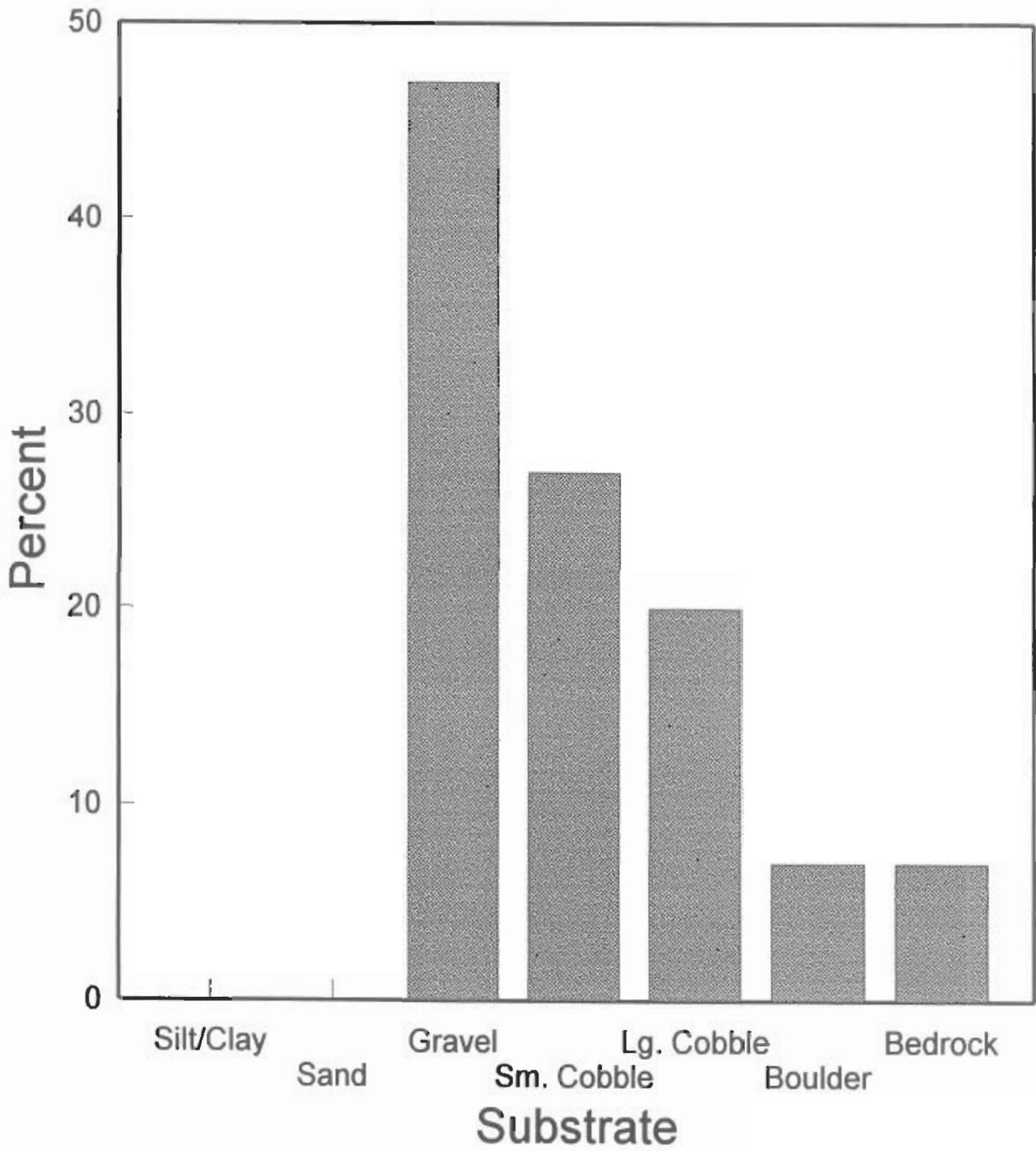
Pool Shelter Types by % Area



Graph 5

# Big Austin Creek

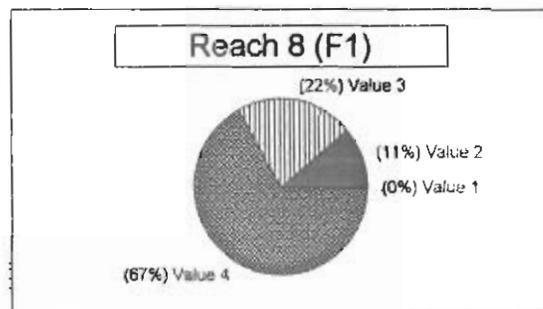
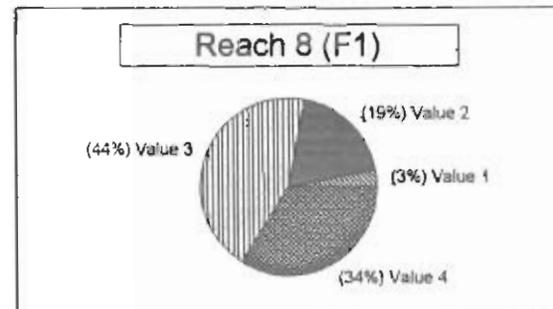
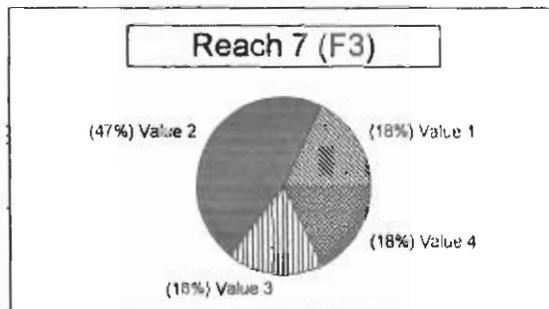
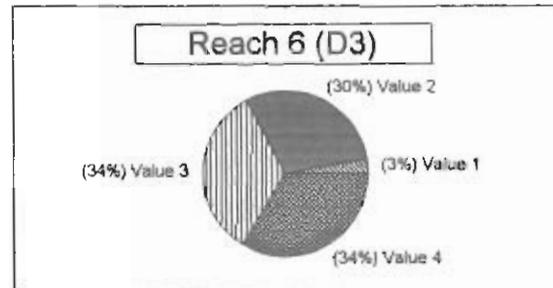
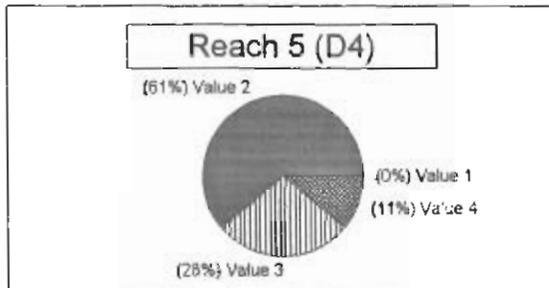
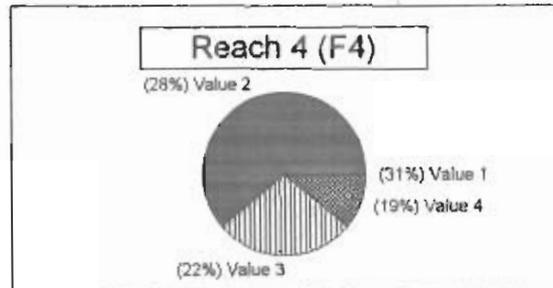
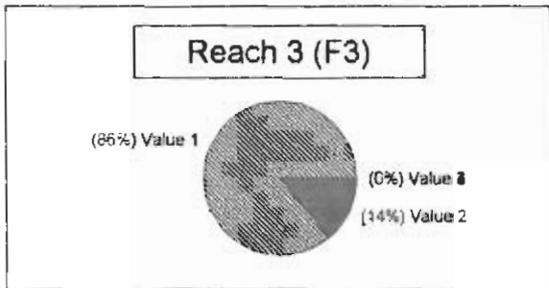
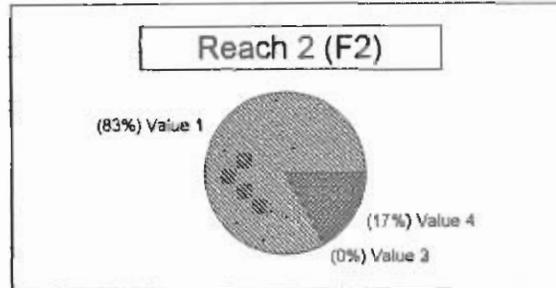
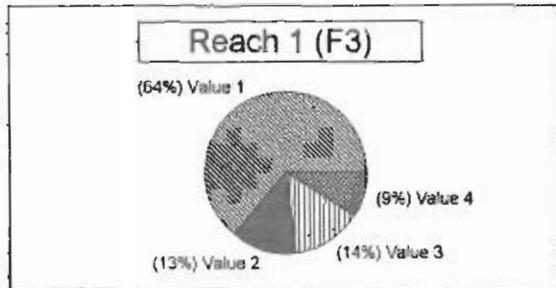
## Substrate Composition in Low Gradient Riffles



Graph 6

# Big Austin Creek

## Percent Cobble Embeddedness by Reach



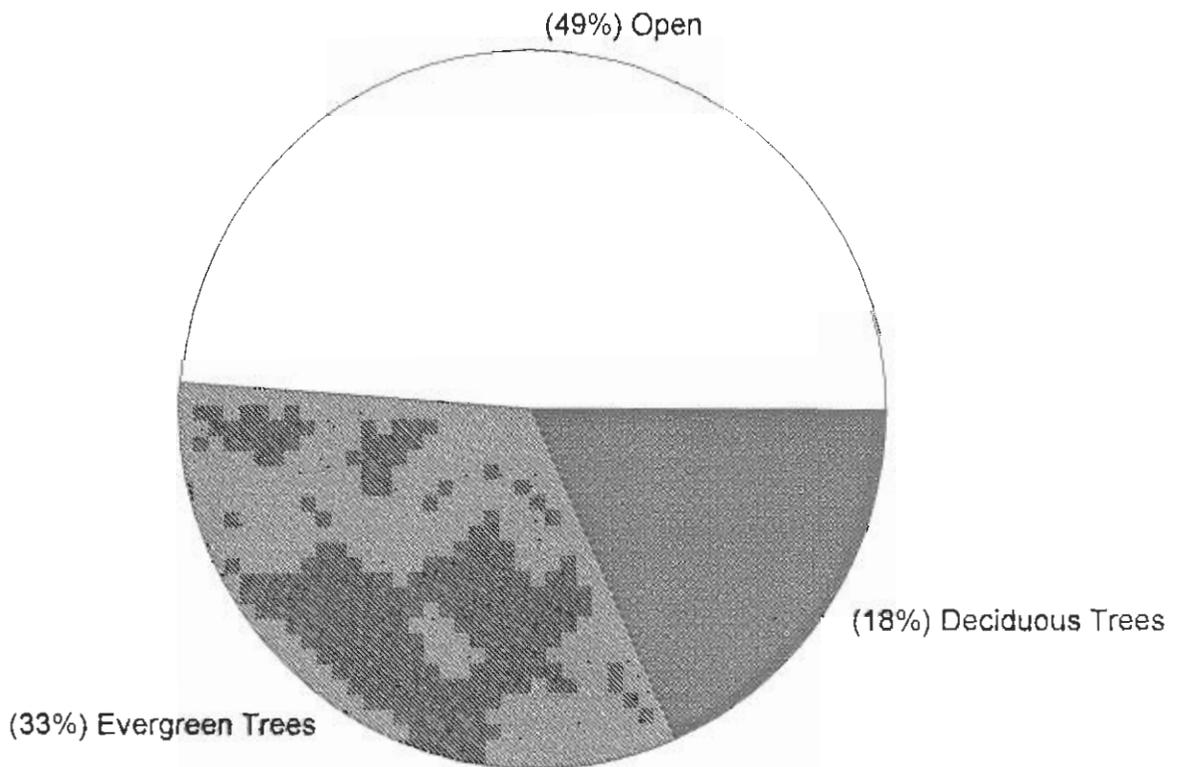
Graph 7

Value 1 = <25% Value 2 = 25-50% Value 3 = 50-75% Value 4 = >75%

Big Austin Creek Tables, Graphs, Map Assessment Completed 1995

# Big Austin Creek

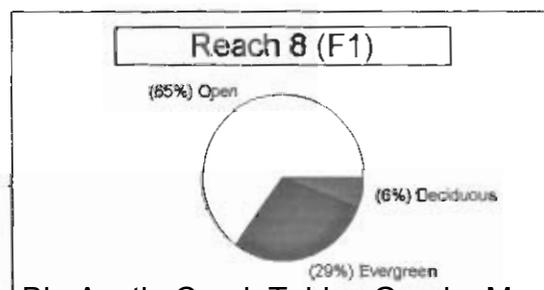
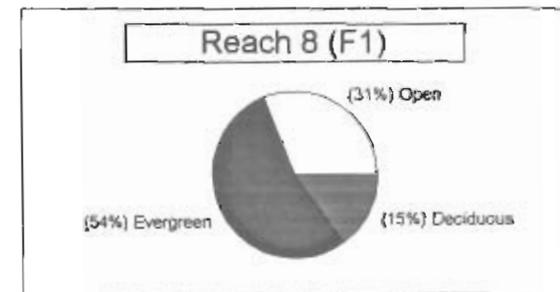
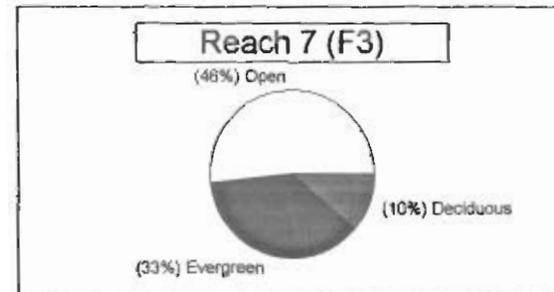
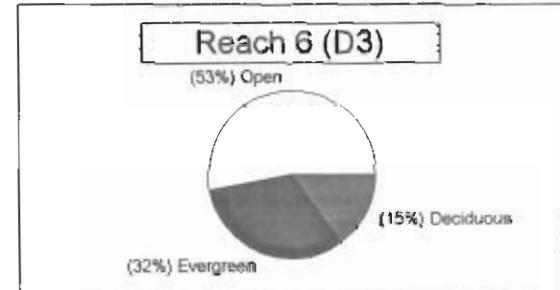
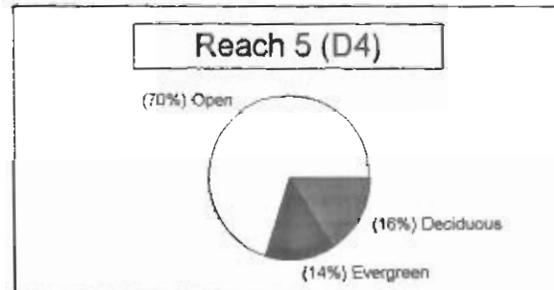
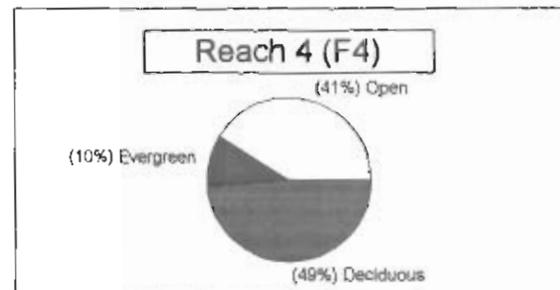
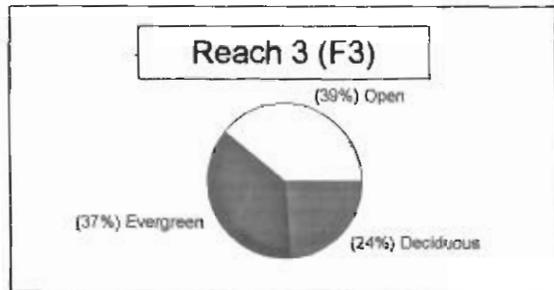
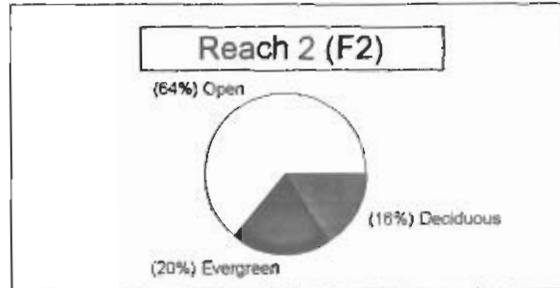
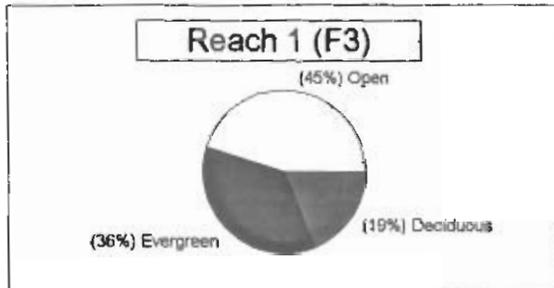
## Mean Percent Canopy



Graph 8

# Big Austin Creek

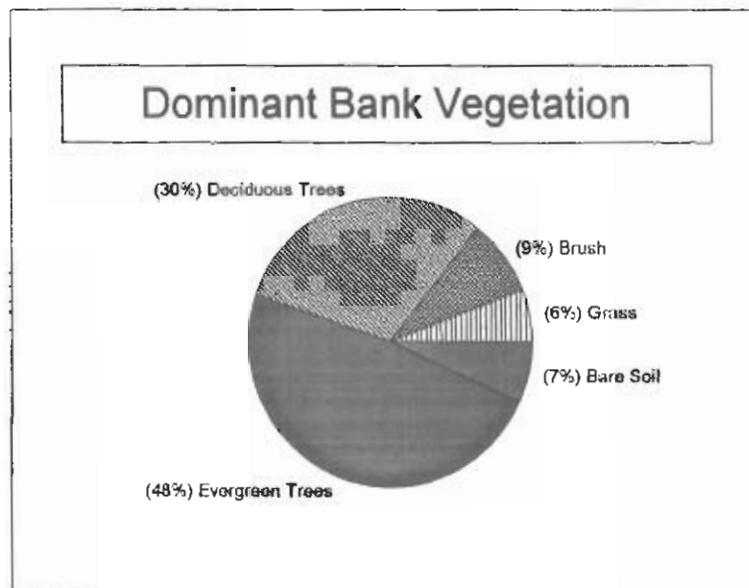
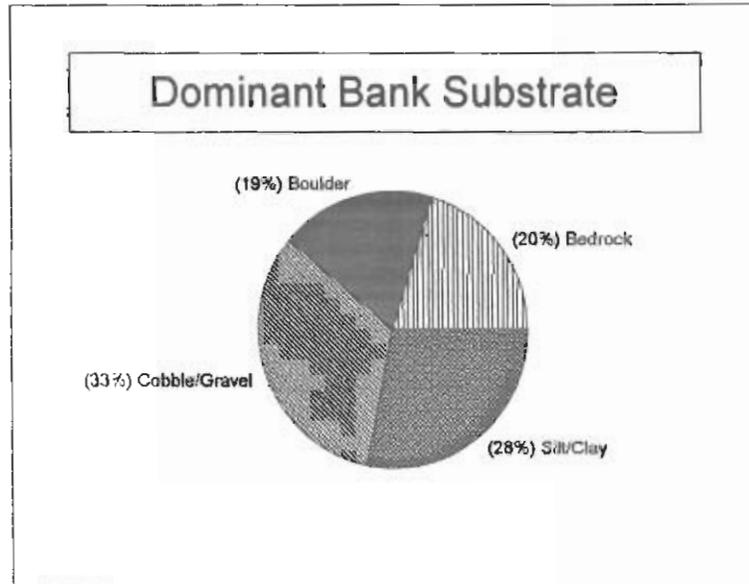
## Percent Canopy By Reach



Graph 9

# Big Austin Creek

## Percent Bank Composition



Graph 10