

Forest Streams

Forest streams are critical habitats that support most of the forest's creatures in one way or another. Redwood Creek is particularly important because it is the primary spawning and rearing habitat for the population of rainbow trout that was originally used to describe the species in 1885. For successful reproduction, rainbow trout and California newts need high water quality and the existence of summer pools in the stream. Newt larvae stay in the stream until the fall rains begin, when they assume a terrestrial lifestyle. Trout fingerlings eventually migrate downstream into San Leandro Reservoir. When both species mature, they return to the upper sections of Redwood Creek to reproduce during the late winter and spring months.

The presence of ferns, huckleberries, and other plants along stream banks provides the needed summer shade to keep the pools cool, which helps retain enough oxygen to support aquatic life. Deer, coyotes, skunks, countless birds, and insects also use the stream.

PLEASE HELP US to protect this valuable habitat by staying on the main trail. If you have a dog, keep it on a leash. Please do not allow dogs down the banks and into the water.



©Joyce Gross

California newt



Rainbow trout

