

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT RECONNAISSANCE

SOUTH TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST -- 1964

From May 18 to May 21, Regional Office Fishery Biologist accompanied personnel from the South Tongass National Forest in a reconnaissance of potential salmon habitat improvement projects in the Ketchikan, Craig, and Kasaan Districts. A summary of findings is as follows:

Red River, Marten Arm, Ketchikan District

Creating access to two miles of spawning area above the falls and velocity barriers near tidewater, could lead to an increased production of salmon in an otherwise marginal system. However, because of the high cost (more than \$40,000), we recommend that consideration of this project be reserved for the future. We also recommend examination by ADF&G engineer at some future date.

Lucky Creek, Revilla Channel, Ketchikan District

It appeared from the air that extent of spawning area above the falls is adequate to justify laddering. Before further consideration is given this project however, a ground examination must be made.

Aiken Creek, Aiken Cove, Moira Sound, Kasaan District

Laddering fall to make upstream spawning area accessible, appears at this time to be a very worthwhile project. Extent and type of spawning area needs to be determined on low-water stages and a preliminary design and cost estimate should be made. We intend to make a more detailed examination of this system in September, when salmon are in the creek.

Biscuit Bay, West Coast of Prince of Wales Island, Craig District

Recommend removal of log jam and debris with possibly later modification of bedrock falls. This is a good, inexpensive project for which work project plans are being written.

Sarkar Lakes System, Craig District

We tend to agree with Doug Stinson, who stated that there is no great need for laddering at this time. Further observation of number and distribution of salmon in this system should be made when possible.

A detailed description of projects is as follows:

Red River -- Red River is located in Marten Arm, Boca de Quadra, approximately 48 miles by water from Ketchikan. Drainage area is 40 to 45 square miles. There is a common intertidal zone with the larger Marten River. At approximately three tenths miles above tidewater there are two falls and cascades forming potential velocity barriers. There is then about two plus miles of apparently good spawning area, then a third fall. There are additional cascades two to three miles up the stream at, or close to, the forks. Two potential velocity blocks appear to be passable at this (estimated discharge 200-250 cfs.) and lower water levels.

9/2/10