

Kelly, Put in Stm File → 101-55-50  
Also known as Wolverine Creek

Two fishing lodges are near the Hulakon river mouth - Unuk River Trading Post and Unuk River Post. Both lodges operated during 1976. A minimal catch of 60 coho salmon was reported retained by their anglers. It was suggested by a lodge guide that the coho salmon bag limit be reduced in this area (personal communications, Bruce Johnston).

Hulakon River does provide an excellent recreational fishing opportunity for coho salmon.

Wolverine Cr. or Tunnel Creek was surveyed during the U.S. Borax road location assessment field study on June 21, 1976. One road route was proposed for Tunnel Creek which proposed to connect the molybdenum mine by a tunnel/road complex. The creek drains a large valley through a small opening into the head of Wilson Arm near the Wilson River outlet. (Appendix - Figure 18 - U.S. Borax). A road route into this drainage would impact the area severely where the narrow valley and steep hill sides allow for creek passage. Road location would travel near the stream bank creating erosion and further upland slide areas.

Survey of Tunnel Creek indicated considerable variation in water flows during the past. There are braided channels in the upper stream areas and overflow flood plains are filled with gravel. Some log jams occur in the creek from a major slide approximately one-half mile upstream. This may have created a block to fish and caused some of the gravel flood plains in lower stream area.

Stream area above possible block was surveyed for 300-400 yards by foot (Appendix - Figure 18) and by helicopter to head waters. Foot survey indicated slow water with a gradual rise in elevation to fast flowing waters through large boulders. Helicopter survey indicated a steady rise in stream elevations with very rapid water to a falls approximately ½ mile from slide area.

Lower stream areas were minnow trapped. Dolly Varden fingerlings were captured and coho salmon fry were observed in tidal areas. Spawning gravels are excellent in tidal

flats and lower stream areas but becomes increasingly larger in size upstream. Braided areas consist of mixed gravel and rocks up to 12 inches in size and were determined marginal for salmonid spawning.

Recreation and recreational potential for Tunnel Creek is minimal. Stream is best suited for pink and chum salmon spawning and perhaps coho salmon. Sport fishing would be limited to the tidal areas in and off the stream mouth.

Tributary #12 was foot surveyed and mapped on June 23, 1976. Stream is not recreation-ally important except as a feeder stream for Dolly Varden and perhaps coho salmon and king salmon fry. Lower stream area may be utilized by coho salmon for spawning (Appendix -- Figure 19). Stream lies along one of the proposed U.S. Borax road routes. Crossing this stream in the lower areas would not impact stream significantly if properly placed.

Tributary #14 drains into the Blossom River approximately seven miles upstream from the Wilson/Elosson river forks. Stream was foot surveyed and minnow trapped on June 22, 1976 in conjunction with the proposed U.S. Borax road crossing this stream. Approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of stream was surveyed -- up to a falls (Appendix -- Figure 20). Stream was fast flowing over one to 12 - inch gravel and rocks and was approximately 30 feet wide. Pools were limited to areas below logs and log jams. Appears the water flow varies considerably in view of a 75 yard wide rock/gravel plain on the south bank.

Stream #14 has limited salmonid spawning and rearing potential. There is no recreation potential for this stream. No fish were caught in the minnow traps placed in this stream.

Elosson River was foot surveyed and mapped starting at the first major riffle area

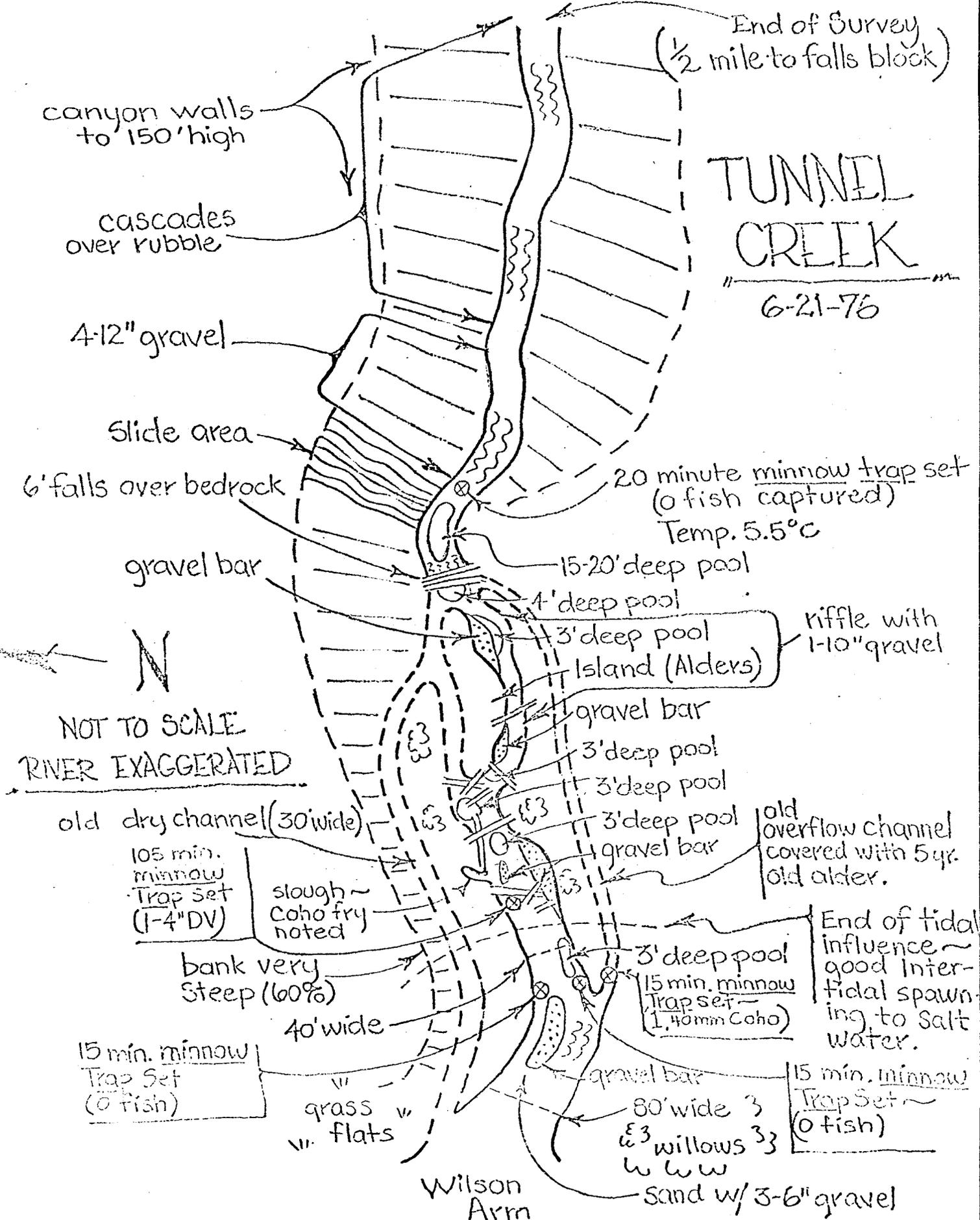


Figure 18. Tunnel Creek, Wilson Arm, Foot Survey Map June 21, 1976.