State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Sportfish Division

Nomination Form
Fish Distribution Database

X

Region: SCN

USGS Quad(s): KENAI C-7, D-7, D-6

Fish Distribution Database Number of Waterway: 245-50-10050-2011

Name of Waterway: South Fork Big River ☐ USGS Name ☐ Local Name

☑ Addition ☐ Deletion ☐ Correction ☐ Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination # 07-219	ADF&G Fisheries Scientist	Date 11/2/07
Revision Year: 2008	ADNR OHMP Operations Mgr.	Date 11/2/07
Revision to: Atlas ____ Catalog ____ Both X	FDD Project Biologist	Date 9/12/07
Revision Code: A-1, B-6	Cartographer	Date 11/15/07

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
SOCKEYE SALMON	8/14/2007	X			☑
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐

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: Extend South Fork Big River (245-50-10050-2011) w/sockeye salmon spawning

Name of Observer (please print): Andy Barclay

Signature: _____ Date: 8/27/2007

Agency: ADF&G - CF

Address: 333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518

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 Fish Distribution Database.

Signature of Area Biologist: _____ Date: 9/10/07

Name of Area Biologist (please print):

Revision 02/05

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Department of Fish and Game
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Name of Area Biologist (please print):

Revision 02/05

Summary of Western Cook Inlet sockeye baseline sampling trips

August 13, 2007
Samplers: Andy Barclay, Gina Johnston, and Beth Mclain
Method: seine net
Transport: Helicopter (R44)
Pilot: Ray Hodges, Pollux Aviation
Flight Time: 4.1.hours

We flew out of Merrill Field at 08:30 and headed to the Kustatan River to sample Blacksand Creek. On the way we checked Threemile Creek for sockeye and there were none. What were thought to be a couple of sockeye on the scouting flight with a PA12 turned out to be a couple of logs. We arrived at Blacksand Creek around 09:30 and found a small clear water tributary that contained sockeye (N60.95310, W152.11860). The water on the mainstem had come up since August 8th and it was too silty to spot any sockeye. We collected 124 sockeye axillary processes and headed to Farro's Lake. 1

We arrived at Farro's Lake around 12:45 and landed near the mouth of the inlet stream. We hiked upstream a couple of miles to some pools that contained sockeye and collected 155 axillary processes (N61.01249, W152.06826). We were back at the helicopter around 15:45. 2

We flew to the McArthur River to check out Stream 13U (N61.07587, W152.00235) and a slough (N61.04421, W151.9159) where I saw fish on August 8th. The McArthur River was much higher and there were no fish in Stream 13U. There were fish in the slough, but the water was really dark and they were hard to see. We landed near the slough to inspect them on the ground. We found that it was a mixture of salmon species and there weren't enough sockeye to warrant a collection. 3 4

At about 16:30 we flew up the Chakachatna to look at a possible sampling location (N61.19340, W152.01632) that I spotted on my survey flight. On the way there we found a small stream (N61.14310, W151.81822) near the mouth of Straight Creek on the Chakachatna and it contained a mixture of salmon species and only a few sockeye that were spaced far apart. We flew up the clear water tributary to Straight Creek (N61.16844, W151.84170), the water was really low and there were only a few salmon in the lower portion of the creek. We arrived at the sampling site off the Chakachatna and saw roughly 30 sockeye in a small pool at the mouth of the stream, and nothing upstream from there. I decided there weren't enough sockeye to collect samples so we headed back to Anchorage. 5 6 7

We flew over the Beluga drainage on the way to Anchorage and checked Lone King and Drill Creeks. The water had dropped since August 8th and no sockeye were spotted in either creek. We arrived at Merrill Field at around 18:30.

Comments

We brought 15 gallons of extra fuel with us on this trip and it was more than enough. The pilot topped off the tanks on the helicopter when he picked us up at Merrill Field.

August 14, 2007
Samplers: Andy Barclay, Scott Raborn, and Robert Begich
Method: seine net
Transport: Helicopter (R44)
Pilot: Ray Hodges, Pollux Aviation
Flight Time: 4.6 hours

At 8:30 Scott and I flew from Merrill Field to pick up Robert at the Soldotna airport. After fueling up the helicopter and picking up Robert we headed for the South Fork Big River.

We sampled two locations on the South Fork Big River that were about a mile and a half apart. At 10:15 we landed at the first sampling site (N60.69900, W152.29641) and sampled 121 sockeye. At 12:00 we flew to the second sampling site (N60.68808, W152.32382). The main river had come up a lot since August 8th and the silty water was backing up into the clear pool which held the sockeye. The water was deep at one end and silty, but we managed to collect 92 samples. We decided to quit sampling when we started to catch more sampled fish than unsampled fish. 8 9

At 13:00 we flew to a Kustatan tributary (N60.91855, W151.98128) that had sockeye in it on August 8th. On the way we looked at the N. Fork Big River for clear tributaries with sockeye, but found none. At the Kustatan tributary we found about five sockeye just upstream from the mouth and a large brown bear that didn't like us flying over him. There were no sockeye in the mouth of the creek where I saw a large number of them on my scouting flight. 10

We followed the Kustatan out to the Cook Inlet and looked for other clear tributaries along the way, but found none that had sockeye. We headed back to Soldotna and dropped off Robert at 15:30.

After leaving Soldotna we flew up the Chickaloon to look for sockeye on the way back to Anchorage. We didn't see any sockeye and only a few other salmon that were probably coho. We landed at Merrill Field at 16:15.

Comments

The west side of Cook Inlet looked like it hadn't received a lot of rain in the last few weeks. All of the clear tributaries were getting really low and, where there should have been sockeye, we saw nothing. If the west side of Cook Inlet receives more rain in the next couple of weeks it's possible that the sockeye will make it up some of these streams.

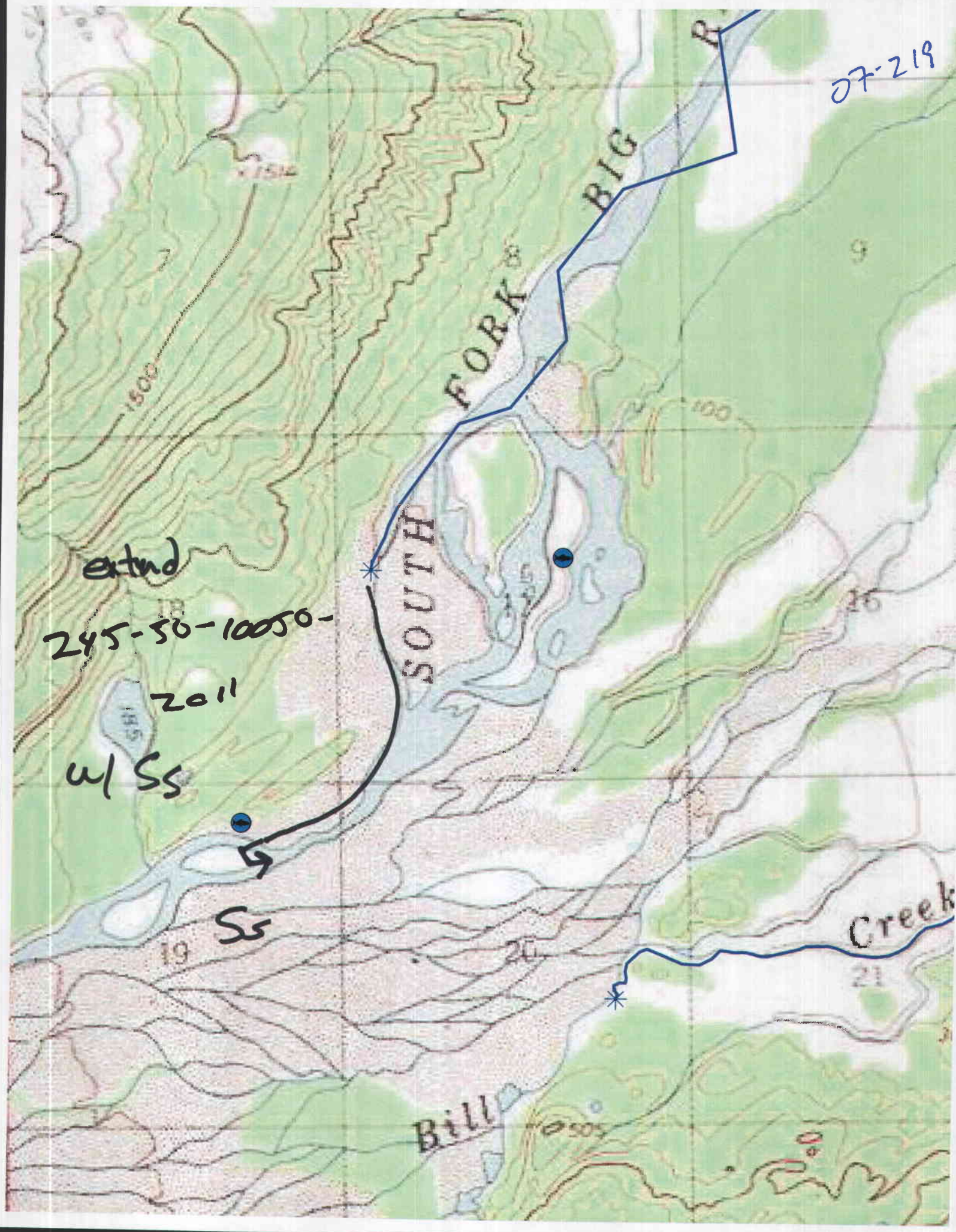
The warmer weather over the few days prior to the sampling trips caused a lot of glacial melt off and the main rivers were swollen with water and backing up into clear streams and lakes.

The Chickaloon River and Mystery Creek were both really low near Mystery Creek road and there were no sockeye. After talking to a few people about the sockeye run on the Chickaloon, I think that we should check for sockeye here in mid June to early July. If the run is that early then it probably is not caught in the commercial fishery.

SUMMARY OF W. COOK INLET SOCKEYE BASELINE SAMPLING TRIPS

SITE_#	LAT	LONG	SOCKEYE_SAMPLED	awc#	sample_site	action
1	60.95310	-152.11860	124	245-50-10010-2047	Blacksand Creek trib	add Ss to stream
2	61.01249	-152.06826	155	247-10-10080-2051-3029	Farro's Lake	substantiate Ss
3	61.07587	-152.00235		247-10-10080	13U	substantiate Ss
4	61.04421	-151.91590		247-10-10080	McArthur Slough	substantiate Ss
5	61.19340	-152.01632		247-10-10080-2010	Chakachatna	substantiate Ss
6	61.14310	-151.81822		247-10-10080-2010	Straight Creek trib	substantiate Ss
7	61.16844	-151.84170		247-10-10080-2010-3040	Straight Creek	species ID unclear
8	60.69900	-152.29641	121	245-50-10050-2011	South Fork Big River #1	substantiate Ss
9	60.68808	-152.32382	92	245-50-10050-2011	South Fork Big River #2	extend stream w/Ss
10	60.91855	-151.98128		245-50-10010-2043	Kustatan tributary	substantiate Ss

ANDY BARCLAY 2007


07-219
BIG
FORK
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Creek
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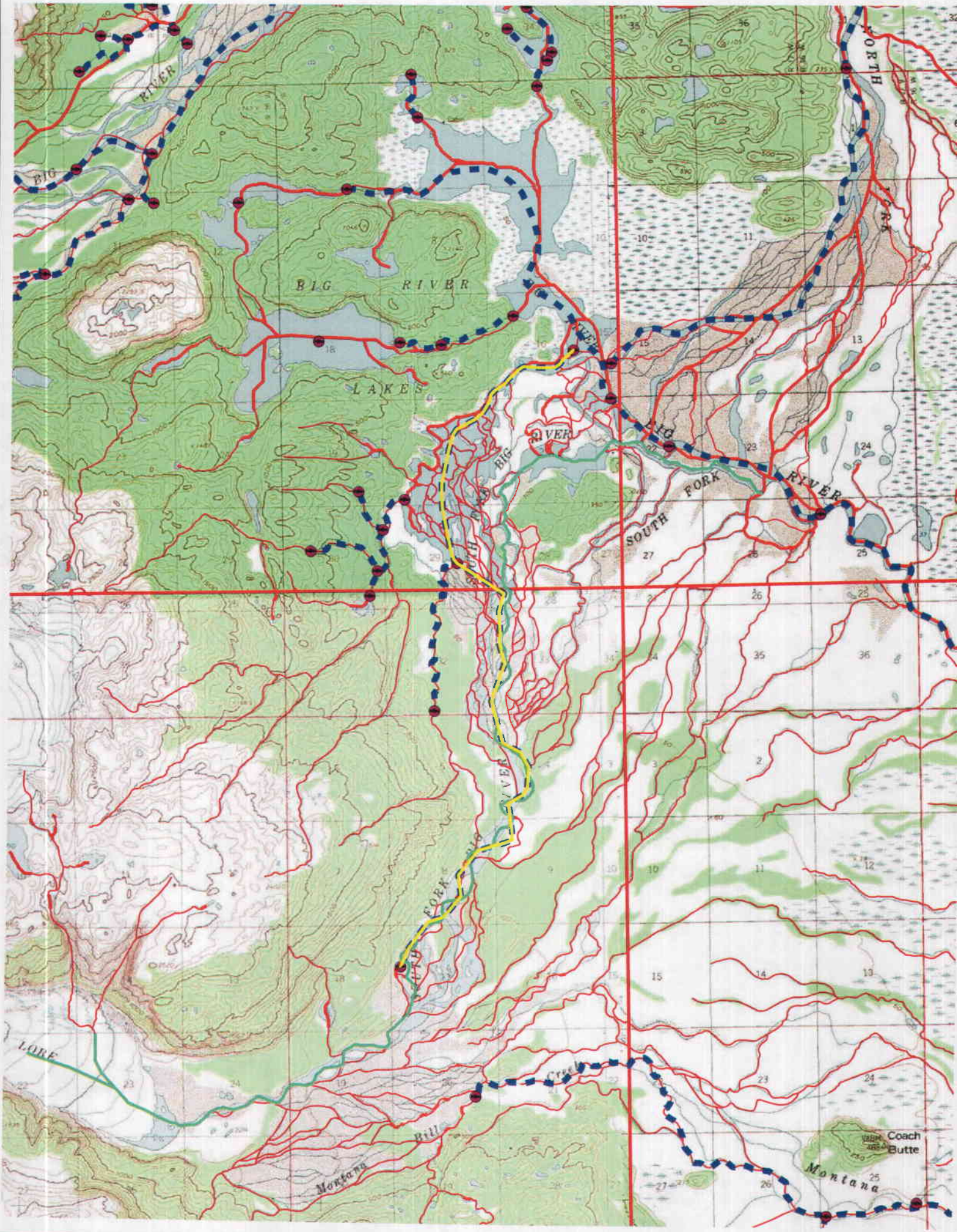
BIG RIVER
BIG RIVER
LAKES
BIG RIVER
SOUTH FORK
NORTH FORK
SOUTH FORK BIG RIVER
LORE
Montana Bill Creek
Coach Butte
Montana