

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF HABITAT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Jackie Timothy
SE Regional Supervisor

DATE: June, 24 2010

FILE: 1830

SUBJECT: 38 Mile Timber Sale
Trip Report

FROM: Joe Hitselberger
Habitat Biologist

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JH

On June 14th, 2010 I met with Forester Roy Josephson at the 38 Mile Timber Sale. The timber sale consists of small clear-cut and selective harvest units totaling 30 acres, located on Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority land. The purpose of this site visit was to determine the location of several streams within the sale area. The timber sale is in Section 24, Township 28 S., Range 53 E, Copper River Meridian, USGS Quad Map Skagway B-4 (Latitude 59.4348° N, Longitude 136.3095 ° W).

The Detailed Plan of Operations (DPO No. NSE-09-01) for this sale was reviewed in November 2009, and it was found consistent with the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA). As part of the review process, Habitat Biologist Katie Eaton and I met with Foresters Roy Josephson and Greg Palmieri at the project site on November 4th, 2009. During that site visit, snow in the area kept us from surveying all of the streams identified in the DPO. It was decided that another site visit would be necessary to locate these streams.

Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136 is within the sale area, it has been mapped and an appropriate buffer is in place along the stream. The Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC) shows Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4037 and Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4031 within the sale area (Figure 1.). These two streams were not found when the timber sale was being developed.

Observations

The logging operation has started, trees have been harvested in the northern unit and just south of Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136. The bridge built across Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136 (FH09-I-0076) appears to be in good shape, and the operator was able to install it with little or no disturbance to the streambed and bank (Photo 1.).

Photo 1. Bridge across Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136

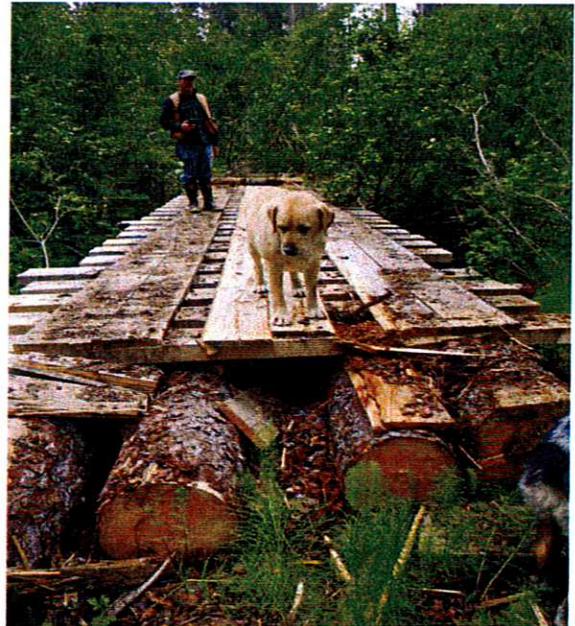


Figure 1. Map of area showing AWC streams

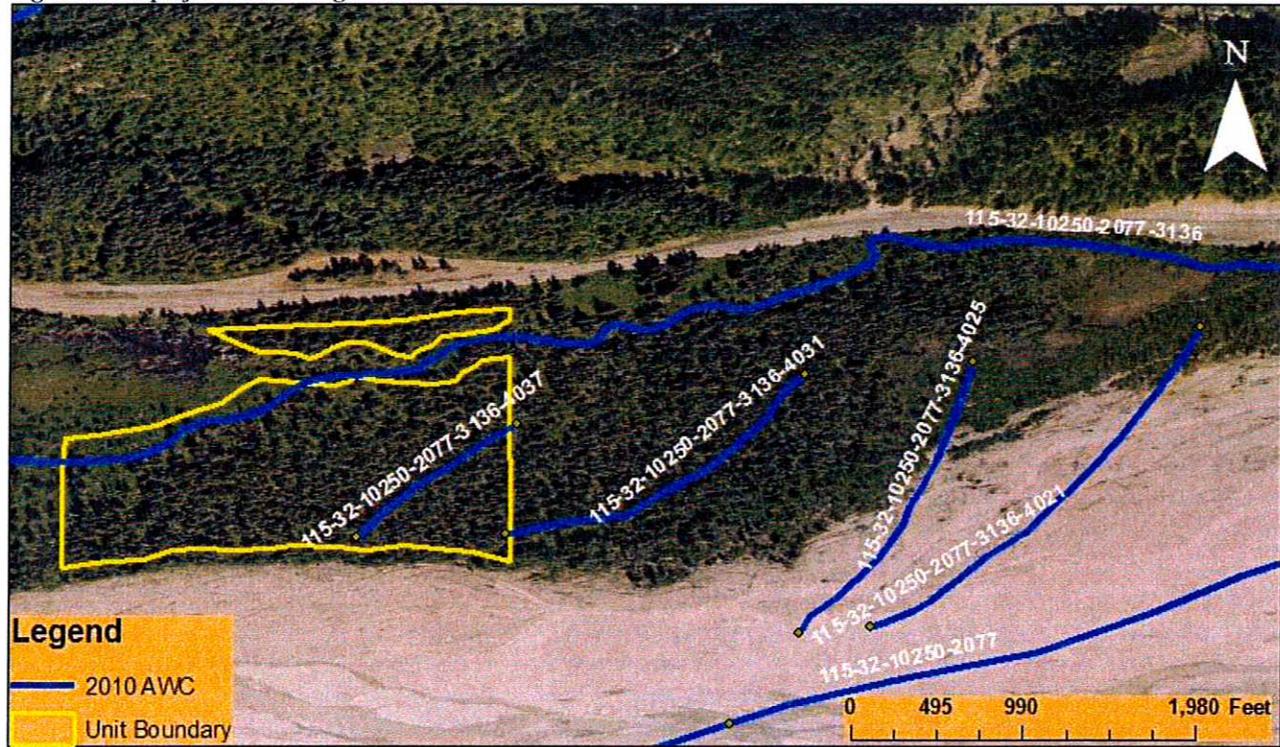
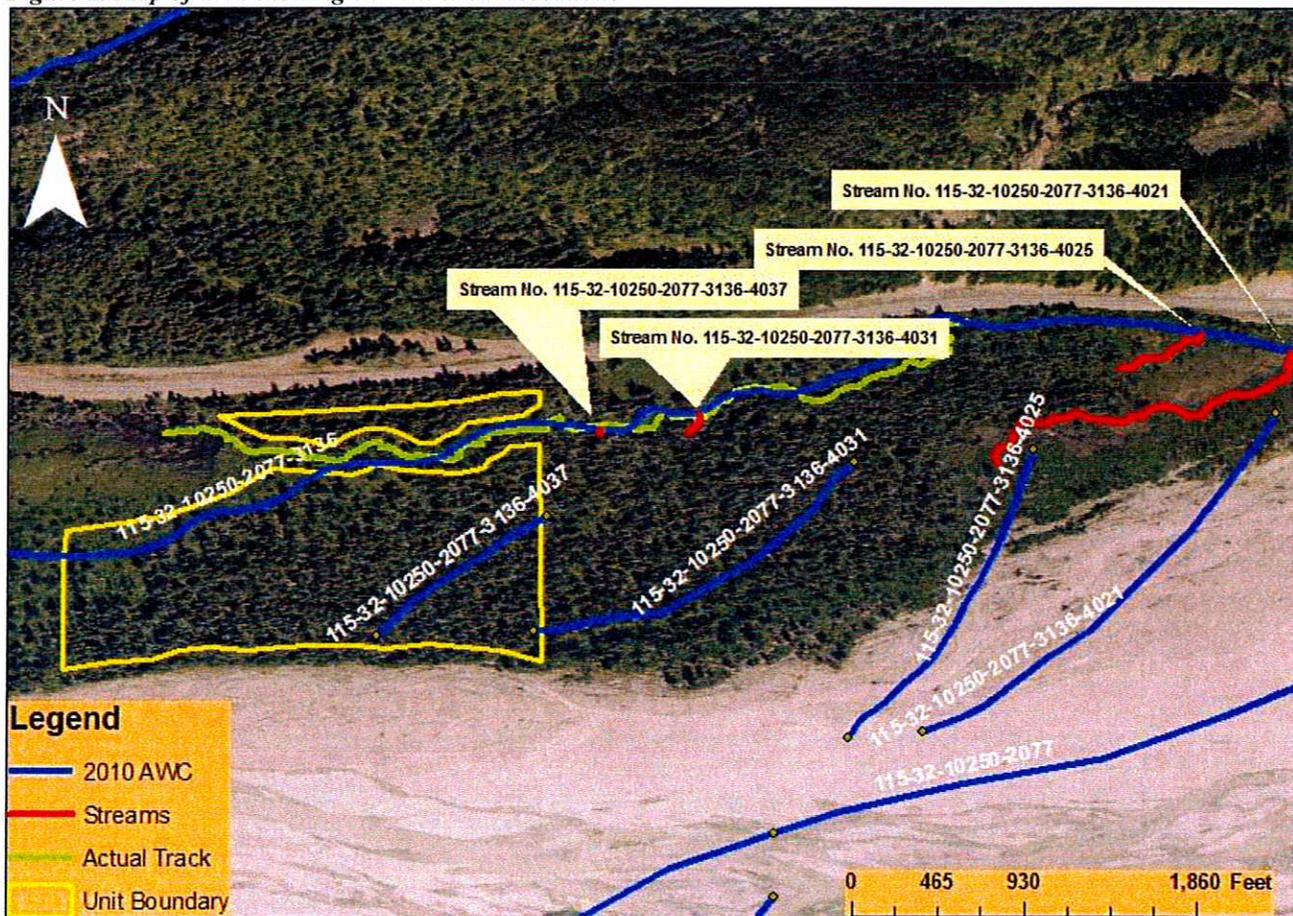


Figure 2. Map of area showing current stream locations



Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4037

This is the first stream that we located as we headed east along Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136 (Figure 2). This is a small tributary, about 50' long that originates from a small spring. This stream was originally nominated in 1986 (nomination # 87-144) as Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3060-4013. The nomination states "This is a small creek originates from a spring. Numerous Dolly Varden and some coho fry were rearing here at the time of the foot survey". The nomination did not contain any coordinates and the stream track was drawn on a map.

Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4031

We then located this tributary east of Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4037 (Figure 2). This is a slightly larger tributary that also originates from a small spring. This stream was originally nominated in 1986 (nomination # 87-143) as Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3060-4011. The nomination states "This creek originates from upwelling springs in a marshy area. Coho and Dolly Varden fry were present during the survey". No coordinates were listed in the nomination and the stream track was drawn on a map.

Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4025

This is a much larger tributary located further east of Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4031 (Figure 2). This stream appears to provide spawning habitat as well as rearing habitat, and also originates from a spring. This stream was originally nominated in 1986 (nomination # 87-142) as Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3060-4009. The nomination states "This creek originates from upwelling springs in a marshy area. Chum carcasses and one spawner were observed in and around the creek. About 6 Dolly Varden were spawning at the time of foot survey. Dolly Varden and coho fry were present in the creek". No coordinates were listed in the nomination and the stream track was drawn on a map.

Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4021

This is the largest tributary we surveyed in this area (Figure 2). This stream was originally nominated in 1986 (nomination # 87-141) as Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3060-4007. The nomination states "This creek originates from upwelling springs near the Klehini mainstem. Numerous chum carcasses lined the banks and two chum were seen in the creek. About 10 adult Dolly Varden were spawning in the creek. Dolly Varden and coho fry were rearing in the creek. This creek also serves as an overflow channel for the Klehini during high water". No coordinates were listed in the nomination and the stream track was drawn on a map.

During our survey no other streams were found in this location, however our survey seems to be consistent with details from the original nominations. I am assuming that the tributaries we found are the streams that were originally nominated in 1986. There are no streams where the AWC has them mapped and no coordinates are available from the original foot surveys.

Recommendations

Many of the streams in this area are not mapped correctly, this is likely due to the technology available at the time of nomination. Other factors such as post-glacial rebound may have contributed to the streams' current locations. Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4037 and Stream No. 115-32-10250-2077-3136-4031 are not within the current sale area boundary. I will submit nominations to the AWC to make the necessary changes.

Email cc:

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