

## Sausal Creek Watershed Rainbow Trout Observation Log

### October 1997-

Joe Trapp, Environmental Services Division of Oakland's Public Works Agency and Pete Alexander, East Bay Regional Park District found:

- 15 rainbow trout spotted in Palo Seco Creek
- Estimated hatched last February

*Source: FOSC Newsletter 12/1997*

### 1998-

Survey of Oakland's creeks found:

- 1, 9.5" rainbow trout in Shepherd Creek (June 23, 1998) , below the culvert under Scout Road
  - ❖ Visual inspection revealed that it was a hatchery fish. They believed someone put it in the stream.
- 4, 6-8" rainbow trout (wild, DNA tested) in Palo Seco Creek (June 25) near Palos Colorados trailhead.
- 1 rainbow trout (wild, DNA tested), 7.5" long, found in Palo Seco below Hwy 13.
- No evidence of successful reproduction from winter 1997-1998 because no young trout found
- There are no other populations upstream or downstream that can disperse into the area and replenish the population
- "Numerous grade control structures, many of them built by the WPA in the 1940's are found in the streams, particularly in the reach of Sausal Creek in Dimond Park... Because of the way they are constructed, even these 1 foot high obstacles can form complete barriers for even the strongest swimming fish. Fish may move downstream during high flow events, during episodes of water quality deterioration, or at different points in their life history. If populations are eliminated from an area the habitat can not be easily recolonized." p.4
- No fish found in electrofishing in Sausal Creek done upstream of Highway 13 along Scout Road and between Canon Avenue and the Montclair Golf Course. June 25 and June 26. Biased on habitat features absence of fish was unexpected.
- Risk factors: habitat fragmentation, episodic water quality deterioration, severely altered hydrograph.

*Source: Technical memorandum: Aquatic Resource Inventory of Oakland Streams, Martha's thesis*

### Winter 1998-1999-

- Large amount of woody debris removed from Palo Seco creek where the trout had been found.

*Source: Martha's thesis*

### November 1999-

- 1 dead rainbow trout, 4" in Sausal Creek near Leimert Bridge.
- Several Puncture wounds
- Saved for DNA testing
- EBRPD fisheries biologist, Pete Alexander, felt that this meant the fish had reproduced since the 1998 survey.

*Source: Martha's thesis, FOSC Dec/Jan 2000 newsletter*

**February 2000-**

- Trout habitat in Palo Seco blown out.

*Source: e-mail from Sam Cohen on 5/29/00*

**May 27, 2000-**

Ralph Kanz spotted:

- 1, 5" fish in large pool at the first dam above El Centro

*Source: 5/27/00 e-mail*

**June 10, 2000-**

Bird Monitoring Team

- 1, 4-5" fish spotted in Palo Seco.

*Source: Point Count Data Form for 6/10*

**Sometime before August 1-**

- 1 fish, 12" long spotted in pool below El Centro

**September 5, 2000**

- Anne made presentation at Bay Area Chapter of Trout Unlimited regarding the fish in Sausal Creek.

**September 7, 2000**

- Letter sent to Mr. Treanor of the Fish and Game Commission concerning the fish.

**September 18, 2000**

- Carlo Bongio, Trout Unlimited reported at the FOOSC monthly meeting:
- Another sighting of fish in canyon above El Centro. Appeared to be a wild trout.

**October 5, 2000**

- Letter written from Robert R. Treanor acknowledges letter. Says it will be retained and brought to the Commission's attention at the Aug. 4, 2001 meeting.

**October 11, 2000**

- Letter sent to Sergeant Tarnow of the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission about protecting the fish.

**November 5, 2000**

- Hiker told Anne he saw fish in Sausal Creek underneath Leimert Bridge.

**Spring of 2001**

- Continued sightings of 2 big fish below El Centro and others in big pools of creek.

**Summer of 2001**

- Continued sighting of 2 big fish and numerous fingerlings below El Centro. Fingerlings also reported in numerous places along creek.

**End of July or Beginning of August 2001**

- All fish found within restoration site are moved well upstream and the creek water is routed around restoration site.

### **October 2001**

- Restoration of creek channel is finished, volunteers start to revegetate the slopes around the creek.

### **Fall and winter of 2001**

- Two fish found dead, one with a fish hook and line still attached. Both are bigger than 12".

### **February 2002**

- 13" trout is found dead with hook in its mouth in a pool along the creek.

*Source: May 2002 Newsletter*

### **March 23, 2002**

- The trout found in February was buried under a tree during the Equinox Celebration honoring the creek.

*Source: April 2002 Newsletter*

### **April 2002**

- Heather Brashear, a fisheries biologist from the California Department of Fish and Game visits the creek to reassess fishing regulations along the creek.

*Source: May 2002 Newsletter*

### **June 2002**

- Sightings of fish three smaller fish below El Centro.

*Source: Word of mouth from Charlotte Bell among others*

### **Summer 2003**

- Fishing regulations along Sausal Creek will be reconsidered with Heather Brashear's recommendations from her April 2002 visit.

*Source: May 2002 Newsletter*

### **June 1, 2004**

At the El Centro pool at least eight 6" trout hung out in the deepest part of the pool, occasionally darting after each other.

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Mark Rauzon*

### **June 24, 2004**

Water main break in Shepherd Canyon raises water level in creek and leaves silt deposits.

### **July 16, 2004**

About 25 trout at El Centro pool

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Mark Rauzon*

### **October 2004**

El Centro pool very filthy, brown, smelly water, bags (possibly sandbags) in pool; garbage strewn across the area.

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Kristen Hopper*

### **February 13, 2005**

1 dead trout found in creek

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Mark Rauzon*

**February 26, 2005**

Saw a 9" trout jump up over a waterfall into the upper pool in the restored meander area

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Mark Rauzon*

**April 23, 2005**

During Earth Day water quality testing, many small fish – assumed to be trout – were spotted in the pool below the first check dam upstream from El Centro.

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Karen Paulsell*

**October/November 2005**

Anne Riley of the Regional Water Quality Control Board arranges meetings between creek activists and EBMUD to urge improvement in their BMPs for managing chloramine entering creeks during water main breaks and other work that could divert treated water into creeks.

**January 2006**

A “New Year’s Storm” brought heavy, pool-scouring rains, the first such rain in many years.

- Silt and gravel washed downstream in Palo Seco Creek was deposited just above the Joaquin Miller Court trailhead; creek and trail swapped places!
- A landslide near Cortez Court in Shepherd Canyon eroded deposited huge pile of soil onto the fireroad, erosion continues and lots to wash a lot of silt downstream from this site.

**February 24, 2006**

3 trout seen in El Centro Pool, largest 6”

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Sue Morgan*

At least 3 trout spotted in creek near Canon.

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Edward Goehring*

**August, 2006**

Reports of fish in deep pool below the Wood Park culvert

*Source: Email to Karen Paulsell from Faith Harris*

One large trout in the deep pool under the Leimert Bridge – estimated size 9”

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Mark Rauzon*

**December 6, 2006**

Saw a small trout in the upper watershed in Palo Seo creek, first one since the heavy rains of last winter.

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Mark Rauzon*

**March 11, 2007**

Barry Place: I have not seen more trout in ten years than I did today. There were pairs looking like they were spawning in the shallows, then a couple more came up the creek to join them or escape us.

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Mark Rauzon*

**May 9, 2007**

On Wed. I spotted a trout fingerling in a stretch of creek near the turn-around area on the El Centro trail, and 2 adults were in the El Centro pool and 3 adults under the Leimert Bridge. Earlier in the spring, 3 medium-sized were seen above Highway 13, and on in late winter, over 8 were seen in the lower watershed at Barry Place.

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Mark Rauzon*

**February 7, 2008**

11 dead trout found in El Centro Pool; The kill was evidently caused by a dumping of a painting solvent into the gutter on Oakmore Ave. that drains into a side tributary at the turnaround area.

*Source: Emails to FOSC listserv from Kathren Murrell Stevenson and Mark Rauzon*

**July (?) 2009**

Electrofishing training recovers 33 trout in Sausal Creek between El Centro and Leimert.

*Source: Email to FOSC listserv from Jill Sunahara, 8/18/2009*

**November, 2009**

Sheelah Weaver reports two trout seen at Barry Place

**August 5, 2010**

Kristin Hathaway with Oakland's Watershed and Stormwater Manager Program discovered a rainbow trout fish kill in Sausal Creek below Wellington Street in Dimond Park. At least 25 rainbow trout were killed; they ranged from minnows to many 6" fish to one 9" fish. After investigating this fish kill incident, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Complaint for Administrative Civil Liability on February 18, 2011, proposing that East Bay Municipal Utility District pay \$76,600 in fines for this and another unpermitted discharge. For the Sausal Creek discharge, they found that EBMUD had used super-chlorinated water to disinfect a newly installed drinking water pipeline; the water was then stored in a truck for dechlorination but was not tested for residual chlorine prior to discharging it into the storm drain that leads to Sausal Creek.

**August 26, 2010**

Sean Welch observed three mature trout in El Centro pool and one ~5" trout in hole opposite playground.

**August 28, 2010**

Sean Welch observed four mature in El Centro pool.

**September 7, 2010**

Brooke Welch observed two trout in El Centro pool: one 12+" one 4+."

**September 8, 2010**

Sean Welch observed two 5" trout in lower plunge pool, one in section above that, six 4" in first hole under Leimert; est. 20+ in big pool above Leimert, most juveniles, few slightly bigger.

**October 2, 2010**

Sean Welch observed several (6+) fish in first pool under Leimert; one fish in tail out section below that; one 5" fish in shallow pool below Benevides Trail crossover.

**October 3, 2010**

Sean Welch observed two 5-6" fish in El Centro pool left side; three small juveniles in center of pool with one 12"+ fish.

**October 11, 2010**

Sean Welch observed five small trout in shallow pool up from El Centro.

**November 6, 2010**

Sean Welch observed that recent rain has improved flows—four small trout in shallow pool up from El Centro, one 10" trout; one fish in pool after riffle; three small 4-5" in first pool below Leimert.

**February 10, 2011**

Erik Stromberg of Restoration Design Group observed two 4-5" trout at the Sausal Creek Dimond Park Restoration Project site (lower Dimond Park) during geomorphic survey.

**February 28, 2011**

Erik Stromberg of Restoration Design Group observed two rainbow trout attempting to jump onto the concrete apron at the downstream end of the Wellington culvert during a visit with the fisheries biologist for the Sausal Creek Dimond Park Restoration Project.

**June 11, 2011**

Peder Aune observed "about" five 8-inch rainbow trout in a pool about 50 meters above the Leimert Bridge.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from pmaune@gmail.com, 6/11/11*

**February 24, 2012**

Rob Leidy walked Sausal Creek from El Centro Ave. upstream to the end of the daylighted stream channel at the Montclair Golf Course culvert. He was in and out of the channel and observed 14 adult rainbow trout along the entire reach. There were four large adults in the El Centro pool and a pair of spawning adults in a small pool about 75 meters downstream from the large pool below the Montclair Golf Course underground culvert. He also observed a newly constructed redd (spawning nest) in pool/run habitat about 100 meters downstream from the Montclair Golf Course culvert. One adult was observed in the Montclair Golf Course culvert pool. No telling how many other large fish lurk in that very deep, well-shaded pool. The remaining fish were scattered throughout the entire reach. It seems that adult rainbow trout are able to access all reaches of daylighted stream above El Centro, including being able to pass through the short buried section downstream of Montclair Golf Course. There is some very nice rainbow trout habitat in the uppermost reach.

**August 2, 2012**

Rob Leidy and Kathleen Harris saw a 5" rainbow trout in the Joaquin Miller Court sample pool.

**October 13, 2012**

Sean Welch observed two trout in the small pool under the concrete spillway (just downstream from Wellington Street).

**March 8, 2013**

Carl Carter reported and photographed a pair of steelhead making a redd in Sausal Creek very close to where the Old Canon Trail leaves the Dimond Canyon Trail, below the Leimert Bridge.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from carl.m.carter@sbcglobal.net, 3/8/13*

**May 13, 2013**

Amy S. reports seeing little fish (about 1") in Dimond Canyon "in between the Leimert Bridge and where a branch has just fallen from a tree."

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from email2amys@yahoo.com, 5/14/13*

**May 15, 2013**

Seach Welch observed many fry in the area where Rob Leidy and he previously observed spawning activity (at the cross over from Dimond Canyon Trail to the Old Canyon Trail connector). Video made of fry in one location. Sean also observed three large, mature (~12") trout in the El Centro pool (photographed one of them). They were feeding on emergers in the surface film.

**January 5, 2014**

Helen Dickson and Piedmont High School students spotted trout (one about 8" long, another couple—two to four—that were smaller) in Palo Seco Creek near the culvert that goes under the road to the Montclair Golf Course parking lot.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from kathalini@comcast.net, 1/6/14*

**March 2, 2014**

Kathleen Harris observed male trout fanning (the males fan the eggs to keep fungus off of them) on a redd (trout nest). This was about 50 feet above the pool that is about 1/4 mile up the Palos Colorado Trail from the Joaquin Miller Court trailhead (the first real pool on that section of the trail).

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from kathalini@comcast.net, 3/7/14*

**April 15, 2014**

Kathleen Harris reported one dead 6-8" trout at the Leimert Bridge Pool. It looked like the head had been bitten off

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from kathalini@comcast.net, 4/17/14*

**April 16, 2014**

Holy Names University students spotted a trout at the Montclair Golf Course on the Palo Seco side.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from kathalini@comcast.net, 4/17/14*

**May 17, 2014**

David Baker reported an 8" trout in a pool on Palo Seco Creek above Highway 13 (about forty yards up from the Palos Colorado trailhead on Joaquin Miller Court).

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee via the FOSC website from davebaker3544@gmail.com, 5/18/14*

**June 15, 2014**

Bob Davis' hiking companion saw a 2-3" trout in the pool that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail. On several past occasions Bob has seen trout in this pool.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 6/16/14*

**June 22, 2014**

Bob Davis' hiking companion saw a 5-6" trout in the pool that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 6/22/14*

**July 13, 2014**

Bob Davis and three hiking companions saw a 4" trout in the pool that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail. (This was the group's consensus and suggests that the size was overestimated for the June 22, 2014, sighting.)

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 7/21/14*

**August 10, 2014**

Bob Davis and one hiking companion saw a 4" trout in the pool that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 8/10/14*

**August 17, 2014**

Bob Davis and hiking companion saw fish tail swish as it went under the ledge in the pool that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 8/17/14*

**August 31, 2014**

Bob Davis saw the fish hiding and, later, swimming in the pool that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 9/2/14*

**September 10, 2014**

Bob Davis saw the tail of the fish as it dived out of site under the ledge in the pool that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 9/10/14*

**November 16, 2014**

Bob Davis reports that although he was not on the weekly hike those that were reported seeing the trout in the pool that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 11/23/14*

**November 23, 2014**

Bob Davis saw a 6" fish swimming in the pool that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 11/23/14*

**January 11, 2015**

Bob Davis saw a fish "resting in the center of the pool" that is between the Palos Colorado Trailhead and the first steep section of the trail.

*Source: Email to Kimra McAfee from drrcdavis@me.com, 1/16/15*

**2016-2017**

Since completion of the Sausal Creek Restoration Project in Dimond Park in spring 2016, rainbow trout are regularly seen in the pool below the Wellington Street overlook.