

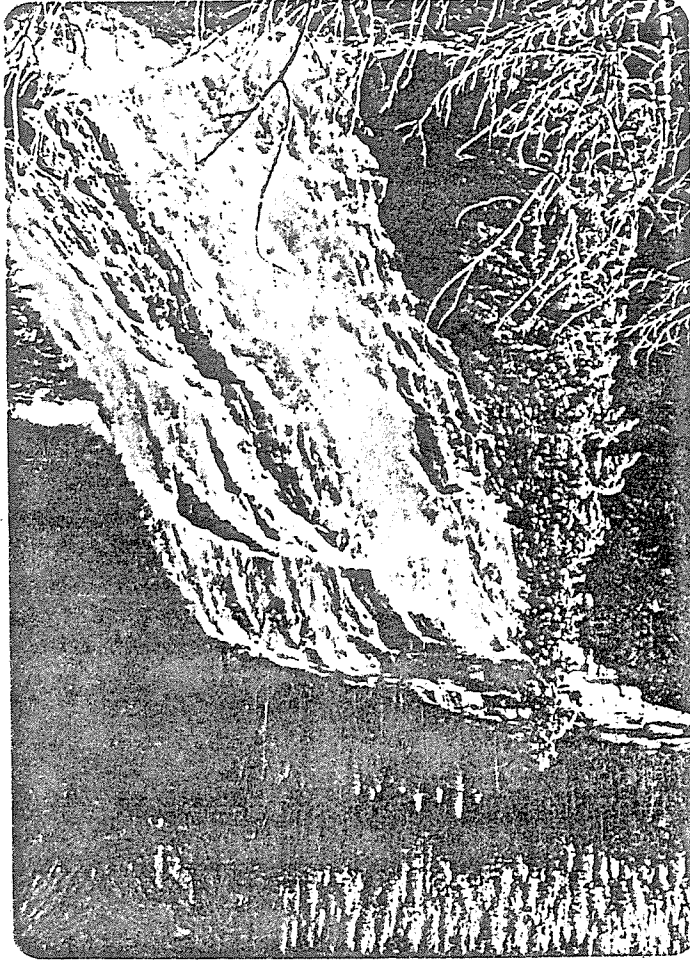
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PRACTICALITY OF ACCESS TO  
THE SOUTHERN AREAS OF THE  
WAPITI PSYU  
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D.M. LAURIE

PRACTICALITY OF ACCESS TO THE SOUTHERN AREAS

-OF THE WAPITI PSYU

N.S.



KINUSEO FALLS

British Columbia Forest Service  
Engineering Division

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THE  
PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION  
GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
VICTORIA, B.C.

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Observations

1. The majority of the timber in the Wapiti PSYU is of marginal sawlog quality. Trees are small and limby and although most appear to be sound, stands will not produce clear grades of lumber or lumber in the larger dimensional sizes. Of the total Wapiti timber volume, spruce (58%) and pine (20%) are the predominant coniferous species.

2. An estimated total of 87 miles of main haul road (see Map #1) will be required to provide initial access to the major blocks of timber in the Wapiti PSYU.

Estimated costs for construction of log haul roads are:

Winter haul road - \$12,000 to \$14,000/mile  
 All-weather road - \$35,000 to \$40,000/mile

Access to timber in the Wapiti PSYU will be hampered by the prevalence of a west to east drainage pattern across a south to north log haul system. The resultant adverse grades as well as deep gullies in fragile terrain, poorly drained soils and lack of gravel deposits for surfacing are all factors which will contribute to the increased cost of log production from the area.

High costs of all-weather road construction will force operators to log and haul during the winter months. Off-highway haul corridors and wide, tree length loads will develop as a result of the marginal size of sawlog timber and the necessity for log loads to contain the maximum number of pieces for economical haul volumes.

3. In light of the assumed high cost for forest operations outlined above, it is suggested that first pass logging will be uneconomical beyond a 60 mile haul distance to the mill proposed for location at Tumbler Ridge.

Comments

There appears to be some conjecture as to the volume of wood which might be extracted from the Wapiti PSYU on an annual basis. In a memo of September 17, 1976 (file 0334629) the District has suggested that 60,000 cunfts/year would be available from the Wapiti PSYU to a mill located adjacent to Tumbler Ridge. On the other hand the Annual Allowable cut for the Wapiti PSYU has been estimated by Resource Planning Division to be approximately 300,000 cunfts. The difference between these volumes is the

difference between an economically viable forest operation and one which may be less than marginal.

It is obvious from the above comments that an accurate assessment of the composition and volumes of timber within the Wapiti PSYU is vital before proposals for development of this forested area can be made.

