

RECREATIONAL SURVEY OF HARRIS RIVER

Accessibility to the Area

A. Boat. One could reach the Harris River vicinity (Kasaan Bay) via boat from Ketchikan. Docking facilities are maintained by the Forest Service at Hollis. The use of a skiff to reach the mouth of the Harris River appears plausible.

B. Vehicle. Any make auto can reach access points on the middle waters of the river by way of the Hollis Road from Klawock. (19.4 M. Hollis Road, bridge crosses Harris) also (Miles 24.6 and 26.4 Hollis Road, access is made available to north bank of Harris River via logging roads)

C. Aircraft. Charter flights may be made from Ketchikan, an approximate distance of 40 miles, to the Kasaan Bay area, or daily flight may be taken from Ketchikan to Klawock or Craig.

D. Foot. No trails are present adjacent to the river.

Fishability of the Area

The upper waters of the Harris cannot be fished from the banks without great difficulty. Numerous windfalls and the remains of logging debris have diverted stream flow making banks unstable and undercut. The middle waters of the Harris are lined with large gravel beds that make for ~~sublime~~ excellent fishing sights.

There are scattered areas of shallows in the upper Harris which are broken up by heavy windfall sections. These shallows may be reached but not without great difficulty in entering and

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leaving the streambed. The middle Harris provides a good amount of shallows that may be waded easily. This combination of shallows and large gravel bars makes walking at least 3 miles of the Harris enjoyable walking.

Aesthetics

The Harris River sits in a large valley, whose mountainsides have been clear cut. Not a stimulating setting.

Proximity to Other Recreational Areas

No developed recreational facilities exist in the immediate area although there are Forest Service cabins at Hollis, but they appear to be administrative cabins and not for public use. Sport fishing is also available in ~~other nearby creeks~~. *Maybeso Creek and Indian Creek, which are located close nearby.*

Present Use

During our survey of Harris River, fishing pressure was evident but was primarily limited to the weekends, eg. eight fishermen observed on the middle Harris on a Sunday - none during the week.

Sport Fishery

Species Present: silver, pink and chum salmon, Dolly Varden, steelhead, and cutthroat. *Local residents report that* Dolly Varden, ~~we were told~~, had started to run the second week in July. The first weekend in July a local fisherman caught ~~only~~ 3 Dolly Varden; second weekend he caught 30. At the time of our survey, July 20, Dolly Varden were present in every pool. Rod and reel ~~survey tested~~ *techniques verified*

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to their abundance. The third week in July pink salmon had started their run.

Potential of Area

~~Because~~ The middle section of Harris River is readily accessible by road and the stream banks can be easily walked. *Numerous* opportunities for family recreation *are* ~~appear~~ *and throughout the area.* ~~evident.~~ Consideration might be given to maintaining the former logging roads, (access points mentioned above) and building picnic or camping sights. The area has already been markedly altered by logging; public facilities could only benefit the area.)