

WORKING FILE RESOURCE DATA

Name of Area: Karta

Initial Report:

compiled - February, 1976

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Revisions:

- I. section added or revised -
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SUMMARY: KARTA

Location: central Prince of Wales Island, 40 miles northwest of Ketchikan

Size: approximately 41,000 acres

Resource demands in contention: mineral and timber potential vs. fisheries and primitive recreation

<u>Proposals:</u>	Watershed Area	4/25/75	SEACC
	Marine Sanctuary	10/2/75	ADF&G *
	U-3 Recreation Area	3/24/72	ADF&G
	unlogged U-3 or U-4 area	3/72	ADF&G
	Recreation Study Area	3/16/70	TCS
	Recreation Area	3/70	AWC
	unlogged, Prime Habitat area	3/3/69	ADF&G
	U-3 Natural area	4/61, 5/62, 7/62, 2/64	ADF&G

Current Status:Protective Classification

none

Threats

existing

* intra-departmental proposal only

level is a glacial basin with Pin Peak elevation 3806' and its associated ridges dominating the area. This basin contains also spectacular alpine scenery blending in with the timbered slopes below 1200 feet . . . "

(TCS,1)

"Black Bear Lake is a cirque mountain lake located at the northwest foothills of Pin Peak . . . Black Bear Lake exists as a photographer's delight. The lake sits in a spectacular setting with the westerly shore having steep mountainous sloped [sic] to the water's edge. The peaks supply a constant source of melting snow that produces streamlets that end in a series of waterfalls to the lake." (ADF&G,1) The mountains around Black Bear Lake are the Klawock Mountains, which the Tongass DLUP describe as "some of the highest and most scenic peaks on Prince of Wales Island." (FS,1,p. T-370)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: KARTA

Petroglyphs were carved into exposed rock surfaces at tidewater at the mouth of the Karta River. (TCS,1)

There is other evidence of past native use in the Karta Bay area, including garden and home sites. (FS,2)

" KARTA RIVER

<u>Year</u>	<u>Red</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Pink</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>Total</u>
1953	40,000		few	75,000	115,000
1954			40,000	35,000	75,000
1955			5,000	70,000	75,000
1956	10,000		250,000	120,000	380,000
1957	7,000		6,000	132,000	145,000
1958			3,000	115,000	118,000
1959	10,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	14,000
1960			1,000	1,000	2,000
1961	5,000		8,000	3,000	16,000
1962	11,000		60,000	11,000	82,000
1963			11,000	2,000	13,000
1964			136,000	5,000	141,000
1965			26,000	3,000	29,000
1966	3,000		97,000	5,000	105,000
1967			8,000	14,000	22,000
1968			82,000	16,000	98,000
16 years				Average -	90,000"

"The optimum pink and chum escapement for Karta River proper has not been accurately determined, however, it would most likely be in the neighborhood of 200,000. As can be seen in the table, the yearly average highest single observed escapement of chum and pink salmon into the system was approximately 90,000 over the 16 year period. The average total escapement of pink and chum into the system would be over 100,000. Since 1959 the odd year escapements have been small, albeit not so small as indicated on the table. Karta River does not lend itself well to aerial or foot survey and escapement counts are generally low."

"Nothing more than an educated guess can be given at this time as to the actual numbers of sockeye entering the system annually during recent years. I would estimate the number at between 5,000 and 15,000."

"Past records indicate that the Karta watershed has rearing and spawning are potentially capable of handling over 100,000 sockeye annually. These same records indicate past coho escapements in the neighborhood of 15,000."

(ADF&G,6)

<u>Organism</u>	<u>Salmon Lake</u>			<u>Karta Lake</u>	
	<u>0-10M</u>	<u>11-20M</u>	<u>20-30M</u>	<u>0-10M</u>	<u>11-21M</u>
Insecta					
Diptera					
Chironomidae	9	13	30	6	11
<u>Hemerodromia</u> sp.				2	
Gastropoda	18		2	4	
Pelecypoda	15	3	4	22	7
No. dredge samples	N=3	N=2	N=3	N=4	N=2
Density of organisms/sq. foot (expanded)	90.6	42.0	66.4	58.0	82.0
No. of species	9+	3+	4+	8+	4+
					(ADF&G,1)

Both Andersen and McGilvery Creeks contain sockeye, pink and coho salmon, cutthroat, dolly varden and cottids. Excellent spawning area exists in the lower 300 yards of Andersen Creek and in spots throughout the rest of the Creek. McGilvery Creek is also excellent spawning grounds. Three-fourths of the stream bed appears suitable for spawning. Several hundred spawning sockeye salmon were seen by ADF&G field personnel in a 1973 visit to the creek. (ADF&G,10)

The substrate in McGilvery Creek "varies from predominately gravel and some sand downstream to coarse gravel and larger rubble 1 1/2 miles upstream." Andersen Creek's substrate "varies from gravel and sand at the outflow area to bedrock and large rock 1 1/2 miles upstream. A partial barrier exists 1/2 mile upstream in the form of a steep 12 foot falls." (ADF&G,1)

The muskeg lakes at the beginning of Andersen Creeks are populated by cutthroat trout. There are good spawning areas available at both the lake inlet and outlet. (ADF&G,11)

Aquatic organisms were collected in the three main streams of the Karta watershed in September, 1973. The following results were obtained:

<u>Organism</u>	<u>Andersen Creek</u>	<u>Karta River</u>	<u>McGilvery Creek</u>
Turbellaria	4	1	1
Oligochaeta	1	1	
Hirudinea		2	
Amphipoda		1	
Insecta			
Ephemeroptera			
Baetidae			
<u>Baetis bicaudatus</u>	1	5	
<u>Baetis parvus?</u>		2	
Heptageniidae			
<u>Cinygmula</u> sp.	1		1
<u>Epeorus</u> (Iron)			
<u>longimanus</u> group			1
<u>Epeorus</u> (I.) <u>albertae</u>	1		
<u>Rithrogena</u> sp.	3		10

Invertebrates present in Black Bear Lake are caddis fly larvae, annelids, small clams, platyhelminthes and cladocera. A September, 1973 survey report states, "Invertebrates were surprisingly abundant. The dredging brought up annelids and small clams. Caddis fly, stonefly larvae, leeches were found in streams and lake shallows. The plankton net brought up abundant what appear to be red cladocera plus some green planktons."

"There is some good spawning gravel, esp. off inlets at the south and northeast ends."

"The lake is quite deep, usually dropping quite rapidly not far from shore. The south and northeast end of the lake have the greatest area of shallows, some boulder-rubble areas extend into the lake below slide areas. These slides are undoubtedly [sic] an important nutrient source of the lake, bringing trees, other plants, and soil to the system.

"The bottom is mostly boulder-rubble in the steeper graded areas with some gravel and sand present on the more gradual slopes. The basin of the lake was dredged coming up with brown ooze, sand, gravel, and wood debris. Many trees could be seen on bottom."

(ADF&G,13)

GEOLOGY AND SOILS: KARTA

The steep hillside along the northern side of Andersen Creek and Salmon Lake is suspected to be highly unstable. TCS spokespersons have noted recent land slide activity above the lake. (TCS,1) Following reconnaissance work for a potential timber access road (see Management Proposals), FS timber staff member Magnus E. Chelstad recommended no road be allowed from the Rio Beaver sale area (see Appendix map) to Salmon Lake. "This is based on the fact that road construction on the 80 to 90 percent side slope and across steep V-notch drainages do irreparable damage to the soil resource and cause heavy siltation of the Anderson-McGilvery [sic] Creek, Salmon Lake salmon spawning and rearing areas." (FS,4)

5. Location: 55°36'N, 132°48'W (NE of Black Bear Lake)
 Minerals: Silver, Gold
 Claims: Buck #1-2-3-4 (1962)
 Buck #5 - 14 (1963)
 Owners: Paul S. Pieper
 Don Ross & Associates
 Last recorded assessment work: 1964, tunneling, trenching
6. Location: 55°34' N, 132°50' W, (SW of Black Bear Lake)
 Minerals: Copper
 Claims: Pin Peak #1 - #28 (1966)
 Owner: Tak Matsumoto, Box 1081, Ketchikan
 Last recorded assessment work: none recorded
7. Location: 55°32'N, 132°50'W (N of McGilvery Creek headwaters at 2000' elevation)
 Minerals: Silver, Copper, Lead, Zinc
 Claims: Constitution Group
 Owner: S. Lichterstadter
 Last recorded assessment work: none recorded
 References: USGS Bulletin 347, pp. 163-164
8. Location: 55°32'N, 132°50'W (N of McGilvery Creek headwaters at 2000' elevation)
 Minerals: ?
 Claims: Bug #1 - #4 (1973)
 Owner: El Paso Natural Gas
 Last recorded assessment work: 1974
9. Location: 1½ miles ESE of Pin Peak on McGilvery Creek
 Minerals: ?
 Claims: Bug 5-6; Bear 7-8-9 (1974)
 Owner: El Paso Natural Gas
 Last recorded assessment work: none recorded
10. Location: 55°30'N, 132°47'W (above Lucky Nell Mine, Maybeso Creek headwaters; outside of proposed Watershed Area)
 Minerals: Silver, Gold, Lead
 Claims: Rose, Dew Drop
 Owner: ?
 Last recorded assessment work: none recorded
 References: USGS Bulletin 259, p. 66
 " " 284, p. 42
 " " 314-C, p. 62
 " " 347, p. 163

16. Location: $55^{\circ}35'N$, $132^{\circ}37'W$ (NE slope, Granite Mtn., $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Little Salmon Lake)
Minerals: Silver, Gold, Copper, Lead
Claims: Norbina #1-2, Norbina Millsite (1960 & 1962)
Owner: Walter E. Mills
Last recorded assessment work: 1963, brushing sidelines, roof repairs
17. Location: $55^{\circ}46'N$, $133^{\circ}30'W$ (S of Salmon Lake)
Minerals: Limestone
Claims: Heceta A & B (placer) (1953)
Owner: Kenneth K. Candes (believed to be staked for U.S. Steel)
Last recorded assessment work: none recorded

"The trail from Karta Bay to the Salmon Lake cabin is in excellent condition; from there to Anderson Creek the trail is fair.

"Black Bear Lake is only accessible by float plane. . . . Most of the lake shore can be walked, but not without some labor. Large boulders along the shore line make a rapid straight course impossible. The rocky bank is limited to eastern shore line. Fishing from any given spot along the shore is generally good. Deep waters immediately adjacent to shore make fishing from land easy. Perhaps the best spots for fishing from shore are located in the southeastern section of the lake where rock slides have provided large boulders to fish from.

"Black Bear Lake exists as a photographers delight. The lake sits in a spectacular setting with the westerly shore having steep mountainous sloped [sic] to the water's edge. The peaks supply a constant source of melting snow that produces streamlets that end in a series of waterfalls to the lake.

"The National Forest Service maintains a cabin for public use at the northeast end of the lake. A boat, of questionable safety was available.

"Fishing can be slow at times, but persistence should produce some fine rainbow, the only species present.

"Hunting and hiking are other activities available in proximity to the lake. Behind the Forest Service cabin, a trail leads to an easily climbed ridge, which gives access to other high country."

(ADF&G,1)

An ADF&G field survey summary contains the following report on Black Bear Lake: "A beautiful area, the crystal clear mountain waters and breathtaking mountains make this cirque lake an excellent place for those who enjoy the esthetics. The trout, though not plentiful, were healthy and scrappy and delicious!" (ADF&G,13)

Recreational users come largely "by seaplane and private boat, especially from Ketchikan. Four of the five Forest Service recreation cabins in the Karta Planning Unit receive high use. Of the 54 cabins on the Ketchikan Area, the Karta Lake and Karta River cabins rank within the top five in use." (FS,2)

Forest Service records for cabin use in recent years show the following figures for the Karta watershed:

		<u># Parties</u>	<u># People</u>	<u>Man Days Use</u>
1971	Karta Lake	28	92	337
	Karta River	30	124	356
	McGilvery Creek	11	36	197
	Salmon Lake	10	30	86
1972	Karta Lake	31	102	349
	Karta River	35	87	284
	McGilverey Creek	19	69	217
	Salmon Lake	8	27	78
1973	Karta Lake	29	111	349
	Karta River	26	83	259
	McGilvery Creek	20	67	245
	Salmon Lake	10	40	158

SUITABILITY: KARTA

Forest Service recreation cabins and skiffs are present at Black Bear Lake, at the mouth of McGivery Creek, on the north shore of Salmon Lake, at the outlet of Karta Lake, and at the mouth of the Karta River.

"A small amount of beach logging near the mouth of Karta River has been conducted in the past. [see Appendix map] The Karta River drainage has had no logging to date but much of the timber between Karta Lake and saltwater is second growth resulting from an old burn that occurred around 1905." (FS,1,p. T-373)

The northwest corner of the proposed Karta Watershed Area borders on a 1966-1971 timber harvest operation called the Rio Beaver sale. A map in FS, 2 shows the Rio Beaver road passing into the proposed Watershed Area for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the Andersen Creek headwaters. [see Appendix map]

Remnants of the Flagstaff Mine, "which closed in 1941, are still evident in the form of fallen buildings, rusty machinery, and mine tailings. The road that provided access to the mine still exists in the form of a well maintained Forest Service trail from Karta Bay to Karta Lake. The remainder of this road up the Flagstaff drainage is not useable but is evident due to the alder and brush that mark its location.

"The Baronovich Cannery was established in Karta Bay before the turn of the century. All that remains are a few pilings still visible in the water and some second-growth timer that resulted from this activity."

(FS,2)

A special use tidelands permit was issued by the Forest Service on 6/25/74 for an area of 1.5 acres just south of Karta Bay [see Appendix map]. The permit is effective from 5/1/74 to 4/30/79. (DNR,2)

Salmon Lake, Karta Lake and Karta River were withdrawn as a power withdrawal on 11/14/27. (FS,7)

WATER: KARTA

"Present water is pristine. Existing water use is for fisheries, recreation. . ."

(FS,2)

The dissolved oxygen level is 12 mg/l in Salmon, Karta and Black Bear Lakes. The dissolved carbon dioxide level is 5 mg/l in Salmon and Karta Lakes, and 15 mg/l in Black Bear Lake. Total alkalinity and hardness tests in Salmon and Karta Lakes showed a level of 17 mg/l of calcium carbonate. The pH levels of Black Bear Lake were measured as 6.5 on the surface and 6.6 at the bottom. (ADF&G,1)

TIMBER: KARTA

The Karta watershed is within the Ketchikan Pulp Company sale area, and a substantial volume of commercial accessible timber is present." (FS,1, p. T-373)

FS-

The Region 10 office is believed to have recommended to the Washington office in 1969 that the Klawock Mountain area be classified as a Scenic Area under regulation U-3. It is believed that the Washington office turned down this recommendation on the grounds that the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (completed in 1973) would be the appropriate forum for consideration of new protective classifications on the Tongass as a whole. (The author cannot substantiate this information..)

In 1970 the Kasaan Ranger District prepared a "Salmon Lake-Karta River Management Area Plan." This was never approved. The primary emphasis of the plan was the maintenance of a near natural environment along the water influence zone: "The value of the undisturbed Water Influence Zone . . . within the management area cannot be overstated. The quality of the recreation experience offered by the area is heavily dependent upon maintaining this water influence zone in its present state." The management objective for the area was written as: "Maintain the Water Influence Zone within the management area in its present near natural condition with adequate allowance for continued recreation use and development."

Management decisions pursuant to this objective were as follows:

Timber - no harvest in water influence zone except for salvage or safety; harvest in remainder of drainage allowed.

Recreation - "recognized and encouraged. . . as a primary use."

Range - no domestic grazing

Water - minimize degradation

Special Uses - no special use permits

Minerals- minimize impact; "Recommend the area within the Water Influence Zone be withdrawn from mineral entry at the earliest possible date."

Wildlife - optimize big game & fisheries habitat; conduct stream improvement projects where possible

Transportation - "Expand and maintain a useable trail system. Road construction to be kept to a minimum for purposes of timber harvest outside Water Influence Zone, or for recreation access."

(FS,6)

The following recommendation was sent as a memo to the Kasaan District Ranger from Magnus E. Chelstad of the FS timber staff on May 4, 1970: "Based on our walk-through reconnaissance of the road location from the last unit in Rio Beaver [see Appendix map] to Salmon Lake, I recommend that you disapprove any company road location in this area. This is based on the fact that road construction on the 80 to 90 percent side slope and across steep V-notch drainages do irreparable damage to the soil resource and cause heavy siltation of the Anderson [sic]-McGilvery Creek, Salmon Lake salmon spawning and rearing areas." (FS,4)

The 1972 South Tongass National Forest Multiple Use Management Guide included a recommendation for the Karta River Unit to "Consider the stream and lakes for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System." (FS,3)

"Maintain the recreation, aesthetic, and fisheries values of this lake and stream system."

"Plan and maintain the unit to contribute up to its potential yield of timber."

"Encourage mineral development while keeping quality in the environment."

"Develop a transportation system that will meet resource extraction needs with minimal impact on the sport fishing and recreation opportunities in the Karta-Salmon Lake subunit."

"Maintain or improve the fish stream habitat within the planning unit."

(FS,2)

ADF&G -

On September 8, 1961 ADF&G Commissioner C.L. Anderson sent a list of 30 proposed "natural areas" in southeast Alaska to Regional Forester P.D. Hanson. This list included the Karta watershed. The request was continually resubmitted by ADF&G Commissioner Kirkness (on 5/22/62, 7/24/62, and 2/16/64). Areas on this list were recommended for management in an unlogged status. (ADF&G,3)

On March 3, 1969 Fishery Biologist Robert Baade supplemented the ADF&G "natural area" recommendation with the following proposal to the Kasaan District Ranger: "It is the recommendation of the Sport Fish Section of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that the Karta River area be classified as prime habitat for fish and wild-life and that land use be restricted to recreational activities only." (ADF&G,5)

In March, 1972 the Sport Fish Division recommended to the FS that 18 "Quality Fishing Waters" in southeast Alaska be protected under regulation U-3 or U-4. The Karta River watershed was one of these 18 areas. (ADF&G,4)

Also in March of 1972, ADF&G Habitat Protection Chief Joseph Blum submitted the following comments to the FS in response to the South Tongass MUP:

"The Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommends this watershed be deferred from logging and studied for possible classification of all or part of the Karta River watershed as a dispersed recreational area under Federal Regulation U-3(a).

"The Sport Fish Division considers this system to be one of the top four sport fishing areas [Naha, Karta, Sarkar, and Sweetwater-Thorne River] in the South Tongass Forest. Management of the unit for a quality recreation experience should be given serious consideration.

"Any developments in the area should not encourage excessive use."

(ADF&G,2)

In a June, 1973 memorandum, Sport Fish biologist Robert Baade stated that the Karta watershed "is scheduled for logging in the K.P.C. sale via an access from Big Salt Lagoon near Klawak... To log it would inflict extreme damage on the environmental [sic] balances now present and aggravate the depleted salmonid fish populations." (ADF&G,8)

Sport Fish biologist Bruce Dinneford, in an October, 1974 memorandum, stated

REFERENCES: KARTA

ADF&G

1. Schmidt, Artwin E., Sport Fish Division.
 1974. Inventory and Cataloging of the Sport Fish and Sport Fish Waters in Southeast Alaska, Vol. 15, Study No. G-I, Federal Aid in Fish Restoration July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974.
2. Blum, Joseph R., Habitat Section Chief.
 3/24/72. Letter to Richard Wilson, South Tongass National Forest Supervisor, Re: South Tongass Multiple Use Plan.
3. Anderson, C.L., Commisioner.
 9/8/61. Letter to P.D. Hanson, Regional Forester.
4. Armstrong, Robert, Sport Fish Division
 3/72. "Quality Fishing Waters", rough draft.
5. Baade, Robert T., Sport Fish Division.
 3/3/69. Letter to Philip Gum, Acting District Ranger, Kasaan District.
6. Valentine, John P., Commercial Fisheries Division.
 3/3/69. Letter to John Standerwick, District Ranger, Kasaan District.
7. Baade, Robert, Sport Fish Division.
 7/3/73. Memorandum to Richard Reed, Sport Fish Division, Re: Karta River.
8. _____.
 6/15/73. Memorandum to Art Schmidt.
9. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
 Anadromous fish stream catalogue.
10. Short - Behr.
 9/12 & 13/73 Stream Survey Summaries, Andersen Creek and McGilvery Creek.
11. Baade, Robert.
 9/5/69. Lake Survey Summary, Andersen Lakes.
12. _____.
 1960. Lake Survey Summary, Black Bear Lake.

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2. Ketchikan Area office.

12/75. Karta Planning Unit, Ketchikan Area Goals.

3. South Tongass National Forest.

1/72. Multiple Use Management Guide.

4. Chelstad, Magnus E., Timber Staff.

5/4/70. Memorandum to Kasaan District Ranger, Re: Andersen-McGilvery Creek Road Location.

5. Beck, Paul L., Recreation & Lands Officer, Ketchikan Area.

5/22/74. Letter to Richard Reed, ADF&G Sport Fish Division.

6. Prichard, Ronald C., Kasaan Ranger District.

5/8/70. "Salmon Lake - Karta River Management Area Plan" (unapproved).

7. Ketchikan Area office.

Land Status Atlas.

SEACC

1. Southeast Alaska Conservation Council.

4/25/75. "Southeast Alaska Conservation Council Response to the Tongass Land Use Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement."

TCS

1. Tongass Conservation Society.

"Recreational Area Data Sheet."

2. _____.

3/16/70. Press release.

