



State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish

Nomination Form
Anadromous Waters Catalog

X

Region Southcentral USGS Quad(s) Seward D-6 SE
 Anadromous Waters Catalog Number of Waterway 247-60-10210-2015-3015
 Name of Waterway Unnamed Tributary Explorer Creek USGS Name Local Name
 Addition Deletion Correction Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination #	<u>150048</u>	<u>James J Hasbrouck</u>	<u>10/26/2015</u>
Revision Year:	<u>2016</u>	Fisheries Scientist	Date
Revision to:	Atlas _____ Catalog _____	<u>Michael J. A.</u>	<u>10/26/15</u>
	Both <u>X</u>	Habitat Operations Manager	Date
Revision Code:	<u>A-2</u>	<u>JF</u>	<u>2100CT15</u>
		AWC Project Biologist	Date
		<u>Of</u>	<u>11 5 15</u>
		Cartographer	Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
Adult Coho Salmon	1995-2005	X			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Juvenile coho	<u>10/20/2015</u>	X	<u>X</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<u>10/20/2015</u>		X		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input 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:

Each year during foot surveys for the U.S. Forest Service, I observed up to 6 coho salmon spawning in the unnamed groundwater fed tributary to Explorer Creek (Figures 1 and 2). Adult coho were observed at about Lat 60 47.94, Long -148 55.57. See the November 21, 2014 trip report.

see following page -
add new creek w/ coho salmon rearing

Name of Observer (please print): Will Frost, Habitat Biologist
 Signature: [Signature]
 Agency: ADF&G, Division of Habitat
 Address: 333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518

Date: 11/21/2014
10/21/2015

ALASKA DEPT. OF
FISH & GAME

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.

DEC 01 2014

Signature of Area Biologist: _____ Date: _____ Revision 05/08
 Name of Area Biologist (please print): _____



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Region USGS Quad(s)
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Nomination # _____ Revision Year: _____ Revision to: Atlas _____ Catalog _____ Both _____ Revision Code: _____	_____ Fisheries Scientist	_____ Date
	_____ Habitat Operations Manager	_____ Date
	_____ AWC Project Biologist	_____ Date
	_____ Cartographer	_____ Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

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Adult Coho Salmon	1995-2005	X			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Juvenile Coho	10/20/2015		X		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>

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Comments: Each year during foot surveys for the U.S. Forest Service, I observed up to 6 coho salmon spawning in the unnamed groundwater fed tributary to Explorer Creek (Figures 1 and 2). Adult coho were observed at about Lat 60 47.94, Long -148 55.57. See the November 21, 2014 trip report.
 On October 20, 2015 Jacob Cunha and I electrofished the stream to a point above where adult coho were observed in past surveys. Please see the revised Figure 1. About 15 juvenile coho salmon were

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Signature of Area Biologist: _____ Date: _____ Revision 05/08
 Name of Area Biologist (please print): _____

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game
Division of Habitat

TO: Michael Daigneault
Central Region
Regional Supervisor

DATE: November 21, 2014

PHONE NO: 267-2813

FROM: Will Frost *WF*
Habitat Biologist

SUBJECT: Unnamed Tributary Explorer Creek

On November 20, 2014, I conducted a foot survey to determine if adult salmon are present in an unnamed tributary of Explorer Creek (Stream No. 247-60-10210-2015). Over the past two years I have conducted several foot surveys in the unnamed stream to document the presence of anadromous fish. While employed with the U.S. Forest Service, Dan Gillikin, Fisheries Biologist, and I observed adult coho salmon spawning in the unnamed stream. These observations occurred periodically from 1994 to 2005. During my recent surveys, no anadromous fish were observed. I accessed aerial photography from 2006 and noted a new road had been built across the unnamed stream (Figure 1). The road is on land owned by Scott Shelley.

I walked up the unnamed stream from the confluence of Explorer Creek to see if there are any barriers to fish passage. About 250 feet above the confluence of Explorer Creek, I observed a recently excavated gravel pit about 5 feet from the ordinary high water mark of the unnamed stream (Figures 2 and 3). The pit area is about 0.7 acre. I walked upstream an additional 115 feet and located a 24-inch diameter plastic culvert located under a gravel road (Figures 4 and 5). The stream width at the crossing location is about 25 feet. I walked upstream about 135 feet and observed a point where the unnamed stream flows from another excavated pit (Figures 6 and 7). The pit area is about 7 acres (Figure 8). I continued along the pit edge and observed recently filled wetlands in the area where the unnamed stream once flowed. At the east end of the pit, I observed two streams flowing into the pit. The stream on the north side of the pit had a 24-inch culvert located under an access road to the pit (Figure 9). I walked up the stream on the south side of the pit about 1,150 feet. The stream is groundwater fed and flows through a series of beaver-dammed ponds. I walked back downstream and located an additional outlet to a beaver pond (Figure 10). I walked downstream from the additional outlet about 390 feet to the gravel pit. The stream was the one located on the north side of the pit and contains the 24-inch diameter culvert.

The two 24-inch diameter culverts are not designed for fish passage and are a violation of AS 16.05.841 (Fishway Act). The culverts will be required to be removed and structures designed for fish passage installed. The excavation and fill of the unnamed stream may have caused degradation of valuable spawning and rearing habitat. Mitigation for the lost habitat may be required.

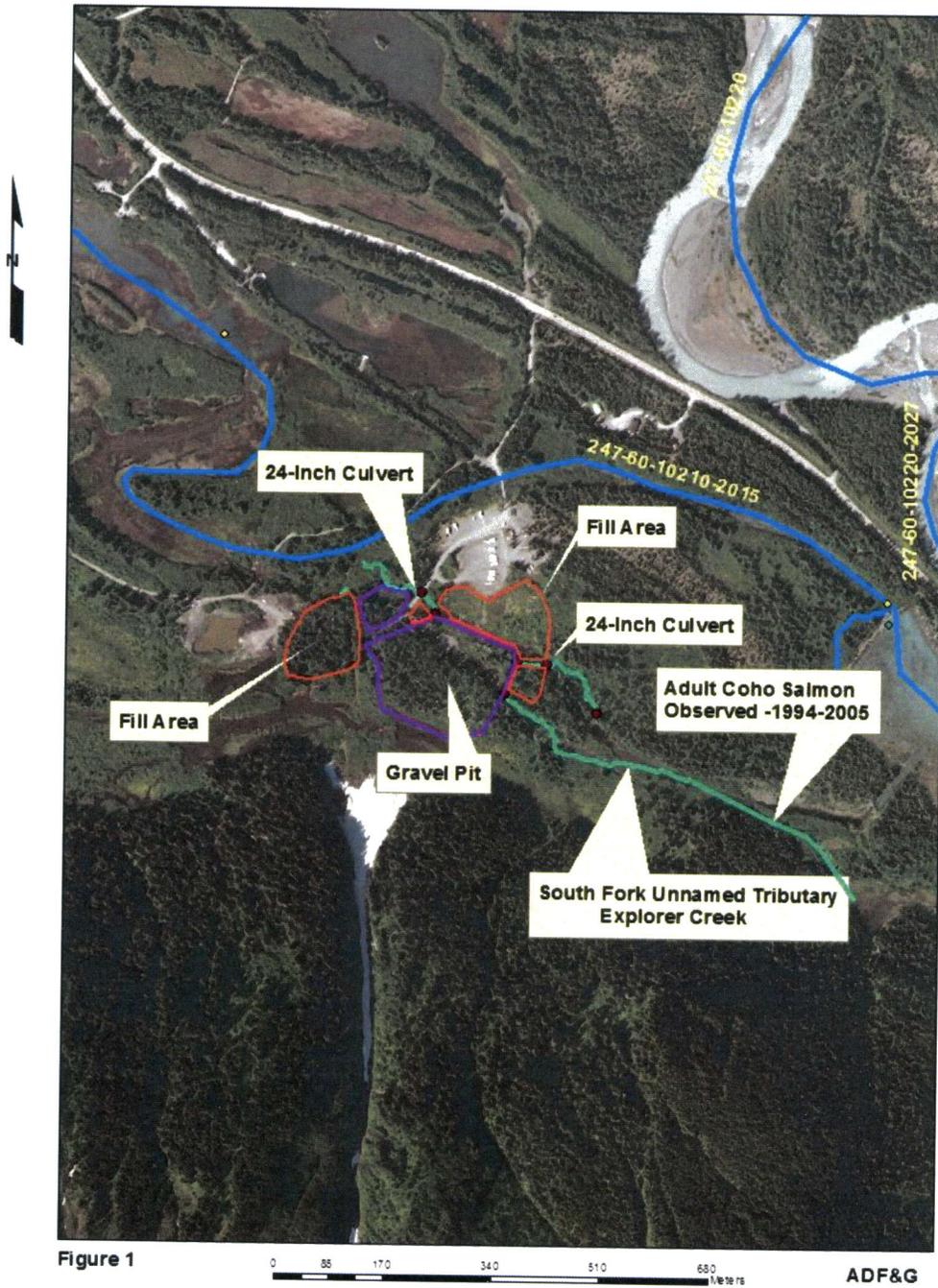


Figure 1

ADF&G

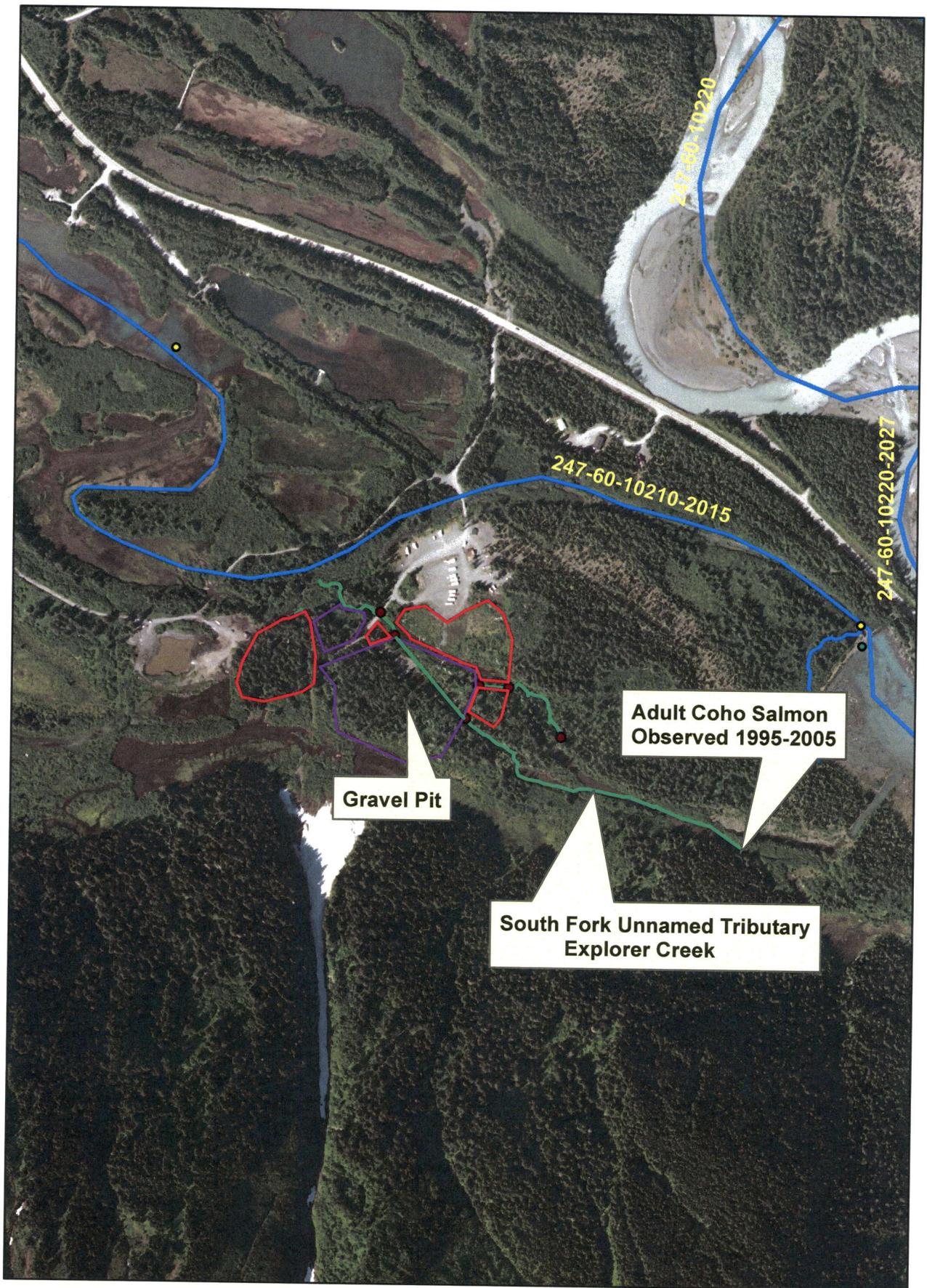
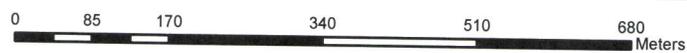


Figure 1





Revised Figure 1



ADF&G

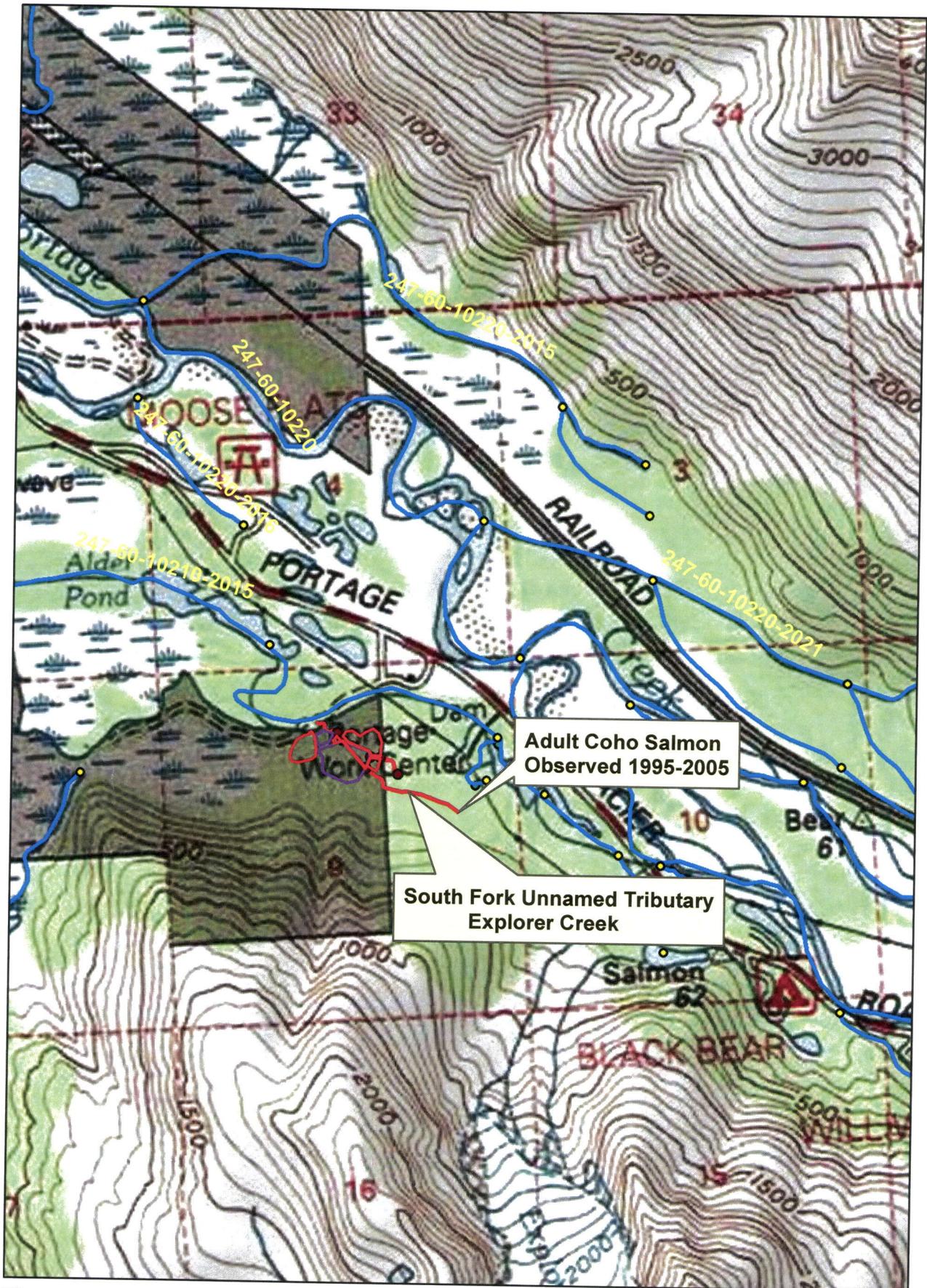


Figure 2





10/25/2015



10/20/2015



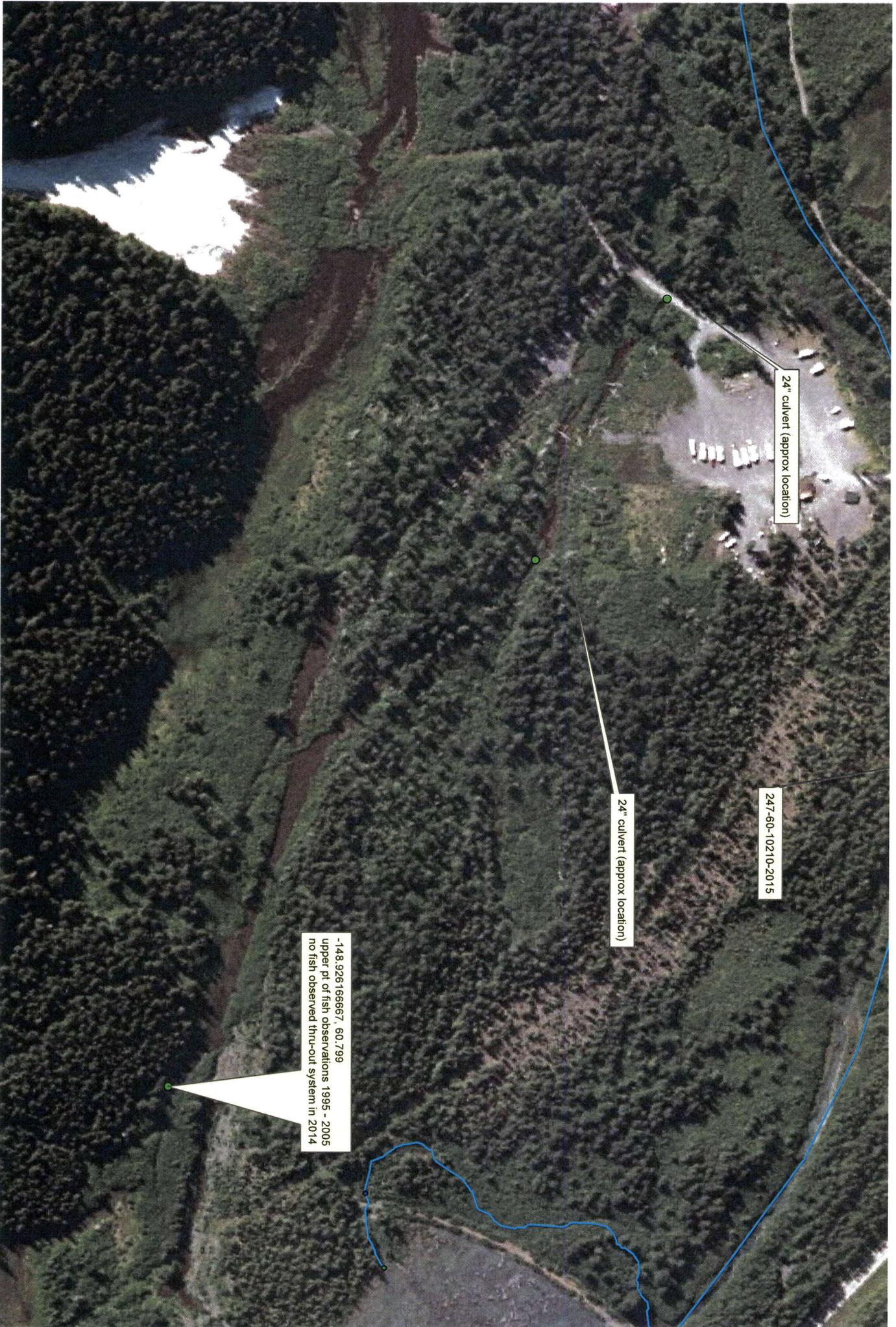
10/20/2015

24" culvert (approx location)

247-60-10210-2015

24" culvert (approx location)

-148,926;166667, 60,799
upper pt of fish observations 1995 - 2005
no fish observed thru-out system in 2014



24" culvert (approx location)

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24" culvert (approx location)

-148.926166667, 60.799
upper pt of fish observations 1995 - 2005
no fish observed thru-out system in 2014



Figure 2. Gravel pit (left side of photograph) adjacent to unnamed stream (right side of photograph). View to west.



Figure 3. Gravel pit (0.7 acre), view to south.



Figure 4. Culvert outlet in unnamed stream. View looking upstream.



Figure 5. Culvert outlet in unnamed stream. View looking upstream.



Figure 6. Large gravel pit outlet. View to south.



Figure 7. Large gravel pit outlet. View to north.



Figure 8. Large gravel pit. View to south.

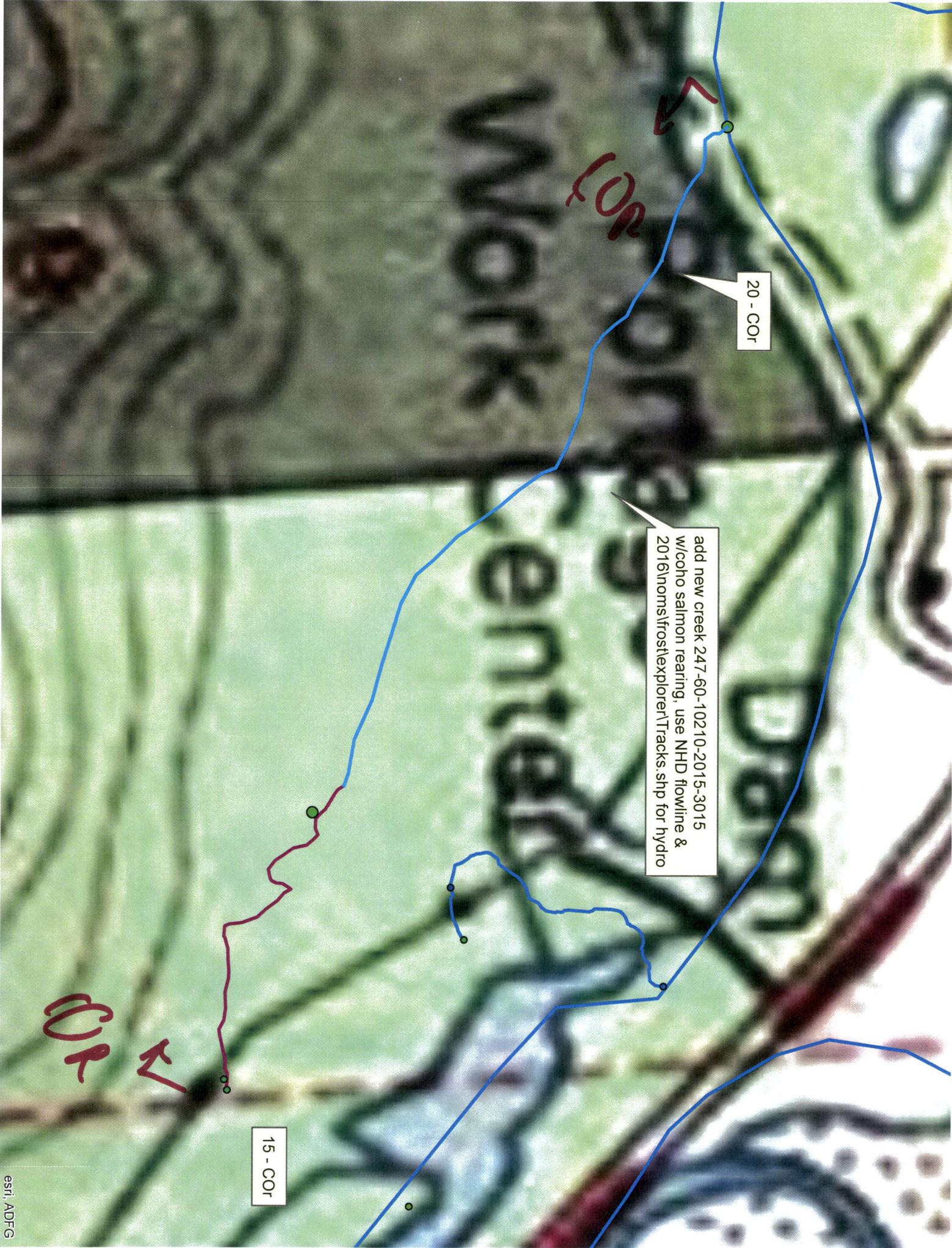


Figure 9. Culvert outlet in north unnamed tributary. View to east.



Figure 10. North unnamed stream. View to west.

ecc: M. Thalhauser, ADF&G
D. Bosch, ADF&G
A. Ott, ADF&G
G. O'Doherty, ADF&G
J. Rypkema, ADEC
AWT, Anchorage
M. Johnson, ADNR
T. Tobish, MOA
S. Ellis, MOA
S. McCoy, COE
T. Charmon, USFS



20 - COR

add new creek 247-60-10210-2015-3015
w/coho salmon rearing, use NHD flowline &
2016\momsfrost\explore\Tracks.shp for hydro

15 - COR

COR

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