

## What is That Thing in the Creek?

2013

Since 2008, Friends has been gathering valuable water quality data in the Corte Madera Creek watershed using devices called temperature loggers. Typically the loggers are installed in March or April and removed when the creek dries up or when winter rains start.

In March of this year, we installed eight loggers in Phoenix Lake and 14 in creeks; two have already been removed from Ross Creek because the creek dried up at the logger location. We attach the loggers, which are less than five inches long, to roots or rocks near the creek using fine stainless steel cables. They are weighted down and usually well hidden. ***If you see a logger, please do not move it.***

The loggers record water temperature every thirty minutes. Every two to four weeks we visit the creek sites and download the temperature data from the loggers. At each download, we use another instrument to measure temperature (for comparison with the logger values) and dissolved oxygen. We download the eight loggers in Phoenix Lake less frequently.

We use the information to evaluate the suitability of recorded levels of temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) for steelhead trout. The Phoenix Lake information will let us know how releases from the lake could benefit steelhead trout. For steelhead, suitable temperatures are generally 12 – 18°C. Suitable DO is a function of temperature: at temperatures  $\leq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ , DO  $\geq 7$  milligrams per liter is suitable. At higher temperatures, DO should be  $\geq 9$  mg/l.

If you have questions, call (415) 456-5052 or visit [http://friendsofcortemaderacreek.org/new\\_site/restoration/water-quality](http://friendsofcortemaderacreek.org/new_site/restoration/water-quality).



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