

KAKWEIKEN RIVER REPORT

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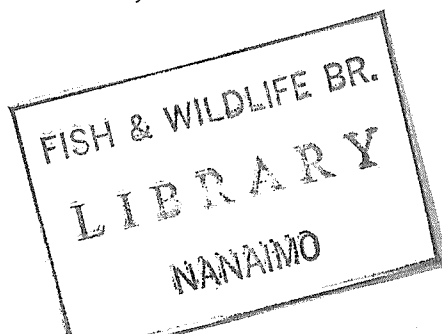
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KAKWEIKAN RIVERArea

The areas that were looked at while working here included the proposed blocks on the main Kakweikan River, McAlister Creek, and the tributaries running into the main Kakweikan of which are Redder, Elbow and Summit Creeks. The upper Kakweikan River was not done due to the inaccessibility. The Kakweikan area falls into two biogeoclimatic zones, Dry Western Hemlock and Wet Western Hemlock. This area gets over one hundred inches of precipitation annually.

Main Kakweikan River

Of all the blocks looked at on the main Kakweikan River only "one" pellet group was found and classified as deer, but which could have been a goat pellet group. Numerous bear droppings and sightings were noted along the whole of the Kakweikan River. Reports from people working in the camp were that three deer were seen the previous year in the lower end of the Kakweikan River but besides this only mountain goat or bear sightings have been reported. The main Kakweikan River has steep slopes averaging around 40 to 60% so caution should be taken when logging these areas so as to prevent runoff and erosion. Very little to no aboreal lichen was found in any areas along the Kakweikan River. Hemlock, cedar and amabilis fir were the dominant trees.



Summit, Elbow and Redder Creeks

All of these creeks appear to be to some extent hanging valleys which run into the main Kakweikan. No logging has taken place in any of these valleys yet. Logging is to start in some of these creeks in 1975, while road building was started in the summer and fall of 1974. No deer pellet groups were found in any of these tributaries. Bear droppings were quite frequent along the creek bottoms, however, with skunk cabbage areas being used for food. Slopes in these regions were steeper than the main Kakweikan averaging around 50 to 65%. Road building and logging could present a problem due to erosion and runoff because of the steep slopes.

McAlister Creek

The whole of the lower portion of McAlister Creek has been clear-cut with only one block in the head of the valley cut in 1975 and three small blocks on the southern side of McAlister Creek having a north aspect, to be cut in 1978 remaining. The block in the head of the valley being right down in the creek bottom and the three other blocks being above the original clear-cut at an elevation of 2,000 to 2,500 feet. After these blocks have been logged there will be no mature timber left standing in McAlister Creek. One deer or goat pellet group was found in the slash below blocks 201 and 203 but besides this only frequent bear droppings were noted. No aboreal lichen was present on any

of the mature trees left standing. It will be interesting to see if a couple of blocks were kept, if any deer would move in in the following years, but in my opinion it is doubtful as the three small blocks along with having a north aspect and no aboreal lichen, are quite high for deer winter range. The block at the head of McAlister Creek may or may not be used for winter range. I guess all you can do is wait and see if this block was deferred.

Aboreal Lichen

It was interesting to note that very little or no aboreal lichen was found in any areas of the Kakweikan while just south of this region in Knight Inlet, aboreal lichen densities were quite high in most places.

Slopes and Vegetation

Slopes in the Kakweikan River were always quite steep ranging from 40 to 70% usually western hemlock, cedar and amabilis fir were the dominant and sub-dominant trees with understory densities always being very thick consisting mostly of red, tall blue or alaskanese vaccinium with an abundance of salmonverry and devil's club. Plant associations were mostly Amabilis Fir-Western Hemlock which are "mesic to moist, deep, gleyed soils on slightly convex to straight middle slopes dominated by western hemlock." Understory

vegetation in most cases appeared to be too thick for deer habitation. On the back of each transect sheet possible dangers to logging due to slope are recorded and these should be taken into effect when allowing them to log due to erosion and siltation of the Main Kakweikan and its tributaries.

Goat Sightings

Numerous mountain goat sightings were recorded during the summer while running transects through cutting blocks. The goat sightings were usually in the rocks well above the proposed cutting blocks, however, a few goat sightings were recorded in the mature timber within the cutting blocks. Goats did not appear to be using the mature timber within the cutting blocks for winter range. A more extensive survey around rock bluffs and cliffs could be done to see if these goat populations are using the mature timber for winter range.