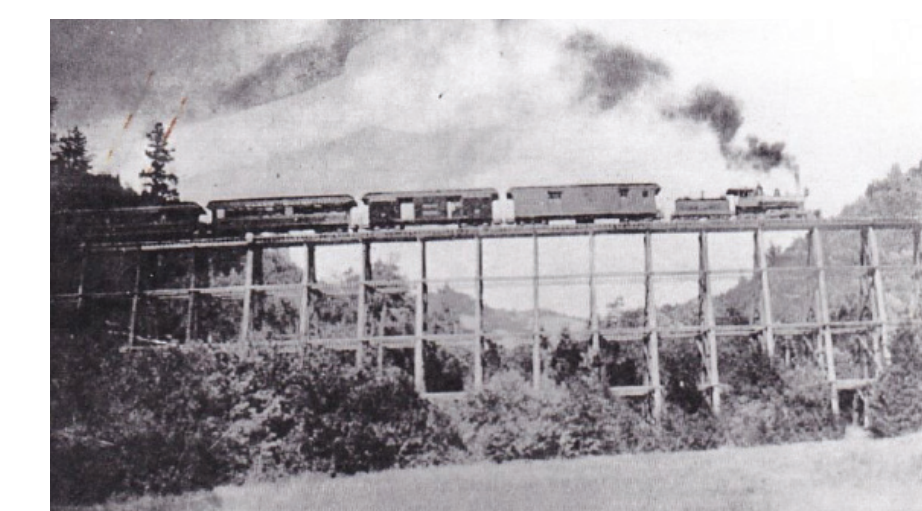


History of Salmon Creek Watershed - From 1850

Why the salmon disappeared from our creek.



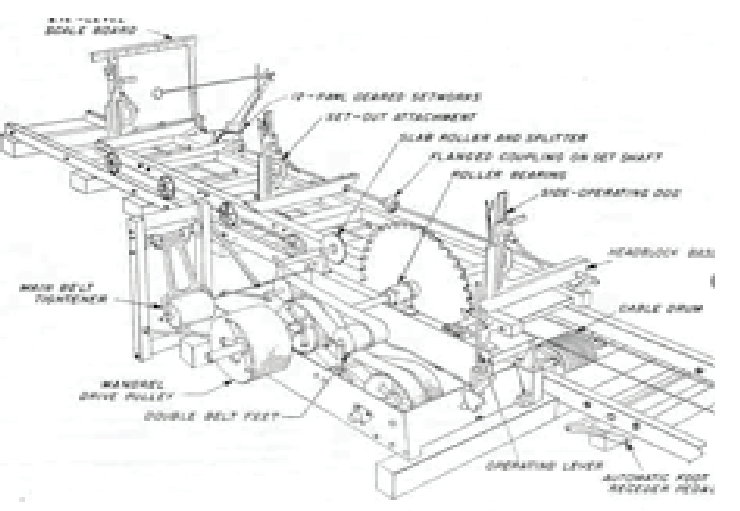
1850 SALMON CREEK WATERSHED SETTLED. Anglo Americans begin large ranching and farming. Potatoes, pork, beef, and lumber are shipped to San Francisco. Oxen and stagecoach roads are developed.
Alonzo Delano, Pen Knife Sketches, 1853.



1873-1876 NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD BUILT. From Duncan's Mill to Sausalito, this railroad extends through Occidental alongside Salmon Creek to Valley Ford and beyond. In service until 1930. At age 7 Marge Gonella traveled alone by train from Occidental to Santa Cruz.



LOGGERS COLEMAN VALLEY c. 1890's
Courtesy of Western Sonoma County Historical Society.



1913 LUMBER MILL BOUGHT FROM MEEKER. Wade Sturgeon purchases the mill and moves it to Coleman Valley where it is in use until 1923 then moves to its current location on Green Valley Rd., restored and in use again.



1942 GOLD RIDGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT forms to support stewardship of agricultural land in five local watersheds.



1965 COLEMAN VALLEY FIRE burns 1840 acres on ridge between Fay and Coleman Creeks, almost to Salmon Creek, removing most of trees and understory.

1970 and before SANDBAR BROKEN through annually by eager fishermen as coho gather outside in ocean.

1980 SONOMA COUNTY COASTAL PLAN NOAA studies small coastal water systems, finds limited water overall, especially in summer.

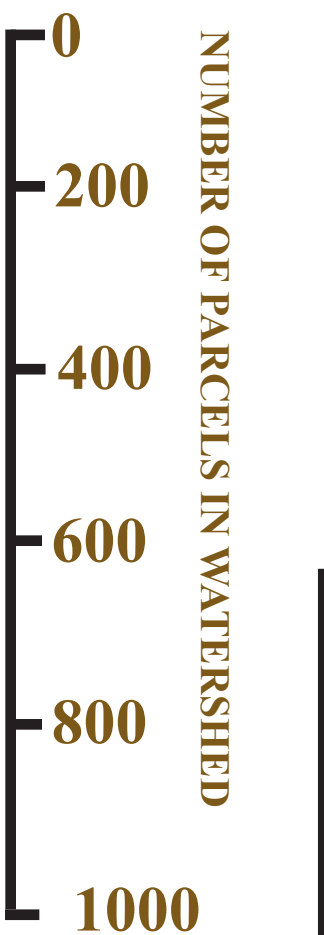
1982 SEVERE FLOOD deposits sediment in creeks and fills estuary.

1986 VALENTINE DAY FLOOD, second worst in history of watershed.

1989 SONOMA COUNTY COASTAL WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PLAN assesses problems in wetlands, identifies sources of sediment, proposes solutions.

2003 KLEINFELDER REPORT identifies trends towards water overdraft, fears decline in groundwater even at current demand level.

2007 SALMON CREEK WATERSHED ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN synthesizes available information, assesses sediment sources and recommends solutions.

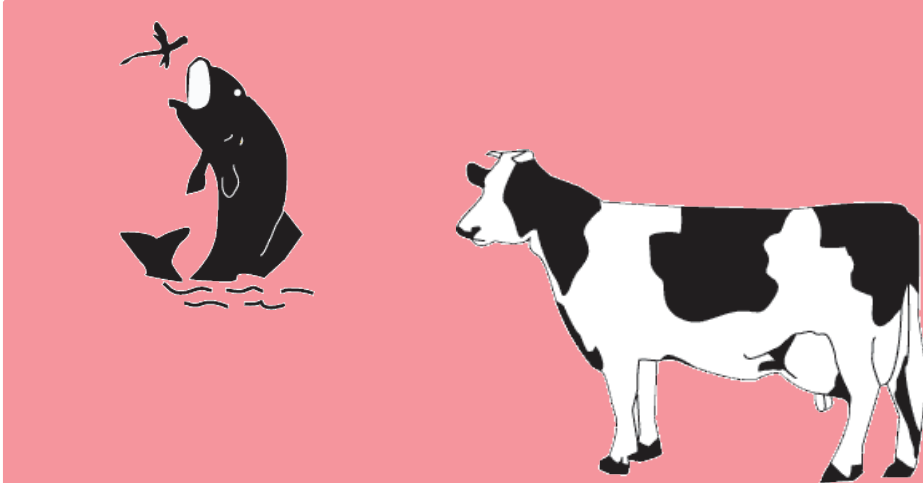


YOUNG COHO SALMON PER 100 YARDS SURVEYED



Scale: 1 inch = 4 years

1850 1875 1900 1925 1950 1975 2000 2014



1870s-1920s TIMBER, CHARCOAL, DAIRY AND OTHER INDUSTRIES GROW. Lumber, firewood, and charcoal production as well as tanning of hides support a growing economy. Dairy Industry becomes a major employer in the watershed. Many are located creek side.

1885-1890s FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ARISE. County wide concerns regarding overfishing of salmon give rise to more strict restrictions in seasons and catch size. Climate changes are noted in the Santa Rosa newspapers.

1900 HUGE FOREST FIRE BEGINS IN COLEMAN VALLEY. The fire reaches Bodega and Freestone and clears the hills, allowing a view (six years later) of the glow of the San Francisco fire.

1920 PROHIBITION IMPACTS ROADS. Distribution of alcohol requires transport to waiting boats. Fitzpatrick Lane no longer goes through from Joy Road to Salmon Creek Road.

1928 LATE ERA LOGGING IMPACTS BODEGA. Chenoweth mill on Salmon Creek operates until 1970.

1930 CCC WORKERS HERE DURING DEPRESSION. WPA projects include road improvements in watershed. Trains discontinued. Shipping and tourism flag.

1975-77 DROUGHT leaves dry pools in creeks; fish population said to drop thereafter.

1974 JOY ROAD STUDY analyzes carrying capacity of land surrounding Joy Road, fears ground water depletion with increased development.

1992 BODEGA LAND TRUST organizes to preserve open space through easements, educational programs and restoration.



1961 ROBERTSON FIRE burns ~ 2000 acres along Fay Tannery creek, and Coleman Valley creek.