

Thorne R. Nile

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SPEED MEMO

PART NUMBER

DATE

TO  
Don Siedleman

1

11-30-83

FROM  
Richard Ubenaga

SUBJECT

REC'D 1983

SPECIALT FISH DIV  
REGION II

MESSAGE (WRITE CONCISE MESSAGE. SIGN AND FORWARD PARTS 1 AND 2 TO ADDRESSEE. RETAIN PART 2.)

Don,  
I wanted to point out area I in the enclosure.

I'm really worried about the drastic increase in pressure on Fall & Spring run steelhead in the Thorne. The fall run was new to me, I fished it early Nov. & found several fish (5 fish in 1 hour). I'd like to discuss this w/ you sometime if you're interested. Give me a call & I can come to town. With some official ADFG permission maybe the USFS (me) can work up a user census on the lower river. Also, N. Thorne Coho are getting hit hard at the falls!

Richard

SIGNATURE

REPLY (USE THIS SPACE FOR REPLY. SIGN AND DATE. RETURN PART 3 TO SENDER. RETAIN PART 1)

SIGNATURE

DATE

AREAS OF SPECIAL CONSIDERATION  
FOR PRESERVATION/RETENTION OF  
MULTIPLE USE VALUES - THORNE BAY  
RANGER DISTRICT

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I. Confluence area of Rio Beaver / Thorne River

Values - This area is referred to as "Eight Mile Hole" due to access trail starting near this road mile marker. A ¼ mile rough trail leads through a high volume stand to the confluence area. Spawning gravels in around the confluence are excellent, the best anywhere in this system, as evidenced by the large concentration of spring steelhead spawning there, and the associated heavy fisherman use. The first mile of stream up Rio Beaver also has the heaviest concentration of pink salmon spawning I have ever seen. One value which makes this area unique besides the large # of fish is the # of fishing spots/holes available, along with being the only fishable area on the Thorne River away from the road system. Upstream of the confluence area the Thorne River broadens out into a wide, slow-moving stream and associated meadow. This area is used heavily by waterfowl, especially swans. The existing trail through an outstanding old growth patch of pumpkins makes this an area of unique value for Thorne Bay residents. Maintaining this area in a natural state yet improving the trail and encouraging use would be in the true spirit of multiple use.

III. Hatchery Creek Falls

Values - This site received a fish passing structure in 1981 and was closed to fishing by ADF&G. Intense illegal fishing during sockeye runs still occurs. Two primitive trails access the falls, one from each streamside, both passing through old growth. The falls and surrounding areas are extremely scenic and provide an opportunity to develop a remote recreation area with fish passage viewing as the main attraction. The stream section immediately upstream of the falls is heavily used by steelhead for spawning.

### III. North Thorne River Falls

A ¼ mile primitive trail leads through muskeg into a high volume stand surrounding the falls area. The area is extremely scenic and rich in wildlife, particularly bears fishing for salmon at the falls. The falls received a fisheries enhancement modification in the form of pool enlargement in 1983. The area was not closed to fishing by ADF&G. Concentrations of sea run salmon at the falls make this a highly successful area for fishing. Visitor use of the area is presently low.

#### Discussion:

Area I - Rio Beaver / Thorne River: This area is part of the exclusion area for the Long Term Sale. The 84-89 LTS E.I.S. recommended a ¼ mile no cut boundary along the Thorne River, thus no selections were made in this area for this period. Unit selections for either the L.T.S. or Independent sales could be a possibility for this area in the 89-94 operating period.

Area II - Hatchery Creek: A harvest unit is currently planned for this area during the 84-89 period. The lower boundary of this unit approaches within 400 yards of the falls and will be directly visible. Harvest of this unit will affect the opposite side of the stream by creating extensive blowdown along the main stream and necessitating further roading to harvest the blowdown.

Area III - North Thorne Falls: The 30 year timber plan dictates the amount of volume which may be taken out of any particular VCU. Extensive cutting in this area in the late 1970's will preclude further harvest except with non-standard bogging systems. At some point in time in the future unit selections may impact this area.

Summary: All three areas present immediate enhancement opportunities, particularly in the area of trail construction. Timber harvest in the immediate area at all 3 sites will preclude multiple use opportunities. Inclusion of these 3 areas into wildlife retention classification will insure protection and multiple use of outstanding and irreplaceable values.