



State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Sportfish Division

Nomination Form
Anadromous Waters Catalog

Region Southeastern USGS Quad(s) Juneau B-2

Anadromous Waters Catalog Number of Waterway 111-40-10240

Name of Waterway Snowslide Creek USGS Name Local Name

Addition Deletion Correction Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination # <u>10-757</u>	_____	_____
Revision Year: <u>2011</u>	Fisheries Scientist	Date
Revision to: Atlas _____	_____	_____
Both <u>L</u>	<u>[Signature]</u> Habitat Operations Manager	Date <u>15 Sept 10</u>
Revision Code: <u>A-2</u>	AWC Project Biologist	Date
	_____	_____
	Cartographer	Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
coho salmon	09/09/2010		✓	✓	✓

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:
Snowslide creek was surveyed to determine anadromy and stream route. A total of 8 smolting coho salmon were trapped using baited minnow traps left to soak for 24 hours. This stream has been heavily impacted by very recent excavation.
Coordinates (Lat,Long): Upper(58.283192,-134.37395) Lower(58.282826,-134.37462)
Add new stream w/ coho salmon REARING

Name of Observer (please print): Tess Quinn
Signature: 146.63.139.55 (Web Nomination) Date: 09/13/2010
Agency: _____
Address: PO Box 35032 PO Box 35032
Juneau, AK 99803

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 Anadromous Waters Catalog.
Signature of Area Biologist: _____ Date: _____ Revision 02/08
Name of Area Biologist (please print): _____

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF HABITAT

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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JUNEAU, AK 99811-0024
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Jackie Timothy
Southeast Regional Supervisor

DATE: 9/13/2010

FILE NO:

SUBJECT: Snowslide Creek

FROM: Tess Quinn
Fish and Wildlife Tech

TELEPHONE NO: (907) 465-1635

Figure 1: Excavation of Snowslide Creek.



On Tuesday, September 7th 2010 I visited Snowslide creek (Juneau B-2). The water was clear with good spawning gravels and excellent rearing habitat. The stream flows through an avalanche run-out zone on Mt. Roberts, under Thane road, and into Gastineau channel. I decided to return the next day to survey the currently uncataloged stream to determine anadromy.

Upon returning to Snowslide creek on Wednesday, September 8th with habitat biologist Johnny Zutz, I found that DOT had begun work on a berm to prevent avalanche debris from reaching Thane road. The stream bank had previously been vegetated with overhanging alder, grasses, and brush and has since been cleared by excavators. The water was murky with fine sediment that settled over the gravel substrate. I set one trap downstream of a perched culvert passing under Thane road. I opted not to set traps above because of operations in and near the stream.

Upon returning to Snowslide creek on Wednesday, September 8th with habitat biologist Johnny Zutz, I found that DOT



Figure 2: Sediment covering gravels in Snowslide creek.



Figure 3: Footprint in thick sediment covering gravels in Snowslide creek

I returned the next morning to check the trap and found it filled with 45-50 sculpin and four smolting coho salmon. I photographed them and released them. The sediment had settled to the bottom of the stream and the water was running clear, although any disturbance clouded the water with the fine sediment.



Figure 4: Coho smolts in Snowslide creek.



Figure 5: Coho smolts in Snowslide creek.

I spoke with Chris Hickock who is overseeing the project and asked about the mitigative measures he was taking to minimize impacts to the stream. He pointed out the sediment catchment pools they had created to filter sediment while they worked on the bank with excavators and backhoes. Mr. Hickock said they don't plan to be working in the stream again because they are focusing the berm work farther up the slope.



Figure 6: Equipment and devegetation on the bank of Snowslide creek



Figure 7: Sediment pool on Snowslide creek

I began the track line of the stream at the intertidal and walked upstream. I set two traps above the perched culvert: one at the inlet and one farther upstream at the end of possible anadromy. There is a bedrock and scree fish barrier that is approximately 12-15 feet tall that marks the upstream extent of anadromy. There is grassy vegetation on the river-right bank, but no grass or overhanging vegetation on the left side. The bank, as seen in figure 6, is steep with loose dirt and rock, and subject to erosion during heavy rain events.

I returned the next morning (September 10th, 2010) to find three smolting coho in the trap at the inlet of the culvert and one smolting coho at the upper extent before a steep rocky cascade. Their sizes ranged from 85mm to 140mm. They were healthy and looked very well-fed. The former overhanging trees and brush apparently provided a good population of bugs for rearing salmon.



Figure 8: Coho salmon caught in minnow trap at inlet of corrugated metal culvert.



Figure 9: Coho salmon caught in minnow trap at upper extent of Snowslide creek.

Figure 10. Snowslide Creek Survey Data

WAYPOINT	LAT	LONG_	DESCRIPTION	EFFORT	TRAP DATA
1	58.282469	-134.37459	Mouth of Snowslide creek		
2	58.282826	-134.37462	Culvert under Thane road, perched 1.5' @ low tide, 1' to 10" at high tide. Passable. Set baited minnow trap at outlet.	Minnow trap, 24hrs	45-50 SC, 4 CO (85-100MM)
3	58.283002	-134.37458	Inlet of culvert, set baited minnow trap	Minnow trap, 24hrs	3 CO (85-120MM)
4	58.283166	-134.37435	Sediment catchment pool		
5	58.283192	-134.37395	End of anadromous reach. Steep rocky cascade. Set baited minnow trap.	Minnow trap	1 CO (140mm)

Based on the results of my trapping efforts and the condition of the stream prior to excavation, I recommend that culvert replacement mitigation and stream bank restoration be implemented on this anadromous fish stream. The stream should be revisited periodically to monitor erosion on the left bank.

Figure 10 illustrates trapping effort results and the following map provides trap and feature locations.

Snowslide Creek



End of anadromous reach. Caught 1 coho.

Sediment catchment pool.

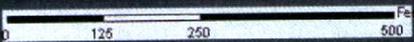
Inlet of culvert. Caught 3 coho.

Outlet of perched culvert. Caught 4 coho.

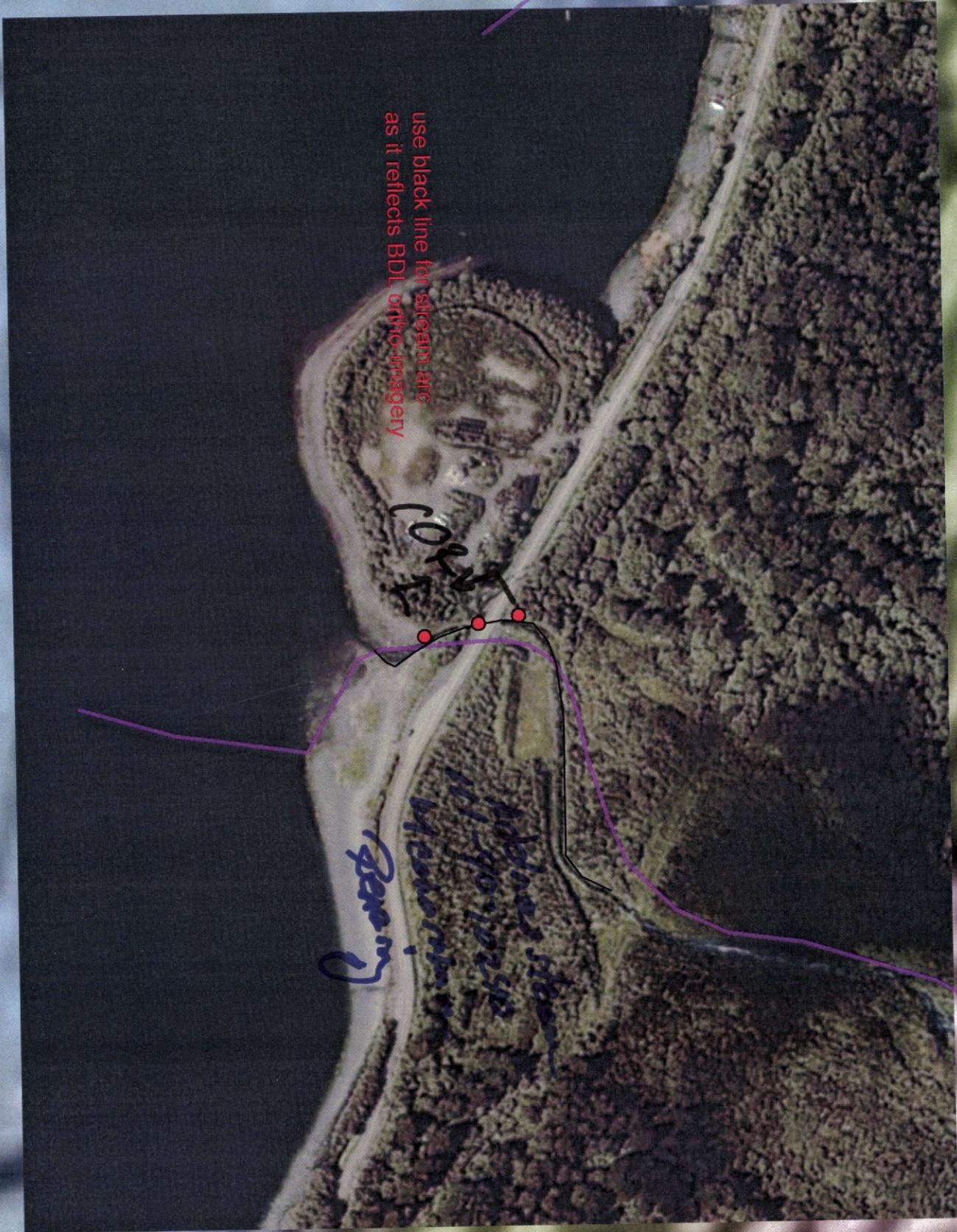
Mouth of Snowslide Creek

Legend

- SnowslideSurveyNotes
- Addition



Tess Quinn
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Division of Habitat
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use black line for stream arc
as it reflects BDL ortho-imagery

COFF
Barnum
Barnum
Barnum
Barnum