



State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Habitat and Restoration Division

Nomination for Waters
Important to Anadromous Fish

Region SOUTHCENTRAL USGS Quad Anchorage B-7

Anadromous Water Catalog Number of Waterway 247-50-10175 & 247-50-10175-2025

Name of Waterway Eklutna River / Thunderbird Falls USGS Name Local Name

Addition Deletion Correction Backup Information

Nomination # <u>01 305</u>	For Office Use	<i>2025-Arc# 4489</i>
Revision Year: <u>2001</u>	<i>[Signature]</i> Regional Supervisor	<u>1/10/01</u> Date
Revision to: Atlas _____ Catalog _____ Both <u>X</u>	<i>[Signature]</i> AWC Project Biologist	<u>11/15/01</u> Date
Revision Code: <u>B-1 A-1 A-2</u> <u>C-5 C-7</u>	<i>[Signature]</i> Drafted	<u>12/12/01</u> Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
King Salmon	July 13 & 25 and August 23, 2000	X	X	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pink Salmon	8/23/2000	X		X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coho Salmon	9/26/2000		X	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chum Salmon	6/23/1905	X		X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sockeye Salmon	7/13 & 9/26 /2000		X		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IMPORTANT: Provide all supporting documentation that this water body is important for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fish, including: number of fish and life stages observed; sampling methods, sampling duration and area sampled; copies of field notes; etc. Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and observed upper extent of each species, as well as other information such as: specific stream reaches observed as spawning or rearing habitat; locations, types, and heights of any barriers; etc.

Comments: Add species to Eklutna River and extend as noted, add Thunderbird Creek with king salmon spawning. Several surveys were made of the lower end of the Eklutna River and Thunderbird Creek by DFG staff during 2000 and by Eklutna Village staff during 2001. During these surveys spawning king salmon, chum salmon and pink salmon were observed as were adult coho, rearing coho and rearing sockeye salmon. In addition Dolly Varden, rainbow trout and sculpin were also observed. See attached field notes, phone messages, and emails documenting observations.

During the Sept. 26, 2000 survey salmon were observed finning in riffles of the Eklutna River about halfway between Thunderbird Creek and the old dam upstream of Thunderbird Creek. I observed these finning fish and spotting on the top of the tail and dorsal fin was consistent with a pink or coho salmon. One was identified as a pink salmon by hydrologists with the USFWS and USFS. I was not present at the time that they captured this fish. However, I believe that the fish were actually coho as timing was consistent with that of coho salmon, and it would have been to late in the year for pink salmon.



EDWARD W. WEISS
HABITAT BIOLOGIST



Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: 11/15/2001

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

333 RASPBERRY ROAD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518
PHONE: (907) 267-2284
DESK PHONE: (907) 267-2305

This certifies that in my best professional judgment and belief the above information is evidence that this waterbody should be included in or deleted from the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes per AS 16.05.870.

Signature of Area Biologist: *[Signature]* 11-15-01 Revision 3/97

11/14/01

phone interview w/
DARREN RATHBURN, ASNR
PARKS MAINTENANCE.
REGARDING SALMON
OBSERVATIONS IN EKLUTNA
RIVER.

- Yes he has seen
Kings & Pinkies in
STRETCH below Thunder
bird. HEARD ABOUT
SOME GUY'S THAT CAUGHT
SILVERS UP @ FALLS
YEARS AGO.

EMW

5/18/00

THUNDERBIRD / EKLUTNA SURVEY

MT 1 SET 13:20 50 yds downstream
of T BIRD CRK CONFLUENCE
⊙

SECT A PARKING LOT TO T BIRD CONFL
PREDOMINANTLY RIPPLE w/ A FEW
RUNS. NO POOLS EXCEPT MARGED
BEHIND DEADFALL BOULDER ETC.
COBBLE BOULDER CEMENTATION/
SILT, FINES, GRAVEL UNDER.

BLANCKOUT OLD LG. BEAVER DAM
~ 70 YDS UPSTREAM OF CONFLUENCE
SPANS 1/2 OF FLOOD PLAIN ACTIVE
CHANNEL IN OTHER 1/2
STEPS MORE TALLER OLD DAM w/
A FEW LONG RUNS / POOLS.

SECT B ABOVE OLD B. POND LONG
RIPPLES COBBLE w/ SHORT
RUN TYPE POOLS

MT 2 ABOVE EDGE of MAP
SET @ 1400 PULLED @ 1430.
1 SCULPIN
1 SALMONID TAKEN IN 10.
SECRET

MT 3 ~ 70 YDS DOWN FROM T BIRD
TRAIL SET 15:15
13:44 DV 107

MT 4 & MT 5 SET @ POOL
BASE of FALLS @ 15:30.
1 in TURBULENT DEEP POOL
OTHER JUST DOWNSTREAM of
TAIL OUT.

could 13:55 ⊙ ⊙

7/13/00 TRIP LOWER EKLUTNA RIVER
w/ M. LAMEREAU, VPSO,

Walked lower reaches of Eklutna
River from highway down
to ponds. Seined in riffle
& backwater below highway
capturing 4 juvenile sockeye
salmon Young of year fish 30-38
mm & had just buttoned up.
Water temp was 48°F.

Walk in stream down to
ponds in gravel extraction
area near mouth. Observed
adult King Salmon jumping
in ponds. Also set traps
for ~ 5 minutes & captured
5 juvenile King salmon
65-100 mm in length. Water
Temp in ponds was 64.5°F.

7/25/00 TUES.

T. Bird Creek / Eklutna R. Survey
by foot.

1815 WY LOT
1830 START SURVEY @ FALLS. H₂O LEVEL
UP SIGNIFICANTLY FROM
PREVIOUS SURVEYS. TURBID
VISIBILITY GOOD TO ~12"
POOL IN DEEPER, HIGH VELOCITY
AREAS.

WATCHED BASE OF FALLS ~ 5 MIN.
NO JUMPING FISH SURVEYED
DOWNSTREAM ALONG BANK & INSTAN.

WATER REALLY SWIFTING OUT FAST. (NEED)
GRASSON EVIDENT ON POINT BASE
BELOW ANCH. AS MUCH AS 18"-24"

GRAVEL OUTSIDE POOL @ MOUTH DIVIDES
ACTUALLY FINE. GRASSON A BIT
THIN DOWN.



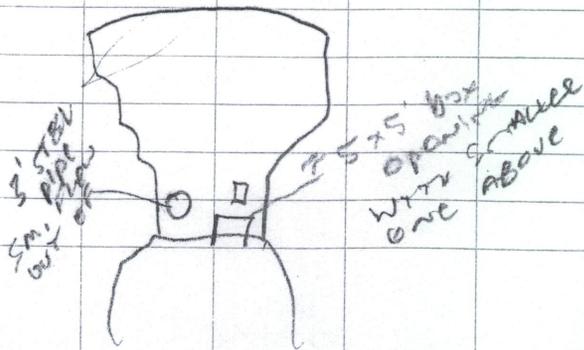
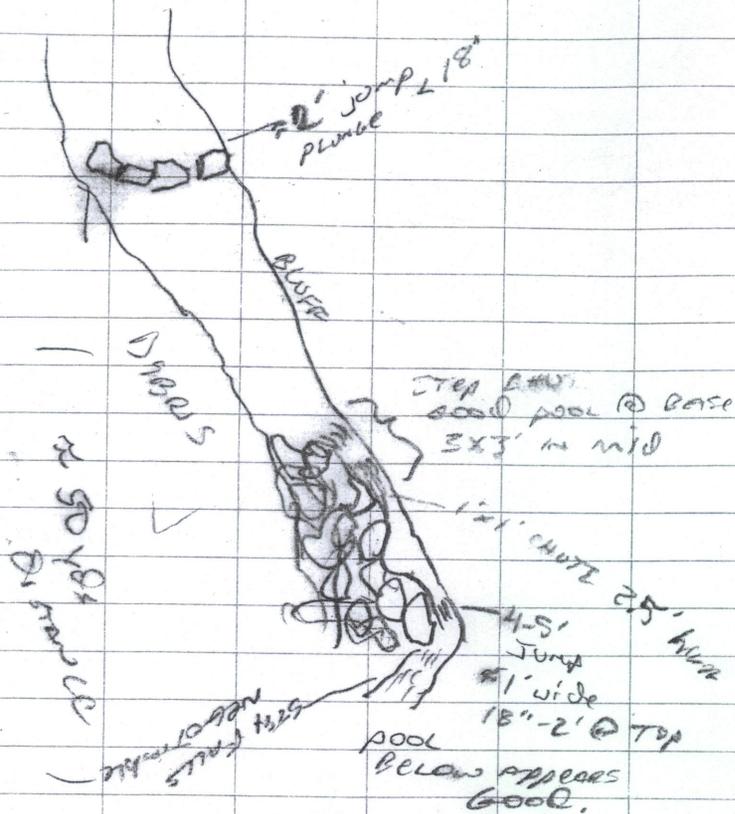
1 ADULT KING ♀
SEEN ENTERING
TANK FROM CONFLUENCE

1-3 KING HOLDING IN THE AREA

EKLUTNA R. ACTUALLY CLEARER
THAN T. BIRD
TEMP @ EKLUT ABOVE CONFL. 52°F
H₂O SIGNIFICANTLY CLEARER CLEAR TO
SLIGHTLY TURBID.

1 ♂ KING NEGOTIATING RIFFLE ABOVE
CLEAR DAM. TOOK BACK DOWNSTREAM.

7/25/00 CONT.



7/25/00 CONT

WATER FLOW BEEN CONSISTENT W/ WHAT WE SAW EARLIER IN YR. PERHAPS A BIT MORE. HOWEVER, THE LACK OF VEG. ON THE BANKS IN LOCATIONS H2O LEVELS MAY RISE UP TO 2' MORE @ TIMES ANNUAL & SMALL (THIS YEAR) PADDINGS IN G.I. CAVE H2O LEVEL WAS UP TO THOSE WAYS LAST YEAR.



WIDE EXPANSION OF CAVE W/ TILED FLOOR & TUBS. VISIBILITY FROM POOL 1 KING SEEN SHORTLY BELOW CONCRETE BACK @ CO. 2036. EST END OF PASSAGE 2115

8/23/00

1130 → 1415 SURVEY T. BIRD

3 EKLUTNA RIVERS

WALK IN TO FALLS DOWN
FROM FALLS TO T. BIRD MOUTH
NO FISH NOTED. WATER FAST
SLIGHTLY TURBID, VISIBILITY POOR
IN DEPTHS OVER 12".

UP TO DAM. ALSO NO FISH
NOTED. WATER SLIGHTLY MURKY.
VISIBILITY BELOW 24" POOR.
≈ 12-15 DEEP HOLES @ BASES OF
BLUFFS, ETC. WHERE FISH
MIGHT HIDE OR SURVIVE
OVERWINTER w/ LOW FLOWS.

BACK DOWN TO OLD HIGHWAY
BRIDGE SAW 1 PAIR OF KINGS
BELOW OBSERVATION DECK.

SEVERAL PAIRS OF SPAWNING
PINK SALMON SEEN IN THIS
SECTION DOWN TO OLD HWY
BRIDGE.

9/26/00

EKLUTNA TRIP w/
MARK LAMEREAU
ELISH NATIVE AMERICAN FISH

Jeanne	NMFS
Jeanne Simmers	USFWS
JOHN OLSON	NMFS
STEVE LYONS	USFWS
DAVE BLANCHETT	NAS
JOHN	USFWS
LESTER	EKLUTNA VILLAGE

WALKED TO T. BIRD FALLS THEN
UP OVER RIDGE DOWN TO
CONFLUENCE. T. BIRD CREEK
& EKLUTNA BOTH HIGHER THAN
IN PAST. EKLUTNA PROBABLY TWICE
AS HIGH, AND VERY TURBID
Muddy glacial silt sediment.

SEINED IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS
DOW WALK UP TO DAM
BELOW THE POTENTIAL OBSTACLE.
SAMPLED SEVERAL JUVENILE
RAINBOW, SEVERAL JUVENILE
SOCKEYE AND COHO, ONE LARGE
RAINBOW ≈ 12 INCHES, DOLLY VARDEN
& SCULPIN WERE ALSO CAPTURED
REGULARLY.

MADE 3-4 HAULS IN AREA ABOVE
FALLS OBSTRUCTION WITH NETTING
CAUGHT EXCEPT 1 SCULPIN
A WHILE WAY BELOW THE DAM
& 1 DOLLY VARDEN IN THE DAM
PULVER POOL.

2-3 UNIDENTIFIED ADULT SALMON
WERE NOTED SWIMMING AS
WALK UP IN SECTION JUST BEHIND THE
LANDSLIDE FALLS. SPOTS ON TAIL
WERE CONSISTENT w/ PINK OR COHO
SALMON. ON RETURN TRIP DOWN
STEVE LYONS FLIPPED ONE
UP ON BANK MOMENTARILY &
HE, DAVE BLANCHETT & JOHN
POSITIVELY I.D. AS PINK SALMON

LESTER ALSO ALMOST CAUGHT ONE
BUT WAS UNABLE TO I.D.

Edward W. Weiss

From: Marc Lamoreaux [ave@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2001 5:07 PM
To: Ed Weiss
Cc: John DeLapp; Lance Trasky
Subject: Eklutna Salmon

Hi Ed,

I saw kings spawning all the way up to the falls and in various areas between there and the lower ponds. Between one and 6 Kings were observed at any given time. Dogs and pinks were very numerous this year. Dogs were the most numerous of all species during a prolonged run. Silvers seemed to come in two pulses. Over 1,000 dogs and silvers could be seen at once holding in the lower ponds over the course of their runs. Silver and king runs seemed to be timed similarly to the runs in Ship Creek, as reported in the news. Dogs and Silvers seemed to run together with one peak 7/24 and another 8/20. Elijah saw dogs spawning several times in the braided channels between the highway and railroad tracks. The silvers spawned in the tidally influenced lower part of the river in the flats below the ponds. They may have spawned upriver as well, but we did not see this. Who reported this to you? Pinks were mixed in with the chums and silvers, but were much fewer in numbers. We would like to obtain fish counts and other more systematic observations next year? Any ideas on support for such a project?

I gave a talk to the Diamond High students for their report on the Eklutna and saw the report you emailed them. Could you copy this report to me, plus anything else you work up on the Eklutna River?

Thank You,

Marc

Edward W. Weiss

From: Lance Trasky [lance_trasky@fishgame.state.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2001 10:50 AM
To: Edward W Weiss
Subject: FW: Eklutna Salmon

In response to your question regarding salmon spawning in Thunderbird Creek, I observed many salmon spawning in Thunderbird Creek up to the area of the falls in July of 1977. I checked with my wife and she said that she recalled that they were kings. My recollection was that there may have been some kings, but that there were a lot of smaller, very red salmon which I remember as sockeye. This was 24 years ago. It would have been too early for coho.

-----Original Message-----

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To: Ed Weiss
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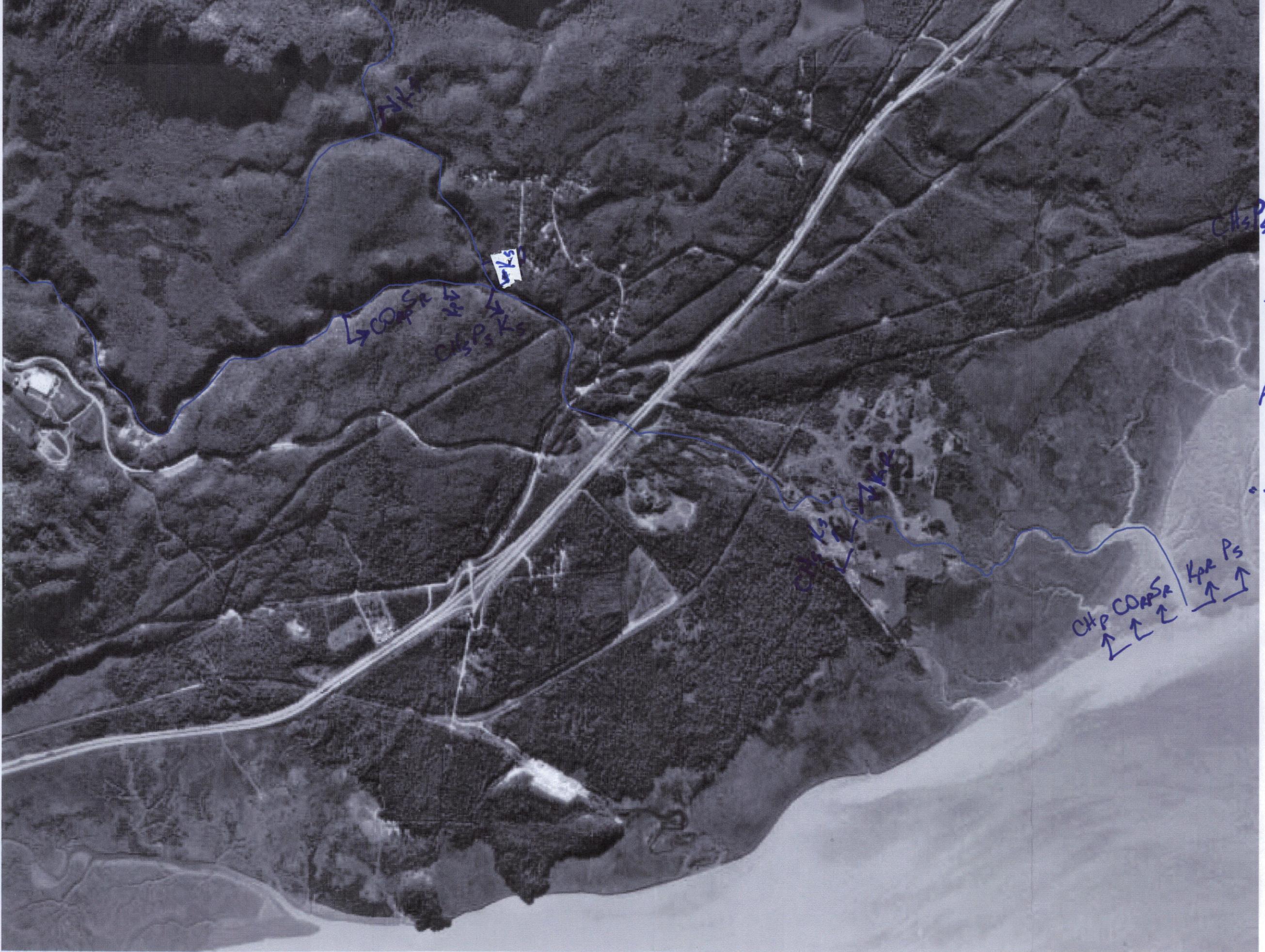
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Thank You,

Marc



Add Species
Ks : Kp : Ks
COASR
To Elevation R
247-50-10175

Add Stream
247-50-10175
-2025
"Thunderbird
Creek"
w/ Ks

CHP COASR
↑ ↑ ↑
Kps Ps
↑ ↑