



State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Sportfish Division

Nomination Form
Fish Distribution Database

Region SUT USGS Quad(s) Lake CHARL C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7
 Fish Distribution Database Number of Waterway 325-30-10100-2202-3510
 Name of Waterway Chilikadrotna River USGS Name Local Name
 Addition Deletion Correction Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination # <u>07-124</u>	_____ ADF&G Fisheries Scientist	_____ Date
Revision Year: <u>2008</u>	_____ ADNR OHMP Operations Mgr.	_____ Date
Revision to: Atlas _____ Catalog _____ Both _____	<u>[Signature]</u> FDD Project Biologist	<u>4/16/07</u> Date
Revision Code: <u>F-1</u>	_____ Cartographer	_____ Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
<u>coho salmon</u>	<u>Aug 2, 5, 3, 1977</u>		<u>X</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>

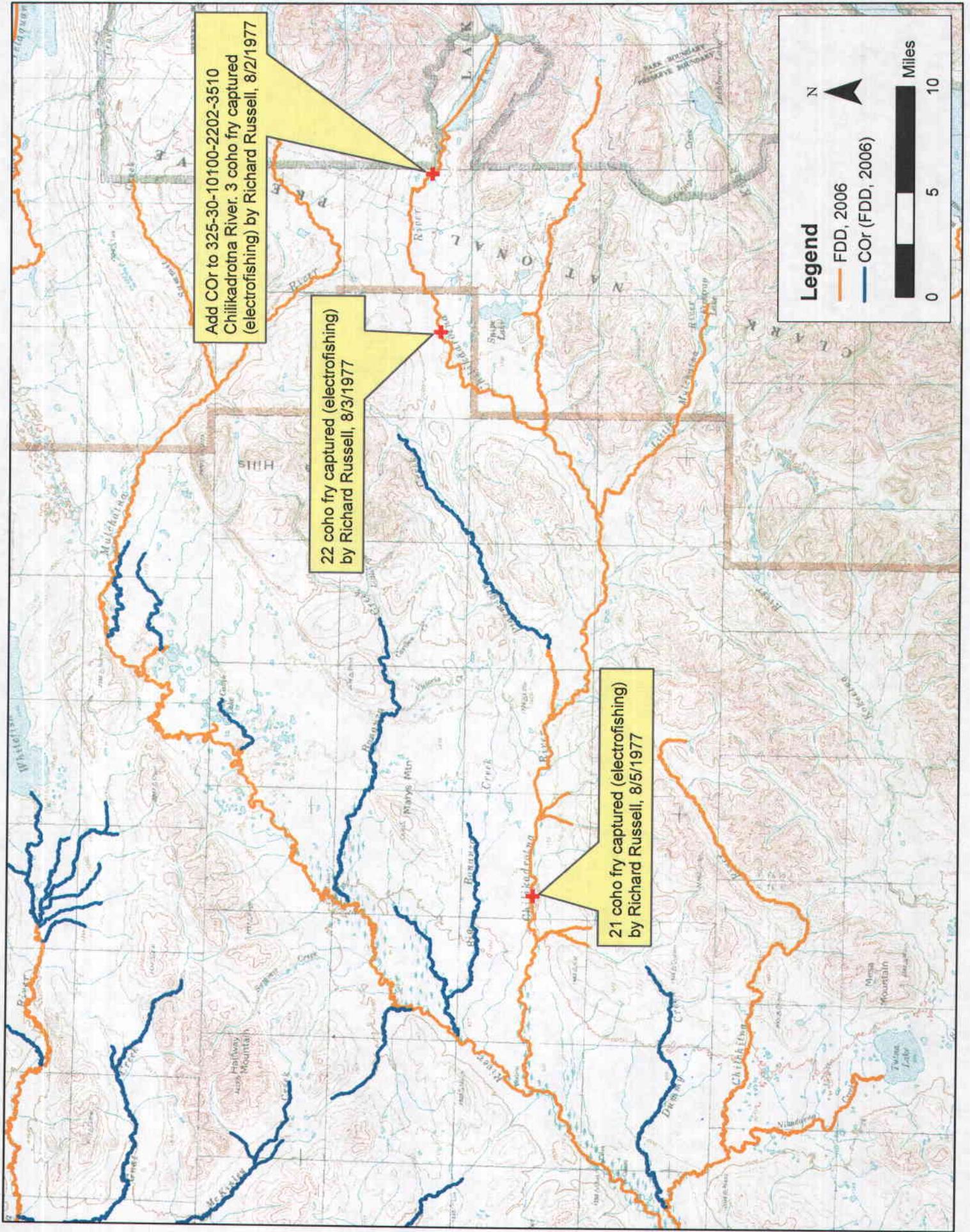
IMPORTANT: Provide all supporting documentation that this water body is important for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fish, including: number of fish and life stages observed; sampling methods, sampling duration and area sampled; copies of field notes; etc. Attach a copy of a map showing 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: Survey supports coho salmon presence in 325-30-10100-2202-3510

Name of Observer (please print): Joe Buckwalter
 Signature: [Signature] Date: 4/16/07
 Agency: ADF&G Div of SF
 Address: 333 Raspberry Rd
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: _____ Revision 02/05
 Name of Area Biologist (please print): _____



Chilikadrotna River Float Survey
August 1-7, 1977

ALASKA DEPT. OF
FISH & GAME
JAN 08 2007

By - Richard Russell

August 1 - Bill Adint, Bill Baechler and I flew to Lower Twin Lake (60° 40' N. Lat., 154° 2' W. Long.) with Peninsula Airways in a Widgeon (Pilot - George Tibbetts, Jr.) this evening. The trip from King Salmon took 1.5 hours each way. We landed at 1845 hours along the north shore of the lower lake about 1/2 mile east of the lake outlet.

Following the Widgeon's departure, we inflated our two Avon 12-foot rafts and paddled across the lake to the vicinity of a small cabin about a mile uplake from the lake outlet on the south shore. The lake was calm. Visibility down into the water was estimated at 15 feet. The cabin had been visited by bear and torn up a good deal. Portions of 2 outboard motors remained inside. We also observed 3 gas caches (5 gallon cans) along the lake shore.

We set up camp across the bay from the cabin and fished off the beach near the outlet of a small creek nearby. In one angler hour we caught 2 lake trout (428 mm and 436 mm in fork length) plus one char (461 mm) and one grayling (402 mm). We hooked but lost several other fish in addition. We were using small silver spoons.

August 2 - Overcast with NE winds at 0700 hours. Lake temperature = 49° F. at 0800. Air temp. = 50° F.

We broke camp and headed downlake for the outlet at 0850. As we left the shelter of the small cove, the east winds sped us along pretty rapidly. The lake was developing healthy 3-3 1/2 foot swells so we didn't waste any time getting down to the shelter of the Chilikadrotna.

At the outlet of Lower Twin Lake, the Chilikadrotna is approximately 80 feet wide, clear, flowing an estimated 3 f.p.s., with an average estimated mid-channel depth of 3-4 feet. There are scattered boulders with associated hydraulics in mid-channel and some white water. The banks are willow, spruce, and grass covered.

We fished several of the uppermost holes in the river and caught lake trout and grayling.

There is a log cabin on the north side of the river about 1/4 mile downstream from the outlet of L. Twin Lake. Inside were notes from two people claiming they owned the cabin (Mr. Jerre Wills of Box 1111, Homer, Alaska, and Mr. Darrell Sykes). Said the cabin was rentable.

Approximately 2 1/2 miles below the lake outlet we stopped and electroshocked two small side channels with a Type V-Smith Root Electrofisher. In 116 seconds of electroshocking we caught 3 coho fry, 7 char fry, and several sculpin.

We observed ~~king salmon spawning~~ in this upper portion of the Chilikadrotna to within 1/4 mile of the outlet of L. Twin Lake.

We worked our way downstream approximately 10 miles before camping for the night. Strong east winds (30-40 m.p.h.) made fishing and making fish observations

difficult. However, for the day we caught 9 grayling (fork lengths 277-419 mm) and 3 lake trout (386-506 mm). And we observed 65 spawning king Salmon. Regarding kings, we just kept track of what we saw. As the river is multi-channelled and pretty big water, our counts were very incomplete and should only be regarded as rock-bottom minimums for the number of fish present. We saw no other species of salmon today. River transparency about 6 feet today.

Approximately 9 miles downstream from Lower Twin Lake we floated past a large store of building materials on the south bank (about 2 miles directly north of Snipe Lake). There was a track vehicle, large snow machine, and a lot of misc. material sitting next to a partially framed cabin.

Camped on a gravel bar. Had an interesting few moments when we discovered a porcupine had crawled under one of our beached rafts. We carefully lifted it up and away from him and encouraged him to spend his evening elsewhere.

August 3 - Sunny at 0730 with east winds at 10-15 m.p.h.

We electroshocked a side channel near camp this morning and caught ~~22 coho fry~~ plus one healthy burbot (337 mm). I made the mistake of putting the burbot in the capture bucket with the fry as we continued shocking, and he had quite a lunch there for a few minutes. He'd position himself just behind a fry and then snap his mouth open and closed like he was gulping a mouth of water...and the fry would be sucked in. It was so fast a person couldn't see the fry enter the mouth. The fry simply disappeared. Anyway, we only shocked for 120 seconds and then worked the fish while we still had some.

River temperature = 52⁰ F. at 0945 hours.

Began floating at 0945 hours. We caught our first rainbow trout downstream about 2 miles below camp. However, fishing was poor today due to the rapid and rocky character of this stretch of water. We only caught 4 grayling in addition to the rainbow.

We floated about 12 miles today and camped this evening just inside the mouth of the Little Mulchatna River. The 3-4 miles of river just above the confluence with the Little Mulchatna was quite interesting float wise. It was frequently interspersed with stretches of small rapids. Flows increased to 4-6 f.p.s. as we descended a small canyon. Hydraulics to 4 feet were encountered. We took some water aboard while negotiating this stretch, but had no difficulties and, in fact, thoroughly enjoyed this part of the trip.

Observed 31 spawning kings in the Chilikadrotna today. Saw 16 more in the lower 1/4 mile of the Little Mulchatna. Also observed 8 sockeye spawners, and 14 chum carcasses in this lower portion of the Little Mulchatna. I also saw grayling, round whitefish, and brown bears on the Little Mulchatna tonight. Caught 3 grayling there.

Several times today we came across the remains of old camps along the river. As most of what we saw would have been washed away by spring high waters, it appears that river has had at least several parties on it since spring.

The Little Mulchatna splits a short ways upstream above the Chilikadrotna and has 2 main channels flowing into the river about 1/2 mile apart. Just above where it splits, the L. Mulchatna is approximately 50' wide with a flow of 2-3 f.p.s., a gravel bottom, and fairly clear. I could see bottom in an estimated 8 feet of water in a couple holes upstream. Log jams are common along its banks.

Log jams and debris were also quite a bit more abundant today on the Chilikadrotna than farther upstream.

August 4 - CAVU at 0730. On river at 0900. River temperature = 48° F. at 0845.

Observed one tent frame near lower L. Mulchatna outlet...apparently a trapping camp.

Floated approximately 12.5 miles today (down to about 2 miles below Ptarmigan Creek - Chilikadrotna confluence).

We caught 4 rainbow trout today (251-416 mm fork length) and 4 grayling. We observed 50 live kings spawning and found 4 dead kings. We also saw about 30 sockeye (most at mouth of Ptarmigan Creek) and about 50 chum salmon carcasses. Saw one large rainbow trout (22-23 inches) at mouth of Ptarmigan Creek, but I couldn't get him to do anything more than follow the lure. Saw recent man tracks at Ptarmigan Creek.

Lots of sweepers and log debris in river today. Lots of gravel bars.

August 5 - Cloudy at 0800. On river at 0945.

Floated approximately 8 miles today. Fished quite extensively. Caught 2 grayling, 1 char, and 3 rainbow trout between 3 of us in about 12 angler hours.

Electroshocked a side channel this afternoon and caught the following in 156 seconds of shocking:

2 juvenile char

4 rainbow trout (3 fry)

This channel was approximately 20 feet wide with good bank cover (overhanging alders) and with depths to 3 feet. It flowed about 1-2 f.p.s. The rainbow fry appeared to have just emerged. The largest was 30 mm in fork length.

Observed 16 live and 11 dead kings today.

Quit at a small stream that enters the river from the south about 8 miles upstream of the Chilikadrotna-Mulchatna confluence. This creek was clear, about 15 feet wide, and had some fishable holes (depths to 6 feet) but the only fish I saw in the lower mile were 4 spawning kings.

August 6 - CAVU at 0800 hours. On river at 0945.

Continued downriver to the Mulchatna today and then proceeded down it for another 3 1/2 miles.

The lower 5 miles of the Chilikadrotna was braided. There were lots of log jams and debris.

In backwaters and side channels we found rainbows to be slightly more abundant today. In one side channel a group of about 20 kings were spawning and we caught 4 rainbows behind them. In all we caught 7 rainbows, and 3 grayling, and 2 jack kings today.

We observed 38 live kings, and 9 dead ones on the Chilikadrotna. We also saw more sockeye spawning in backwaters and several hundred chum carcasses.

Hit the Mulchatna at 1600 hours. It's considerably more turbid than the Chilikadrotna. At the confluence, visibility was limited to about 3 feet.

Observed numerous dead chums and some dead kings along the Mulchatna this afternoon. Also saw several kings jumping.

The Mulchatna below its confluence with the Chilikadrotna is flowing 3-4 m.p.h. based on a timed float this afternoon between two landmarks.

Saw Ramstead's beaver fly over tonight with an 18-foot riverboat tied to one float.

August 7 - Floated approximately 9 miles this morning downriver to just below the confluence of the Chilchitna and the Mulchatna rivers. Just beyond the confluence of these two, there is a long, straight stretch of river suitable for float plane pickups (up to Widgeon in size, I'd say). We were picked up there this evening at 5 p.m. and ferried to Tutna Lake. From Tutna Lake we were flown back to King Salmon with Iliamna Air Taxi in a Cessna 206 on floats (pilot - LaPorte).

We found that Ramstead had left his new riverboat at a slough that enters this straight stretch on the Mulchatna.

Arrived King Salmon at 2000 hours.

Length Frequency by Capture Method, Chilikadrotna Float Survey
August 1-7, 1977

Fork Length (mm)	Rainbow Trout		Grayling		L.Trout		Char		Coho	Burbot
	H&L	E.S.	H&L	H&L	H&L	E.S.	E.S.	E.S.		
25-49	-	3	-	-	-	1	15	-		
50-74	-	-	-	-	-	6	31	-		
75-99	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
100-124	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
125-149	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
150-174	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		
175-199	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
200-224	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
225-249	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
250-274	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
275-299	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-		
300-324	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-		
325-349	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1		
350-374	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-		
375-399	3	-	4	1	-	-	-	-		
400-424	2	-	4	1	-	-	-	-		
425-449	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-		
450-474	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
475-499	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
500-524	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		
Total	15	4	26	5	2	8	46	1		
Range(mm)	239-489	28-78	274-419	386-506	182-461	49-151	45-65	337		

*(1 caught
4 in
L. Twin Lake)*

Actual Fork Lengths by Species, Chilikadrotna Float Survey
August 1-7, 1977

Rainbow Trout

(Hook & Line)

429	425	489	251	n=15
306	448	378	239	
389	416	270	383	
251	404	303		

(Electroshock)

30	28	28	78	n=4
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Coho

Electroshock)

55	53	48	54	60	62	53
55	51	57	51	60	60	65
51	51	59	59	56	48	64
48	52	48	48	49	63	48
47	46	48	46	53	51	56
48	53	51	50	63	49	50
55	47	51	45			

n=46

Grayling

(Hook & Line)

L. Twin Lake

(402)	398	370	357	n=26
326	284	277	355	
295	343	355	351	
338	411	318	286	
321	419	336	393	
274	407	391	390	
355	372			

Lake Trout

(Hook and Line)

428	436	506	386	404	n=5
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L. Twin Lake

Char

(Hook & Line)

L. Twin Lake

(461)	182			n=2
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(Electroshock)

151	49	56	50	n=8
54	50	50	50	

Burbot

(Electroshock)

337				n=1
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General Comments:

Present human use - The river is used presently by recreational floating-angling enthusiasts, by trappers, and hunters. Cabins, campsites along the river, footprints and reports of air taxi operators from the area all document this.

Fisheries Potential - Sport angling for lake trout, char, and grayling in the Lower Twin Lake outlet area and upper Chilikadrotna is fair to good. This area could support some fly-in effort. Sport angling in the remainder of the Chilikadrotna was poor on this trip...and reports from previous floaters lead me to believe this is probably the general condition. At a few spots in the lower river we found little concentrations of rainbows (generally feeding behind spawning king salmon) but they weren't abundant enough anywhere to warrant much angling attention. Kings in the river were spawning and were pretty well beaten up. Grayling were sporadic throughout the river. The river is large, fairly swift, and somewhat turbid...and is hard to fish effectively.

We did see a minimum of 240 kings in the river. We also saw 200-300 sockeye and the remains of at least that many chums. There may have been many times the number of each of these species present, but this was what we saw from our rafts.

We found numerous coho fry and some rainbow fry in the river indicating that both spawn in the drainage.

Floatability - The river is floatable. I would not recommend it to beginners in any class of floating craft, but would recommend it to moderately experienced people. One person has drowned on it this year in a raft accident.

There are stretches of moderate rapids with boulders, sweepers, log jams, and hydraulics to 4 feet. There are some sharp turns required.

The river is ideal for 12' Avon rafts (using either oars or paddles). Kayaks and canoes would also be suitable craft in experienced hands.

Put-ins at Lower Twin Lake or at Snipe Lake (2-mile portage) are possible with float planes. I didn't see any river bars I'd land on in a wheel plane. Pickups with float planes up to the size of a Widgeon are possible at a long straight stretch of the Mulchatna River just below its confluence with the Chilchitna River...about 12-13 miles below the Mulchatna-Chilikadrotna confluence.

For just plain floating, I'd recommend at least 4 days be planned for the Chilikadrotna with another day planned for the Mulchatna or a 5-6 day trip total.

Access needs - A campsite and plane tie up should be reserved for the area at or near the outlet of Lower Twin Lake... I would recommend the cove approximately 1 mile uplake on the south shore.

Campsites every 10 miles of river should at least be reserved.

The long, straight stretch of the Mulchatna River just downstream of the Mulchatna-Chilchitna confluence is also an important landing, put-in, take-out spot and this right should be protected.