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THORNE

REPORT ON THE SPORT FISH RESOURCES OF THE NORTH THORNE RIVER SALE UNIT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THEIR PROTECTION DURING LOGGING OPERATIONS

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This report, submitted by a Fish and Game representative, does not represent an official department policy but is intended as an inventory and recommendations for protection and enhancement of sport fisheries.

The following report is based upon field observations made during the week of May 5-9 at the North Thorne River Sale Unit.

The following recommendations apply only to the sale unit (see map), and although areas outside the unit are mentioned, they are done so only to justify recommendations within the unit.

The primary concern with this unit from a sport fishery standpoint rests with the high potential for landslides which exists. If slides do occur, they could not only adversely alter the streambeds and introduce sedimentation into the spawning areas within the unit, but also detrimentally affect the "Snakey Lakes" and main Thorne River through sedimentation. Due to the fact the "Snakey Lakes" are relatively shallow, they offer little if any "settling action" and consequently sedimentation could reach the main river as was demonstrated during the slides of 1968.

The sale unit is divided into three main areas by the two forks of an unnamed creek which flows through the "Snakey Lakes" and eventually empties into the Thorne River.

<u>EAST FORK (#1 on map)</u>: This stream averages 30 - 35' in width, and 1 - 3' in depth, with numerous deeper pool areas. The water was brown colored at the time of the survey, with relatively high flow. There was indication, however, that there had been higher flows recently.

There is a short series of falls about 2 miles upstream of the forks. These falls do not appear to be a block, however, they might prove to be a velocity block at certain flows. Dolly Varden (1-4") were verified above the falls by minnow trapping.

The overall accessibility along the stream is extremely poor. There are numerous windfalls, and the banks have extremely heavy growths of blueberry and devil's clubs. The valley bottom consists of a high percentage of swampy areas. Accessibility starts to improve about 1½ miles below the falls as one nears the forks. Due to the difficult

access, the sport fishing potential for the system would be limited.

Recommendations:

(1) Although much of the stream channel lies along the center of the valley floor and is thus somewhat protected from slides, there are sections which approach the walls. If the soils are found to be unstable, these areas (see map) should be deferred from logging until such time as techniques are developed which would allow timber harvest on slide prone areas with little or no risk of slides.

(2) All road construction along the stream should be kept to a minimum and proper construction to reduce sedimentation.

(3) The falls should be checked at various flows to evaluate whether they should be considered for a stream improvement project.

(4) If timber harvest is permitted along the main fork or any of its tributaries, trees should be felled and yarded away from the streams to protect the physical integrity of the banks and stream bottom. How about Leave Strip?

(5) Some sections of the valley are visible from the "Snakey Lakes." Since these lakes have an extremely high recreational potential, considerable care should be taken concerning the visual impact of timber harvest on them from within this unit. If the areas indicated (see map) are found to have a visual impact on the lakes, logging should be deferred until such time as techinques are developed which permit timber harvest without visual disturbance. No clear-cut!

WEST FORK (#2 on map): This system averages 30 - 40' in width and 1 - 3' in depth, with numerous deeper pool areas. The water was brown colored and there was relatively high flow. There was evidence of recent higher water level.

Good to very good spawning gravel was present throughout the system. The falls located about 1½ miles above the forks are not a block.

Dolly Varden and coho salmon were verified above the falls and rearing steelhead below the falls with minnow traps. There are numerous side channels and undercut banks which provide good rearing habitat.

The banks are open, with some blueberry present, thus providing easy access up the stream for fishing. Due to the easy access and good pool-riffle combination, this system has a very good potential to develop into a sport fishing area. However, due to the close proximity of the Honker Divide-Thorne River area with its exceptional sport fishing and recreational opportunities and the fact that large recreational leaves will be recommended for that area, it is felt that additional large recreational leave areas along the streams within this unit are unnecessary.

Is this a valid Reason?

Recommendations:

All recommendations made concerning the east fork would also apply to this stream.

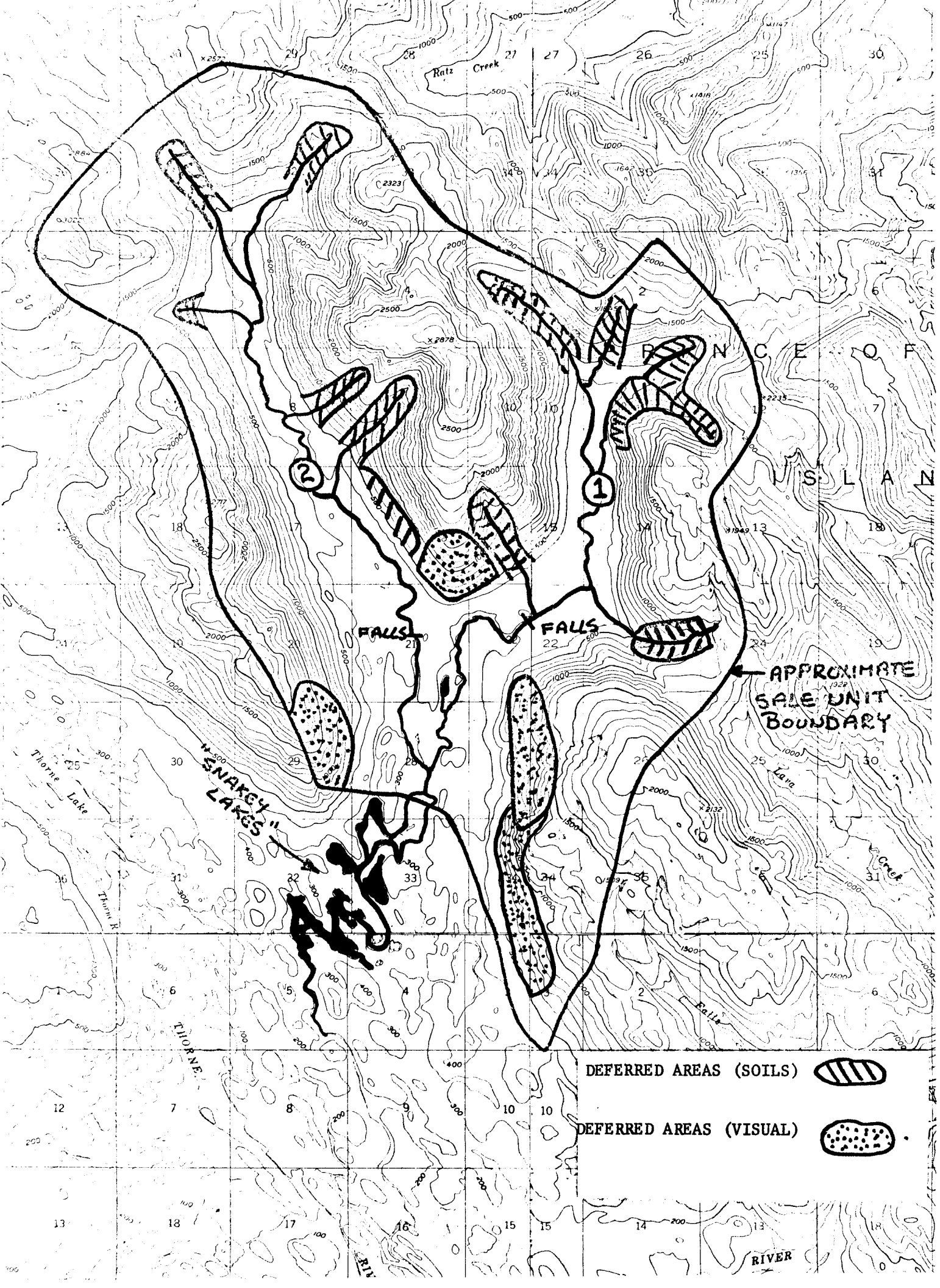
GENERAL COMMENTS:

Again as with the Naukati unit, we have a sale unit adjacent to a high priority recreational area, namely the Honker Divide - Thorne River area. Consequently the main emphasis on the recommendations concerning this unit was not only to protect the streams within the unit, but also the visual and aesthetic impact to the surrounding recreational area. The deferred areas which are recommended should be correlated with the soils and landscape reports for possible alterations.

cc Baade
Novak
Palmes
Wadman

Is Somebody going to abide by our rules and log on slopes Steeper Than 35%?

Was there a Wilderness Area Study done on this as per Cliff's direction?


Ratz Creek
FALLS
FALLS
APPROXIMATE SALE UNIT BOUNDARY
"SNAKEY LAKES"
Thorne Lake
THORNE
RIVER
DEFERRED AREAS (SOILS)
DEFERRED AREAS (VISUAL)