

Personal communications related to the TERRESTRIAL SECTION  
of the Non-Susitna Hydro Alternatives Environmental Analysis.

Person Contacted: Jim Faro, Area Biologist  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Soldotna, AK.

Contacted By: Charles Elliott in a phone conversation on June 6, 1984.

Subject: Wildlife resources in the proposed Lake Chakachamma hydro  
area.

Comments:

Faro reported a moose census was done last spring. The area sampled extended from the Susitna River to the Drift River. In Feb. the moose from the Beluga River to Tyonek (transect went down to Straight Creek and Nikolai Creek) was estimated to have a population density of 1.53/mi<sup>2</sup>. Population sampling from Tyonek to Trading Bay revealed a population density estimate of 1.85 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>. In addition Faro reported last year in July concentrations of molting Tule's geese were observed in the McArthur River drainage.

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Person Contacted: Nick Steen, Area Biologist  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Palmer, AK.

Contacted By: Chalres Elliott in a meeting on June 13, 1984, in Palmer.

Subject: Wildlife resources at the proposed Keetna hydro site.

Comments:

Steen reported the proposed impoundment zone receives year-round moose use. Dall sheep and mt. goats are present at higher elevations in the area. The region supports a good black bear population. Brown bear probably use the Disappointment Creek drainage during salmon runs. Lynx, fox, wolf, and wolverine use the river drainage heavily. The area is mainly spruce-- heavily timbered. Disappointment Creek is also heavily timbered.

Recommended I contact Ken Pitcher about caribou in the area and Paul Arneson about raptors.

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Person Contacted: Dave Johnson, Area Biologist  
Alaska Dept. Fish & Game  
Delta Junction, AK.

Contacted By: Charles Elliott in a meeting on June 14, 1984, in  
Delta Junction.

Subject: Wildlife resources in area of proposed Johnson hydro site.

Comments:

Johnson felt the moose in the area were at medium densities, approximately 1 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>. From the Johnson Slough throughout the proposed impoundment area, moose used the riparian communities as fall and summer range. Calving habitat occurred in the Billy Creek drainage. Black and brown bear use of the area was estimated between moderate to high. Caribou were observed on the river flats in high snow winters. Trappers used the Johnson Slough, Sand Lake, Billy Creek, and Berry Creek drainages.

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Person Contacted: Larry Jennings, Area Biologist  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Fairbanks, AK.

Contacted By: Charles Elliott in a meeting on June 15, 1984, in  
Fairbanks.

Subject: Wildlife resources in area of proposed Browne hydro site.

Comments:

Jennings reported the moose to be a good population, and could be expanded. Density approaches 1.0 to 1.5 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>. Hunting mainly occurs on the east-side of the Nenana River. Black and brown bear are present in the area-- tends to be more brown bear. He estimated one brown bear/15-20 mi<sup>2</sup>. Members of the Delta caribou herd occur in the region. Herd numbers about 6000-7000 animals. Hunters gain access to the caribou herd via Ferry and Rex trails. He was not aware of any raptor nesting locations in the impoundment area.

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Pers n Contacted: Mat Robus, Habitat Division  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Fairbanks, AK.

Contacted By: Charles Elliott in a meeting on June 15, 1984, in  
Fairbanks.

Subject: Wildlife resources in areas of proposed Johnson and Browne  
hydro sites.

Comments:

Robus exhibited a series of overlays that depicted areas designated as prime or moderate wildlife species habitat. The Browne site was classified as prime moose and furbearer habitat. The foothills in the region were classified as prime brown bear habitat. South of the Browne site (in the foothills) was considered prime caribou habitat. The proposed impoundment area was considered to receive moderate big game use by hunters, but received intensive trapping due to access via road, railroad, and trails.

The Johnson site was considered as prime moose, furbearer, and black bear habitat. Golden eagles, bald eagles and osprey were reported to occur in drainages from south of Moose Lake to the confluence of Billy Creek and the Tanana River. A peregrine falcon nest location was reported in the Round Lake area.

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Person Contacted: Lyman Nichols, Area Biologist  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Coopers Landing, AK.

Contacted By: Charles Elliott in a phone conversation on June 18, 1984.

Subject: Wildlife resources present at the proposed Snow hydro site.

Comments:

Nichols estimated the area to be inundated receives low to medium moose use. The population of black and brown bears were considered to be moderate. There are few wolves in the area. The region is used by sheep hunters. The lower Paradise Lakes region received high fishing use by fly-in fisherman going after grayling and rainbow trout. The trail indicated on our maps is basically nonexistent. Should be aware of the forest service cabins in the proposed impoundment zone.

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Person Contacted: Paul Arneson, Nongame Biologist  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Anchorage, AK.

Contacted By: Charles Elliott in a phone conversation on June 19, 1984.

Subject: Raptors in the proposed Keetna hydro site area.

Comments:

Arneson knows of nesting raptors below the proposed dam site and of  
at least one bald eagle nest at the confluence of the Talkeetna River  
and Disappointment Creek. Felt sure other raptor nests could be  
located in area if a survey were done.

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Person Contacted: Ken Pitcher, Game Biologist  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Anchorage, AK.

Contacted By: Charles Elliott in a phone conversation on June 21, 1984.

Subject: Caribou in the proposed Keetna hydro site area.

Comments:

Pitcher reported caribou are present in the area on a year-round basis, especially near Wells Mt. (east of Iron Creek). The animals occur mainly as a few small resident groups. The Wells Mt. group number approximately 150-200 animals. One group utilizes the upper reaches of Disappointment Creek (near the headwaters).