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SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

GUIDE SURVEY REPORT

Report by

Harza-Ebasco Susitna Joint Venture

Prepared for

Alaska Power Authority

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Final Report  
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Subject: Susitna Hydroelectric Project  
Guide Survey Report

Dear Mr. Dischinger:

We have enclosed a draft final version of the subject report for your review and approval. This report will become a chapter in the Special Population Report to be completed in FY86. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. James Thrall of our staff.

Very truly yours,

  
W.E. Larson  
Project Director

mb

Enc: as noted

cc w/ Enc:

D. Owens, HE

w/o Enc:

P. Bergmann, HE  
J. Thrall, HE

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Guides for hunting, fishing, and nonconsumptive recreational activities represent a special population/occupation group that may be affected, along with their clients, by the proposed Susitna Hydroelectric Project. This study, aimed at gathering information about guides who rely on the area in the vicinity of the proposed dams and access routes, their operations, and their clients, has three objectives. The first objective is to develop an inventory and profile of guides who rely on the study's resource use area. The second objective is to determine the economic importance of the guide operations to owners and guides. This provides a baseline for the numbers and character of the operations that might be affected by the Susitna Project. The final objective is to obtain information from the guides about hunting, fishing, and other recreation activities in the resource use area to supplement and corroborate terrestrial, aquatic, and recreation data for the area. To accomplish these objectives, licensed big game guides who had active businesses within or intersecting the resource use area were contacted and interviewed face-to-face during a 20-day period in October 1984.

## 2.0 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The study approach to surveying guides included a number of steps. These steps, outlined here and described in detail below, are:

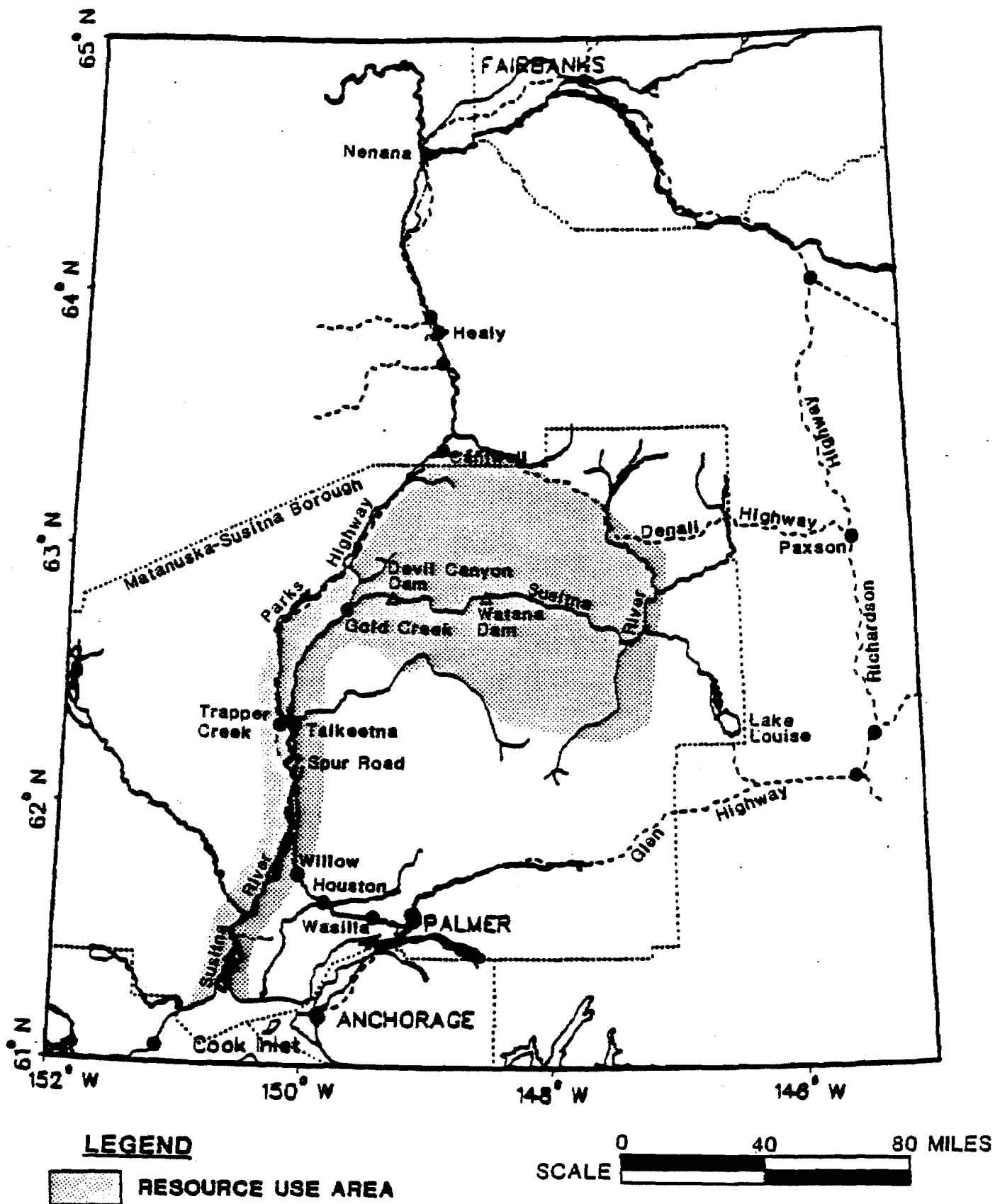
1. Delineation of the resource use area
2. Identification of all licensed big game guides in the resource use area
3. Determination of a sample size and survey type
4. Development of the questionnaire
5. Interviews with guides
6. Analysis of results and report preparation

### 2.1 DELINEATION OF THE RESOURCE USE AREA

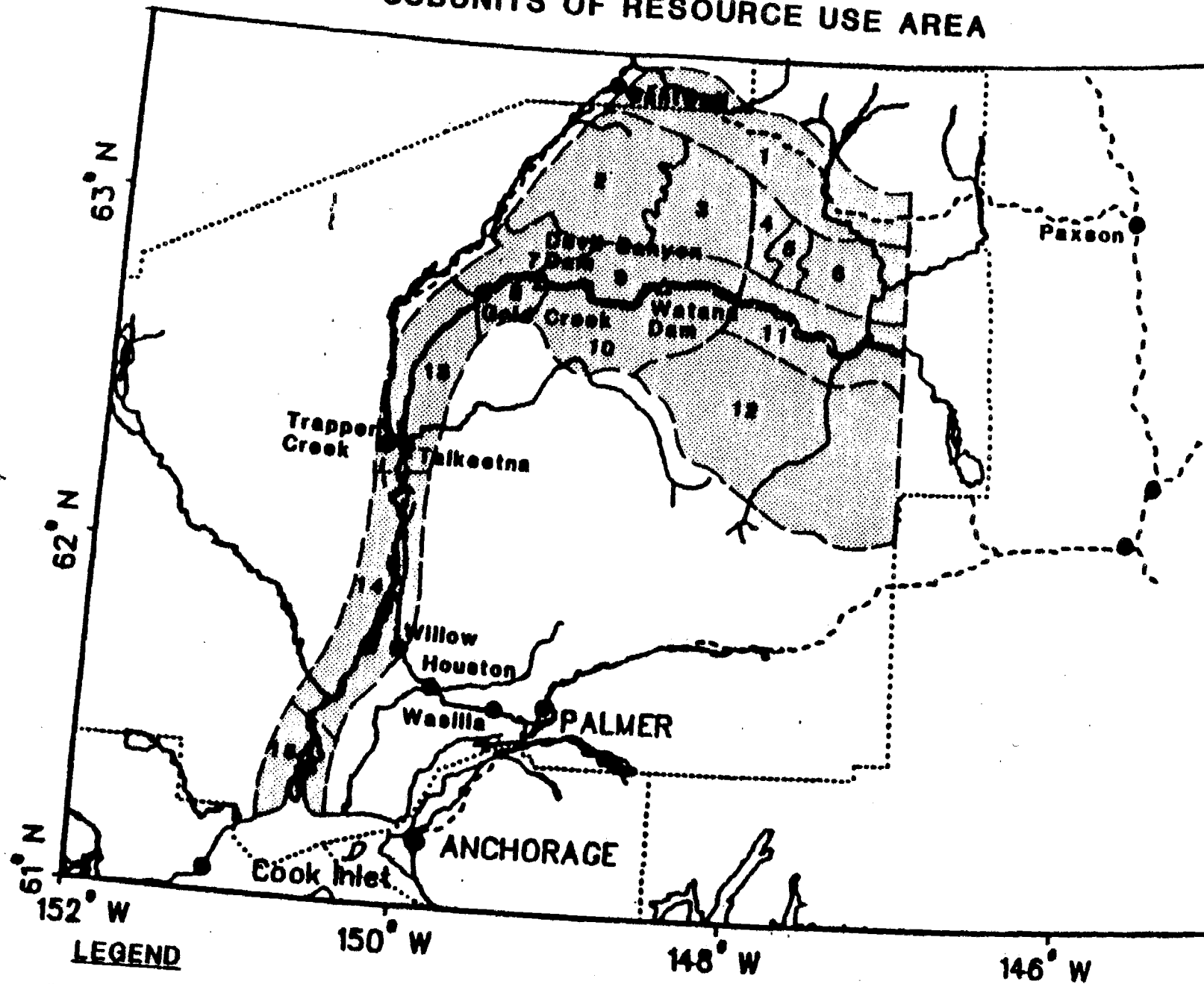
The boundaries of the resource use area for the guide survey were drawn according to natural and man-made features and from information pertaining to animal habitats, migratory routes, and fish and game harvests provided by Harza-Ebasco's terrestrial and aquatic study groups. As shown in Figure 2-1, the Denali Highway from Cantwell to the Susitna River forms the northern boundary. The eastern boundary is formed by the Susitna River turning northward to intersect the Denali Highway while the western and southern boundaries are formed by the Parks Highway and the Talkeetna Mountains, respectively. The Susitna River from the Cook Inlet to Gold Creek is also included because of an additional interest in guided activities along this portion of the river downstream of the proposed dams.

Once boundaries were determined, the area was divided into 15 smaller subunits along topographic features and according to known concentrations of game and typical hunting patterns (see Figure 2-2). The purpose of subdividing the resource area was to identify the regions most frequently visited by guides and their clients without asking guides to identify the exact locations of favorite hunting and fishing sites.

# SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RESOURCE USE AREA GUIDE SURVEY



# SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT SUBUNITS OF RESOURCE USE AREA



**LEGEND**

2 RESOURCE USE AREA, NUMBER DENOTES SUBUNIT  
--- SUBUNIT BOUNDARY

SCALE 0 40 80 MILES



## 2.2 IDENTIFICATION OF LICENSED BIG GAME GUIDES IN THE RESOURCE USE AREA

The 1984 Guide Register produced by the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing provided names and addresses of licensed big game guides in the state. Included in the register were the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) game management units (GMU) where the guides had hunting privileges. The middle Susitna River Basin portion of the resource use area was located totally within GMU 13. The Susitna River from Talkeetna to Cook Inlet formed the border of GMUs 14 and 16.

A map of all guide areas in GMU 13 and along the Talkeetna to Cook Inlet stretch of the Susitna River was compared to a topographic map showing the resource use area. Twenty guides were found to have guiding privileges within or intersecting the resource use area.

## 2.3 DETERMINATION OF SAMPLE SIZE AND SURVEY TYPE

All 20 licensed guides were contacted by telephone or in person to verify how many actually operated guide businesses in the resource use area. Screening questions were used to determine whether a full interview was warranted since the focus of the study was on 1) guide businesses that derived economic benefits from customers or services that used the resource use area, and 2) guides who could describe project area activities pursued by their clients in the area. It was found that only 12 guide businesses regularly operated in the resource use area. However, the 12 businesses involved 15 guides because some worked as partners.

A face-to-face interview approach was chosen because of the detailed nature of the information required to meet the objectives of the study. This technique was feasible because the total number of guides and guide businesses was small.

## 2.4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

A questionnaire (see Appendix A) was prepared to serve as a guide to the interviewer. Representatives of the Susitna Project's terrestrial, aquatic, recreation, and socioeconomic subtasks determined that questions related to the following topics would address the data needs of this survey:

1. Demographic characteristics of guides.
2. Description of guide business operations and activities.
3. Numbers and characteristics of clients.
4. Clients activities in the resource area.

Specific questions were considered for each topic and internal review ensured that the collected data would be appropriate for future analysis. The questions were grouped into two categories: 1) guide business and operations (including history and ownership information), and 2) clients and their activities in the resources use area. The draft questionnaire was also reviewed by representatives of ADF&G to ensure that this effort would not duplicate on-going survey research of professional hunting guides in southcentral Alaska.

To aid guides in identifying resource use by their clients, they were shown a USGS topographic map of the Susitna River Basin. The map outlined the resource use area (see Figure 2-1) and divided it into smaller subunits along topographic features (see Figure 2-2). The number and location of the subunits were based on knowledge of big game movements, present use patterns, and the location of proposed project facilities. The subdivisions were made so that answers to recreational activity/resource use questions could be linked to an area rather than an exact place or feature. This allowed guides to protect the exact location of their hunting or fishing activities while still providing useful information for the study.

## 2.5 INTERVIEWS WITH GUIDES

Interviews were conducted by a single interviewer over a 20-day period, from October 12 to 31, 1984. Contacts were made by telephone and/or in person to the guides' residences as recorded in the 1984 Guide Register. Whenever possible, guides were contacted by telephone prior to being visited. At the end of the three-week study period, guides who had not been contacted were sent postcards that explained the reason for the study and requested them to call collect to establish a time for an interview.

Individual face-to-face interviews were conducted using the questionnaire as an interview guide and a USGS 1:250,000 topographic map of the resource use area (with smaller subunits marked) for reference. After an introduction, guides were asked if they objected to having the interview taped in addition to having responses recorded on the questionnaires. The questionnaire and tape (when used) were reviewed after each interview to ensure accurate documentation of information.

An acetate overlay (corresponding to the USGS topographic map of the resource use area) of hunting areas assigned to guides was also used by the interviewer. The map and overlay helped the interviewer become familiar with each guide's area prior to conducting the interview and showed the relationship of the guide areas to the resource use area and subunits. This overlay was not used during interviews.

A summarization of the contacts with guides follows:

- o Twelve of the 20 guides were interviewed face-to-face.
- o One guide was interviewed over the telephone.
- o Two questionnaires were completed by partners of two guides who were not available for interviews.

- o One guide was living outside Alaska (during the guides' off-season from October to April) and his address was unknown.
- o One guide was retired.
- o Three guides, who were not successfully contacted, were sent follow- up postcards. No responses were received.
- o Since 3 of the 15 guides who were interviewed were partners in businesses shared with other guides, the total number of guide businesses for which information was obtained was 12.

Each full interview took from one to two hours to complete depending on the extent of the information guides could provide about their clients.

## 2.6 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS AND REPORT PREPARATION

The results of the interviews with 15 guides operating 12 guide businesses were compiled and compared. The analysis focused on the identification of qualitative similarities and differences among responses. The Description of Results chapter of this report presents ranges of responses where there was extensive variation among responses and tallies where similar responses could be grouped together. Unusual or isolated responses highlight the differences in the character of the guide businesses included in the study.

The results provide baseline information about guide businesses that could potentially be affected by the Susitna Hydroelectric Project. Conclusions about the extent to which these businesses could be affected are not included here. Such information will be contained in a forthcoming report on special populations.

### 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

#### 3.1 HISTORY OF BIG GAME GUIDE OWNERSHIP

Seven of the 12 guide businesses were operated by the original owners, although one had become a partnership. Of these seven, five owners started their guide businesses prior to 1970. The remaining 5 of the 12 guide businesses had been previously owned. The original owners of these five businesses had also started operating prior to 1970; the earliest began in 1938. Two of the five businesses that had previous owners were purchased by their current owners in the 1970s, and two passed from father to son in the 1970s. In addition, one guide business was being transferred from father to son at the time of the interview, and another was in the process of being sold. None of the businesses had changed hands more than once.

Nine of the 12 businesses were each owned by a single guide. One of these employed another guide during the hunting season. Three of the 12 businesses were owned jointly; 1 with another guide, 1 with a former guide, and 1 was owned by a group of 6 people, which included foreign investors.<sup>1/</sup> The one Alaskan owner in the group of six was the sole operator of the business and he hired another guide part-time.

#### 3.2 FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The facilities used by guides did not vary significantly among the 12 businesses. All of the businesses used lodges, spike camps (temporary camps/tents), and/or cabins, and all of the operations provided meals for

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<sup>1/</sup> Since the focus of this study was on guide businesses (as opposed to information about individual guides), the remainder of this discussion refers to guide businesses.

their clients. Nine of the 12 owners had at least partial ownership in a lodge; 5 were sole owners of lodges, and 1 guide operated and owned 2 lodges. One of the sole owners was in the process of selling his lodge, but he planned to continue using the facility in his guide operation, and one was affiliated with a lodge where he was not an owner. Only two of the operations did not provide lodge facilities for their clients. Both used spike camps and cabins in lieu of a lodge.

The number of spike camps per guide service ranged from 1 to more than 50 and the number of cabins used per guide service ranged from 0 to more than 8. All but two of the services used cabins. Some of the guides had joint usage of areas or permission to use another guide's area, and often this included joint usage of cabins in the area.

Lodges, cabins, and in one case, a spike camp, were used as base camps.<sup>1/</sup> The base camps were used seasonally (April to October) by 7 of the 12 guiding operations. Five guides maintained their base camps year-round for clients, storage, and/or periodic personal use. Two of these guides also used their base camps as permanent residences, while others employed caretakers to oversee the facilities.

Nine of the 12 guides owned their own air taxi operations. Six operated air taxis year-round as an additional source of income. One guide was affiliated with an air taxi service where he was not an owner. The remaining guides chartered airplanes. In addition, 2 also used pack horses (50 to 60 animals each) to transport clients and supplies. The air taxi services owned by guides were operated with one to five airplanes each. All of the planes used were PA18 Superclubs and/or Cessna 185s.

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<sup>1/</sup> Base camps were used as a starting and ending point for guided trips, for storage, and often for serving meals.

Ten of the 12 guide businesses provided boats for their clientele, although 4 of these only had 1 boat each. The number of boats per service ranged from 0 to 15, averaging about 5. One guide claimed to use a 40 ft. boat, but most were from 10 to 15 ft. in length. Boats were used mainly for lake fishing, rafting, or sightseeing, and included canoes, lake boats, and rubber rafts. Four of the businesses provided river rafts for float trips and four supplied canoes. One business supplied river rafts whenever there were clients interested in a float trip. Additionally, one of the three guide businesses had an airboat, one had a kayak, and one had a riverboat. Three guide businesses provided all-terrain-vehicles (occasionally using four-wheelers or track vehicles) to clients.

Guides were asked if their operations provided services such as taxidermy, skinning, field packing (transporting the kill from the field to the base camp), meat lockers, and/or shipping. All of the guides provided skinning and field packing as a regular service. None provided taxidermy, though over half felt that their clients made use of taxidermists within the state. According to the guides interviewed, clients often did not take the meat from their hunts, which may explain why there was little use made of meat lockers, packers, or processors in the resource use area, and why only one guide provided shipping of meat, skins or trophies, and those that did not felt that the clients used shippers from southcentral Alaska.

Guides were also asked if they knew of other, related services that clients used while they were in southcentral Alaska. Air and boat charter services (other than those provided by the guide service), as well as motels and car rentals, were the additional services mentioned by the guides.

### 3.3 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The number of guide business employees ranged from 0 to 6 full-time and from 0 to 14 part-time. The total number of people employed full-time in 1984 by

all 12 guide businesses was 29, including the owner/operator of each service. On the average, 2.4 people were employed full-time by each guide business. Two guiding operations had no full-time employees; the owner/operators did not consider guiding to be a full-time occupation. One of these guides was the only employee in his guide business. Two of the guide operators relied solely on full-time employees, hiring no part-time staff. The total number of people employed part-time in 1984 by all 12 guide businesses was 47; the average number of part-time employees per guide service was 3.9.

Ten of the 12 guides stated that at least 50 percent of their time was devoted to the businesses annually, and 6 of these said that the business took 100 percent of their time. The remaining 2 guides indicated that the business took 40 and 10 percent of their time, respectively.

To ascertain what portion of the guide's total employment this business represented, guides were also asked what percentage of their total employment was from guiding. Six of 12 guides considered their businesses to be full-time operations, constituting their total employment, but not necessarily their total incomes. Five guides felt their businesses constituted 40 to 50 percent of their employment and only 1 guide felt that the business constituted only 10 percent of his/her total employment.

According to the survey results, the amount of time a guide spent at the business was not always directly proportional to the percent of his/her total income from the business. Some guides spent less than one-half of their time in the guiding business annually, yet it comprised 85 percent of their income, and others spent all of their time in the business, yet it was only 60 percent of their total income. Eight of the 12 guides also held other jobs in addition to guiding. Such additional sources of income came from construction work; air taxis and fishing lodge operations; work as mechanics; and, for one guide, work as a politician. Others relied on investments as a additional source of income.



On a yearly basis the 12 guides all worked as guides during the spring and fall hunting seasons. They took hunters out from April through October, and fishermen, sightseers, photographers, rock hounds, hikers, floaters, and trail riders out from May through September. During the off-season, bookkeeping, advertising, and lodge and cabin maintenance were noted as activities that all guides were engaged in to prepare for the following season.

### 3.4 ACTIVITIES

Activities provided by the 12 guiding operations and species sought by their clients varied among businesses. Eleven businesses offered both hunting and fishing trips, and seven of these also offered some of the following activities: guided trail rides, float trips, mining trips, sightseeing, bird watching, photography, and hiking trips. Species hunted included black bear, brown bear, caribou, moose, and sheep. Fished species included salmon, grayling, lake trout, rainbow trout, whitefish, and Dolly Varden. One business offered only hunting excursions. Over one-half of the guide operations offered both single-species and multi-species hunts, but each guide business did not necessarily hunt all the species named above. One business specialized in sheep hunts and another offered only guided moose hunts or fishing trips. Six guide businesses offered sheep hunts, and seven offered caribou hunts. Over one-half of the guides said that while on guided trips, hunters often fished, but fishermen seldom hunted. Guided hunts and fishing trips were taken from April through October. Other activities provided by the businesses were concentrated during the summer months, June through September.

Guides were asked to identify places used for hunting, fishing or float trips. All but 1 of the 12 guide businesses took clients to the resource use area, and 1 of these used only that area. The boundaries and subunits of the resource use area are shown in Figure 2-1. Percentage of use of the area, as shown in Table 3-1, varied among guide businesses and by activity. Guides used the resource use area mainly for hunting. The percent of each

Table 3-1

GUIDE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN THE RESOURCE USE AREA<sup>4</sup>

Activity	Percent <sup>a</sup> /of Each Activity Pursued in the Resource Area for Each Guide Business											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Hunting	100	50	95	75	40	12	10	20	70	9	27	0
Fishing	0	100	95	0	15	2	0	0	70	2	27	0
Floating	0	0	95	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	100	0	0	2	0	0	70	0	0	0

Source: Harza-Ebasco 1985. Compiled from Guide Survey Data.

Note:<sup>a</sup> Each percentage shown is a portion of a business' possible 100 percent use of the resource use area for that activity.

business' clients taken into the resource area area for hunting ranged from 9 to 100 percent, averaging 46 percent. Seven of the 12 guide businesses took clients into the resource use area to fish. The percent of each business' clients who fished ranged from 2 to 100 percent, averaging 44 percent. Only three businesses took clients into the resource use area for float trips or other activities identified above.

Table 3-2 shows where in the resource use area (by subunits) guide businesses took clients to hunt particular species, to fish, and to float. For hunting, subunit 12 was used by the most businesses (7) and subunit 7 wasn't used by any businesses. Subunit 11 was used by 6 businesses for fishing and two for floating. Hunting was broken down by species to include black bear, brown bear, caribou, moose, and sheep. Again, subunit 12 was used by the most guide businesses hunting sheep, black bear, brown bear, and caribou and was used by as many businesses hunting moose as were subunits 10 and 11. As shown in Table 3-3, subunits 8, 10, 11, and 12 were used by the greatest number of guide businesses: 5 to 7 businesses used each area. In subunits 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12, at least 4 species were hunted and the areas were also used for fishing and/or for float trips. All of the subunits were used by at least one guide business.

Seven of the 12 services used the Susitna River. Of those 7, 6 used it to land float planes and 2 used it for float trips in subunits, 10 and 11. The main area used was from Watana Creek to the gauging station near Tsusena Creek in subunit 11. Many of the guides used the tributaries and the area around the Susitna River for both hunting (mainly bear, moose, and caribou), and fishing but did not use the river itself. None of the guides using the Susitna River indicated that they had encountered navigational problems.

Guides were also asked if they were aware of any winter river use. Snowmobiling, trapping, cross-country skiing, and dog mushing were among the activities mentioned. One guide said that in the winter the Susitna River became a major transportation route from Sherman to Talkeetna, and another guide mentioned that ski planes used the river during winter months.

Table 3-2  
NUMBER OF GUIDE BUSINESSES USING EACH SUBUNIT BY ACTIVITY

Activity	Study Area Subunits <sup>a/</sup>														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
HUNTING (Breakdown of hunting (by species) <sup>b/</sup>	2	2	3	2	1	1	0	5	1	5	5	7	4	1	1
Moose	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	4	1	5	5	5	4	1	1
Sheep	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
Black Bear	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	4	2	6	3	1	1
Brown Bear	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	3	5	7	2	0	0
Caribou	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	5	0	0	0
FISHING	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	6	3	2	0	0
FLOATING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0

Source: Harza-Ebasco 1985. Compiled from Guide Survey Data.

Note: Guide businesses which conduct hunting, fishing, and/or floating trips in different subunits cannot be totalled for each subunit because businesses may conduct more than one

<sup>a/</sup> The 15 subunits were drawn on acetate to overlay a USGS 1:250,000 topographic map of the study area as shown in Figure 2-1.

<sup>b/</sup> The number of guide businesses hunting all species in a specific subunit does not total the number of businesses "HUNTING" in that subunit because a business can hunt more than one specie in a given subunit.

Table 3-3  
GUIDE BUSINESSES USING EACH SUBUNIT

Activity	Study Area Subunits <sup>a/</sup>														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Total Number of Guide Services Using Each Area	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	5	2	5	6	7	3	1	1
Total Number of Activities <sup>b/</sup> Pursued in Each Area	4	6	5	4	4	4	1	3	2	6	7	6	4	2	2

Source: Harza-Ebasco 1985. Compiled from Guide Survey Data.

Note:<sup>a/</sup> The 15 subunits were drawn on acetate to overlay a USGS 1:250,000 topographic map of the study area as shown in Figure 2-1.

<sup>b/</sup> Activities included fishing, floating, and hunting. Hunting was broken down by species and included black bear, brown bear, caribou, moose, and sheep. The maximum number of activities possible in any one area is seven.

### 3.5 CLIENTELE

The total number of customers guided by 11 of the guide services during 1984 was 308 (1 service was unable to provide information for 1984). The range was from 4 to 80 persons, with an average of 28 persons per guide service. Nine of the guide services also gave statistics on clientele for 1983. The number of clients taken out in 1983 by the 9 services totalled about 230 people, averaging 25.5 people per guide business.

Eight of the 11 guide services felt that the number of clients they had in 1984 represented a typical number guided per year. Three of these typically guided over 50 clients per year. One of the 8, which regularly guided about 80 clients per year, was expecting a substantial increase in the number of clients because he was beginning a large advertising campaign. Three of the 11 guide services felt that the number of clients guided in 1984 was less than in previous years. However, only one guide cited a reason for the decrease in the number of clients; that was, personal financial difficulties.

Some guide services limited the number of clients due to the big game fee (head tax) charged by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for harvests taken by the guide service that exceeded five of each species. No tax is imposed on the first five kills of each species (including black bear, brown bear, caribou, moose, and sheep). The 6th through the 10th kill of each species cost \$20 each; the 11th through 25th kill cost \$100 each; and any animal over 25 of each species that is harvested cost \$500 each.

The length of guided trips depended on the activity pursued. Hunting trips ranged from 5 to 20 days in length, averaging 11 days. Fishing trips ranged from 1 to 14 days in length, averaging 4.5 days. Trip length for other activities such as sightseeing, rock hounding, hiking, trail riding, or float trips also ranged from 1 to 14 days.

Guides were asked to categorize their clients as hunters, fishermen, floaters, photographers, bird watchers, miners, or sightseers (see Table 3-4). The majority of clients were either hunters or fishermen. Seven of the businesses had over 60 percent hunters. One guide service relied solely on hunters. The percent of clients per business taken on hunts ranged from 10 to 100 percent with an average of 56 percent. Three services relied on fishermen as their main clientele (greater than 80 percent). The percent of fishermen per business ranged from 0 to 90 percent, averaging 36 percent. Other activities, such as float trips, photography excursions, bird watching, sightseeing, and mining attracted few clients, averaging only seven percent per business. None of the activities were mutually exclusive. For example, quite often hunters and those on float trips or photography trips also fished.

Guides were asked to estimate the percent of their clientele that were Alaska residents versus non-Alaska residents. The percent varied significantly among businesses (see Table 3-5). Non-residents made up the total clientele for 3 of 12 guide services, and Alaska residents made up the main clientele for 2 guide services. Non-resident clients were from all over the United States. Foreigners included residents from Germany, Holland, Austria, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, Italy, Canada, Brazil, Switzerland, Japan, Spain, and Iran.

All 12 of the guide services kept records of their success rates or harvest. Most reported a 100 percent success rate at fishing, and an 80 to 100 percent success rate on hunting excursions. One guide said that his success rate was very low due to non-guided resident hunters, air taxi services, and all-terrain vehicles using the area. Another guide complained about resident hunters using the area, and another was having difficulty booking hunts due to the Intertie transmission line construction, mining, and airplanes flying over the area. Neither of the latter two guides, however, mentioned a lower success rate due to the conditions they described.

Table 3-4  
CLIENTELE BY ACTIVITIES

Activity	Percent of Clientele of Each Guide Business											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Hunters	100	70	70	75	40	10	35	20	10	95	80	60
Fishermen	0	10	30	25	15	90	40	80	90	1	20	30
Other Activities <sup>a/</sup>	0	20	0 <sup>b/</sup>	0	45	0	25	0 <sup>c/</sup>		0	4	10
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Harza-Ebasco 1985. Compiled from Guide Survey Data.

Note: <sup>a/</sup> Data includes sightseers, floaters, photographers, bird watchers, miners, and rock hounds.

<sup>b/</sup> Zero percent recorded here because the air taxi certification was temporarily suspended.

<sup>c/</sup> Zero-percent recorded although respondent indicated that fishing trips sometimes included float trips.



Table 3-5  
PERCENT OF CLIENTELE BY RESIDENCY AND ACTIVITY

Guide Business	Non-Resident			Total
	Alaska Resident	Lower 48	Foreigner	
		<u>HUNTERS</u>		
1	1	99	0	100
2	10	60	30	100
3	5	90	5	100
4	80	20	0	100
5	2	0	98	100
6	0	97	3	100
7	10	90 <sup>a/</sup>	0	100
8	0	90	10	100
9	100	0	0	100
10	0	100	0	100
11	60	40	0	100
12	2	49	49	100
		<u>FISHERMEN</u>		
1	0	0	0	0
2	70	15	15	100
3	50	45	5	100
4	80	20	0	100
5	45	0	55	100
6	0	97	3	100
7	60	40	0	100
8	0	98	2	100
9	0	90	10	100
10	0	100 <sup>a/</sup>	0	100
11	100	0	0	100
12	2	49	49	100

Source: Harza-Ebasco 1985. Compiled from Guide Survey Data.

Note:<sup>a/</sup> Mainly Lower 48, but includes a small percentage of foreigners.

## SUMMARY

Twelve guide businesses were surveyed. Most were owned by a single guide and were started prior to 1970. One was owned by a group of six people that included foreign investors. All of the businesses used lodges, cabins, and/or spike camps, and all provided meals for their clientele. Many also owned air taxi services for transporting their clients, which they often operated year-round as an additional source of income. All of the operations provided skinning and field packing as a regular service. Many services also provided boats for their clientele and a few provided all-terrain vehicles or pack horses. Guide services were operated generally from April through October each year.

In 1984, twenty-nine persons were employed full-time by the 12 guide services, and 47 were employed part-time. Six guides spent 100 percent of their time operating their businesses while four others spent at least 50 percent of their time operating their businesses. The remaining two guides spent less than 50 percent of their time operating their businesses. Income from guiding businesses comprised from 10 to 100 percent of each guide's total income. Most guides relied on their businesses for at least 85 percent of their total income and had other jobs providing additional income.

Eleven of the 12 businesses offered both hunting and fishing trips and many also offered trail rides, float trips, mining, sightseeing, bird watching, or hiking trips. Over one-half of the services offered both single- and multi-species hunts. Species hunted included black bear, brown bear, caribou, moose, and sheep. Guides used the proposed project area mainly for hunting trips. Over one-half of the guides also used the proposed project area for fishing. Subunits 8, 10, 11, and 12 were used by the greatest number of guides and subunits 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12 were used for the greatest number of activities. Over one-half of the clientele hunted and most of the remaining fished. The average number of clients guided in 1984 was 28 persons per guide service. Most guides stated that this number was typical of the number guided in other years. Some guides limited the number of clients due to a big game fee charged for harvests exceeding five of each species. The length of guided hunting trips averaged 11 days and fishing trips averaged 4.5 days. The majority of the services reported a 100 percent success rate on fishing trips and an 80 to 100 percent success rate on hunting trips.

## REFERENCES

Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of  
Occupational Licensing. 1984. Guide Register. Anchorage, Alaska.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1984. Map of Alaska Game Management  
Units. Anchorage, Alaska. July 1.

APPENDIX A

Questionnaire #:

Community:

Interviewer:

Date:

SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

GUIDE SURVEY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Location if no  
address available) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Contact

Contact Made: Yes No

Comments:

Second Contact

Contact Made: Yes No

Comments:

# GUIDE SURVEY

## I. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

1. When was the business started? \_\_\_\_\_  
By whom? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How is the business organized?  
Sole ownership? \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliated with lodge, air taxi, outfitter, other? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many employees are there working for the business? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many of these are full-time, seasonal \_\_\_\_\_ Part-time? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What percentage of the owner/operator's time is spent on the business in a year? \_\_\_\_\_

What percent of the owner/operator's total employment is this business? \_\_\_\_\_

What percent of the operator's total income comes from this business? \_\_\_\_\_

Is guiding the total source of income? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

What other jobs does the guide have? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of guide services (activities) does the business provide? What months constitute the main seasons for the activities/services of the business?

Activity/Services	Months

5. What facilities does the business provide?

Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ Spike Camps \_\_\_\_\_ Cabins \_\_\_\_\_

Meals \_\_\_\_\_ Base Camps \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If there is a base camp, where is it? (Locate in area on map)

What months is the base camp used? (See chart next page)

Months	Purposes/activities

What purpose/activities is the base camp used for during those months?

6. What particular areas does the business operate in, by activity? Designate on map. (Activities already listed from Question 4)

Activities	Areas	Species

For hunting and fishing, which species are sought in each area?

Does the guide hunt other species outside the study area? \_\_\_\_\_

Which species? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What transportation does the guide use to get to operating areas?

_____ boats	_____ horses	_____ ATV
_____ personally owned aircraft	_____ chartered aircraft	
_____ other(specify)		

Does air transportation operate in all seasons? \_\_\_\_\_

How many planes does the guide use? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind? \_\_\_\_\_ Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

If boats are used, does the guide own the boats? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

How many? \_\_\_\_\_ What kinds? \_\_\_\_\_

Capacities? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the guide service use the Susitna River? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

For what purposes?

Purposes	If hunting & fishing, what species?	Access points
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What access points are used? Show on map.

What routes are taken? Show on map.

Are these usual routes? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

What types of boats are used? \_\_\_\_\_

Do they encounter navigational problems? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

When \_\_\_\_\_

8. What kinds of winter river uses is the guide aware of? \_\_\_\_\_

During any particular months? \_\_\_\_\_

times? \_\_\_\_\_

locations? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is the guide aware of other guides operating in the study area? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Designate on map.

What species? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. CLIENTS

1. How can the business's clients be categorized according to the activity they pursue?

	% of Total in this category	Months	Res. of Alaska	Non-Res. from where	% guided in Study area
Hunters					
Fishermen					
Floaters					
Photographers					
Bird Watchers					
Siteseers					

2. What percentage of clients fall into the categories in 1 year? \_\_\_\_\_

During what months do they pursue each activity?

3. By category, where do the clients come from? (Alaska, Lower 48, International)

4. How many clients did the guide have last year? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a typical number? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the average length of a guided tour? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What percent of clients are usually guided in the study area? \_\_\_\_\_

How many of these are hunters \_\_\_\_\_

fishermen \_\_\_\_\_

floaters \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. Does the guide keep records of successes, harvests? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of hunting or fishing success does this business have?  
(Number by species)



7. What related services does the guide provide?

\_\_\_\_\_ taxidermy  
\_\_\_\_\_ skinning, field packing  
\_\_\_\_\_ shipping  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (specify)

What related services in the area do clients make use of?

\_\_\_\_\_ taxidermists  
\_\_\_\_\_ meat lockers  
\_\_\_\_\_ packers, processors  
\_\_\_\_\_ shippers  
\_\_\_\_\_ other air transport services  
\_\_\_\_\_ other boat charters  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (specify)