A detailed budget request briefing was prepared in August by RM Merritt for the purpose of documenting needs for FY-94. Both RM Merritt and AT Collins expended too much time dealing with our cumbersome budget and financial tracking system throughout the year. There must be a better way! At year's end the FY-94 budget for Innoko NWR looked good. Regional support for our high priority projects related to remote sensing technology and environmental education remains strong.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. General

Wildlife Habitat Classification and Mapping

Much time was spent in 1993 in developing a procedure to translate plant community and physical feature map data into wildlife habitat map data utilizing digital satellite data, ancillary data, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. The procedure was based on the following assumptions:

1. A plant community map is not a wildlife habitat map.

2. Wildlife habitat maps are constructed from plant community and physical feature maps.

3. Wildlife habitats are composed of portions of multiple specific plant communities and physical features within specific distances and of specific sizes.

4. Whole plant communities out of context with their surroundings lack specific relationships with wildlife.

5. Any plant community can be included or not included in a wildlife use area depending on its surroundings and size.

6. In order to use plant community and physical feature maps to build wildlife habitat maps, measurements of habitat components are needed.

The following maps were produced using GIS technology and satellite imagery. Figure F.1 is a critical winter habitat map for moose, while Figure F.2 is a vegetation community map. Each map covers approximately 90% of the lower Innoko unit including the entire western boundary, the Yukon River.