

Red River, Ketchikan District (Calk, Ziemer, Winsenberg)

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 3/10 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 the estimated discharge of 200-250 c.f.s. and on a previous visit on lower water levels.

The right side of the first fall appears passable; on the left side there is an abrupt drop. This barrier could be easily manipulated or laddered. Above this fall there is about one-half mile of rapids leading to the second fall, which is impassable (10 to 15 feet high). It is the beginning of a chute through a canyon, composed of minor falls and velocity barriers. Equipment would have to be brought in by backpack or helicopter.

In the stream catalog of the eastern section of Ketchikan Management District of southeastern Alaska, it is stated that the upper valley is relatively flat with only a slight gradient for several miles. It is also stated that escapements to this stream have varied from a few hundred to several thousand pink salmon. It may be that in better years in the Red River could be a "sloper" from the main Marten River. In previous surveys on record, there is no mention of salmon ever being observed above the falls. U. S. Geological Survey is gaging this stream.

Recommendations: Because of the complexity of waterflow through the lower canyon, past falls, constriction and velocity barriers, this project appears to be a very expensive one (much more than \$50,000). Further consideration as a salmon habitat improvement project should be reserved for the future.

Depending on the amount of money that becomes available and on the abundance of other less costly improvement projects, sometime in the future a detailed spawning ground survey should be conducted. This can best be done through use of combined helicopter ground survey. (See Ziemer's notes attached.)