R 234

RECONNAISSANCE
OF
LOWER Mcgregor RIVER

1924
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of

LOWER Mcgregor River

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A. E. Collins.

Map attached, only one on record.
Scale 2 miles to 1 inch.

Reconnaissance File 234.
TIMBER RECONNAISSANCE REPORT OF LOWER REACHES OF MCGREGOR RIVER

Embodied in the following report estimates of area and volume of vacant Crown timber are shown along the reaches of lower McGregor, west.

Note:-

The lower reaches of the McGregor are those bounded by Moose Pass and "10 Mile" Creek to the East. The junction of the McGregor with the Fraser to the West and the valleys watershed to the North and South.
RECONNAISSANCE REPORT COVERING LOWER REACHES

MCCREGOR RIVER 1924.

The primary object of the survey party working on the McGregor River between months, February to March 1924, was to establish a traverse which we might at a future date utilize for cruising purposes. The surveyor, Mr. F. McN. Fraser's objective after commencing at Lot 3051 (ref. map attached) was to traverse the lower reaches of the river to the forks, proceeding from this point along the south fork (or main river) and establishing a tie to the timber licences located on a low divide on the north fork of the Torpy River.

Forty three miles of traverse, running through a well timbered territory is complete to date. An approximate traverse distance of 36 miles should complete "tie" to the Torpy River divide -- unusually poor weather conditions were the result of hampering traverse work to a great extent -- further progress was discontinued owing to breakup of river.

Commencing at surveyed Lot 3051, traverse was discontinued at mile 40 (located on south fork two miles above second canyon). At each mile along the line of traverse and irrespective of latitude or departure, iron angle posts have been marked and set, with bearing trees
to mark their location. To facilitate cruising of area, intermediate stations at every (20 chn) traverse distance have been established. Trees being used for this purpose squared, and scribed in the following manner:

\[
\begin{array}{ccccc}
\text{Mile} & 1 & \frac{1}{A} & \frac{1}{B} & \frac{1}{C} & \text{Mile} \\
\end{array}
\]

Letters A, B and C, were used to indicate the (20), (40) and (60) chain mark. Twenty chain stations have been placed at right angles to traverse line and not on a cardinal bearing as was at first suggested, as this would with the system of check chainage employed have greatly handicapped speed of traverse work. As surveyor's notes will be used in field work, the exact location of these points will be shown and can readily be offset from two strip lines.

Commencing at the forks a traverse was carried up the Herrick River to tie in Captain and James Creek, iron posts have been placed at the outlet of both these streams. Traverse was carried overland in one instance only. At (mile 33) located at entrance to second canyon (which at all times of the year is free of ice and impassable) traverse line which is well blazed takes to the high bench lands south of the river, which is parallels approximately half a mile inland to a point at mile 38 above the canyon -- where it enters the river again.
GENERAL TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE.

The McGregor River a large stream with an approximate length of 115 miles rises in the main range of the Rockies, 70 miles north of Jasper and flowing in a westerly direction enters the Fraser River 4 miles north of Aleza Lake. The McGregor receiving its water from two main sources may be divided into three water ways. The main river, the Herrick River (or North fork) and the South fork (or main river). The McGregor is a fast flowing stream, having an even and average fall of 10 ft. to the mile an average width (between its outlet and the forks, a distance of (37) miles) of 900 feet and an approximate depth of three feet. East of the forks both the Herrick and the main tributary (the South fork) narrow down to an average width of 300 feet but maintain over their course the same depth and rate of flow as on the lower reaches of the river.

Travelling up-stream from the McGregor's junction with the Fraser, lowlands, heavy with swamps and inland sloughs, are found to the north and south of the river. Timber clad hills not exceeding 2,800 feet in elevation that form the foothills of the main range farther to the east occur, and rising gradually at a point (21 miles) upstream, to the higher or main ranges, that flank the valley to the north and south. East of the
head of the 1st canyon (mile 21) which is navigable throughout the year, the valley narrows down to an average width of half a mile and is well defined, high mountains averaging 6,000 feet in elevation forming the divide to the south between the head of Woodall Creek the head of the Torpy River and the McGregor while to the north mountains 5,000 feet in height divide Otter Creek from the main valley.

The Herrick River draining a large area has many tributaries. Glacier, Fontiniko, Moose Pass, James (or Bad River) and Captain Creek flowing in from the north all draining well defined valleys. The south fork of the McGregor divided from the Herrick by a high and isolated mountain range (approximate height 6,500 feet) is not to the same extent broken up by side creeks as the Herrick to the north, being fed chiefly by numerous unnamed well-timbered mountain streams of a smaller size. Slopes vary along the entire valley but are generally even, unbroken and of moderate steepness.

AREA IN ACRES.

The following acreage of V.C.T. has been found:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timberlicences</th>
<th>Vacant Crown Timber</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12,160</td>
<td>66,220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLIMATE.

Following weather conditions generally prevail throughout McGregor River watershed. Precipitation
moderate. Annual mean fall approximately 30 inches, snow fall heavy.

Summer is short -- May till middle of September (4½ months), fall weather appearing about the middle of October and remaining over the ground until as late as the middle of May. Freeze-up takes place latter part of December, but river does not offer good travelling till February 1st, by which time heavy snow has settled. Usual time of breakup April 15 till May 15th.

It may be noted that during the actual (46) we days were in the field in this locality -- February to March -- weather conditions were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine fair weather</th>
<th>Days of snow</th>
<th>Days of rain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOREST DESCRIPTION.

The lower reaches of the McGregor are not evenly timbered throughout their entire length. Merchantable timber is scattered and located over various areas where apparently soil, drainage, and light conditions offer the best chances for growth. Timber is generally of a medium height class and of an average small diameter (11 inches).

TIMBERED STANDS MAY BE DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING TYPES.

Spruce) On valley floor and lowlands.
Balsam)
On lowlands and higher elevations.

Valley bottom and river flats.

PERCENTAGE OF SPECIES

Spruce 50%  Balsam 45%  Fir 5% (in Seebach Creek only)

Spruce which is sound, free of defect but inclined to many limbs, is the dominant species growing to its best advantage on even mountain slopes and lowlands, but is found on all timbered elevations throughout the valley.

Balsam is of medium height, is heavy with limbs, and, as was found in the Fraser valley to the south is of a poor quality being defective in ring and heart rot. (A cull of 30% throughout area for this tree would be conservative) also observed that isolated patches of young and immature balsam, growing on the valley floor where conditions for growth appeared to be good, were prematurely dead. Fir of merchantable value is tall and free of defect but is not found in large quantities. This tree was noted to be more prolific over non-merchantable areas. Cottonwood, growing abundantly on river flats is merchantable tall has average D.B.H. of 16" but contains 10% heart rot. Hemlock, found in high elevation is non-merchantable throughout area. Merchantable timber line ends at 3,400 feet elevation, ending in scrub balsam, hemlock and open highland meadows.
Reproduction in 55% spruce, 45% balsam, is heavy throughout Seebach and Woodall Creek areas, but moderate in 50% spruce, 50% balsam throughout other areas reconnoitred, of an average height of 10 feet reproduction is healthy no defect, being observed. Underbrush in red willow, alder, devil club and scattered vine maple, is heavy throughout the entire area, notably so in Woodall, Seebach Creek areas where many floating muskegs and inland sloughs are also found. One small burned area approximately 500 acres in extent was noted north of the river below first canyon, no other burned areas were observed.

LOCATION OF MAIN TIMBERED TRACTS.

Main timbered areas are as follows:-

Woodall and Seebach Creeks, bounded by surveyed agricultural lots to the west, the head of Torpy River divide to the south, a low range of hills dividing the head of Otter Creek from the main valley -- to the north and the head at first canyon to the east.

"10 Mile" Creek flowing into Herrick River, 3 miles east of the fork the timbered area is bounded to the west by timber licences (ref. maps) to the north by a high range of mountains dividing the Herrick from the south fork and to the south by high mountains dividing the Torpy from the main McGregor.
OTTER CREEK.

Heading up to the north-west to the head of a tributary of the Parsnip is bounded by Captain Creek to the north and the main valley to the south emptying into the McGregor, 4 miles west of the forks.

The south fork of the McGregor viewed from a high peak south of the second canyon appears to be well timbered to the low divide over to the head of the north fork of the Torpy. I was enabled to make a trip up the Herrick above (Bad River) or James Creek to a point opposite Moose Pass Creek, east of this point and viewed from a mountain peak, the valley although not regular in width is heavily timbered in spruce - balsam. A reconnaissance of which was made in 1915 by Mr. G.V. Sorey (ref. file 214).

ESTIMATE OF TIMBER.

The following estimate of vacant Crown timber covers the lower reaches of the McGregor.

ESTIMATE IN THOUSAND BOARD FEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Volume average</th>
<th>Spruce</th>
<th>Balsam</th>
<th>Fir</th>
<th>Total Vol. in M.Bd.Ft.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seebach Creek</td>
<td>12,800</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>89,600</td>
<td>56448</td>
<td>8960</td>
<td>155,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodall Creek</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>118,800</td>
<td>55440</td>
<td></td>
<td>174,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Creek</td>
<td>13,440</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>96760</td>
<td>45159</td>
<td></td>
<td>141,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Creek</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>9216</td>
<td>4301</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Creek</td>
<td>7,680</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>53296</td>
<td>25806</td>
<td></td>
<td>79,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;10 Mile&quot; Creek</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>54,600</td>
<td>25480</td>
<td></td>
<td>80,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herrick River</td>
<td>5,120</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>30,720</td>
<td>14336</td>
<td></td>
<td>45,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Flats</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>66,220</td>
<td>452,992</td>
<td>226970</td>
<td>8960</td>
<td>703,322</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total acreage 66,220  Total volume in M bd. ft. 703,322
NOTE: Balsam stand in the above estimate has been subject to a 30% cull.
FACTORS INFLUENCING LOGGING OF AREA.

Topographically no great obstructions occur that will hamper logging. Even mountain slopes and a level and unbroken valley floor offer good locations for the erection and locating of chutes and tote roads.

Main difficulty to overcome will be in Seebach and Woodall Creek areas where inland sloughs and muskegs are found, but with care and some expense roads can be located through timbered stands. McGregor can be driven during two and a half months high water season, June till middle of August when water is fast and deep. Two box canyons (mile 16 to 21) main river and mile 33 to 38 on south fork will offer obstruction to river drive but with logs running free and allowed to run through in relays, canyons can be driven. Main obstructions will be islands located on river from mile 7 to mile 15, where river is broken into two main channels, which will both carry logs, sheerbooms would have to be erected in many places along this stretch of river. Log jams at miles 10, 12 and 13 will have to be cleared. River channel is deep and well defined along lower reaches. No falls occur on area reported upon but there is reported to be a canyon and 60 feet falls on the Herrick 40 miles from the forks.

Seebach and Otter and Captain Creeks can be driven during high water. Woodall and 10 Mile Creeks are too small and crooked to carry logs. James Creek has too many falls
and rapids to run logs, the valley being steep to the Creek. Timber on James Creek will if expense for construction warrants have to be flumed.

Depth of snow during winter will not hamper felling and bucking. Roads being located and swamped during the summer months logs can be sleigh hauled out to river bank, decked, and held till high water.

FACTORS INFLUENCING CRUISING OF AREA.

During high water, June till middle of August, the McGregor River although not unnavigable but being too swift affords poor transportation. The country immediately adjoining the stream to the north and south from its point of outlet to (mile 24) and running back to low foothills to the north is heavy with muskeg swamps and inland sloughs could be to best advantage cruised during winter months. January 15 to April 15, Otter, Captain, James and "10 Mile" Creeks could be cruised during low water season. September to November 1st, when river offers good canoe transportation, Seebach, Woodall, Otter and James Creeks will have to be traversed. A traverse will also have to be run (around the canyon) along north bank of south fork between mile 32 and mile 38 to take in the timber tributary to 10 Mile Creek.

CRUISING OF AREAS.

Supplies can be purchased in Prince George or at Lorne Lyles' trading store, Aleza Lake, which is the outfitting place for trappers on the McGregor. Supplies could
either be taken in by canoe, during low water season and cached or by dog team a week prior to the party entering field, teams taking the same route as canoe via Hudson Bay Spur and the Fraser to the outlet of the McGregor. A good locality for main grub cache would be adjoining Ole Hansen's cabin on Seebach Creek. With two main camps being made at Seebach Creek and mile 15 (below first canyon).

Seebach Creek and the timber along the main river can be cruised. A side trip will have to be made to head of Woodall Creek, good going into timber will be had -- following creeks course. Otter Creek could be cruised from a good camp site located 4 miles up stream from Creeks outlet. Canoes can be lined up James Creek during low water and timber cruised from fly camp located five miles up stream from creek's outlet.

CabinS ARE TO BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>STATE OF REPAIR</th>
<th>OWNERS NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Half Moon Lake</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seebach Creek</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Ole Hansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mile 15</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mile 18 (in canyon)</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Dayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mile 24</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Dayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Creek</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Cariboo John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Lake</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Cariboo John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mile 33</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Dayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Creek</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fred Beveg.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cabins are generally in use by owners -- who have trap lines on river. J. Dayton and Ole Hansen (residing on the
river) and owning several large canoes are good canoeemen--
knowing the waters of the McGregor well. I should suggest
field party being issued with celluloid cruising and mapping
sheets during fall and winter work. Due to scarcity of dry
fire wood, reflector tents should not be used, eight ounce
canvas wall tents with small round heaters are best.

At Dayton's cabin (mile 33) a grub cache has been
established with supplies left over by traverse party a
list of which has been turned in to District Forester,
Prince George. Owing to poor visibility during our term
on the river few photos of the timbered areas are worth
producing.

The field party working at a later date should be
able to obtain better results.

A.E. COLLINS,
Crusier.
McGregor River

Showing timbered area located on lower reaches.

Scale
1 half inch = 1 mile.

Legend:
- Vacant Crown Timber
- Licenses Reversed
- Licenses in Good Standing
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Muskies
- Cabins
- Contours

Note: Contours shown on map do not represent exact boundary of land.