Yukon Placer Fish Habitat Suitability Map - Fortymile River Watershed (Category B)

Previous Development Designation

In this fish habitat classification system, the suitability of fish habitat is determined by considering watercourse gradient, the priority of streams to the routes used by Chilkat eelgrass for spawning and migration, and water quality. A stream's habitat suitability is determined by its current physical characteristics, the presence or absence of plant communities, and the type of fish species that are present or potentially present in the reach. The potential presence of fish species in the reach is determined by habitat conditions that may have been affected by human activity, but the predicted habitat features and conditions may not be present in streams already affected by placer mining.

For this reason, the Fish Habitat Management System for Yukon Placer Mining includes a "Previous Development" designation. It will adjust the classification of streams that are currently mined, or were mined in the past.

On this map a grey, black or mauve buffer surrounding a stream represents reaches that have been affected by placer mining. A grey buffer indicates current activity, a black buffer shows where placer mining occurred in the past, and a mauve buffer describes extensive development. The coloured line immediately within a buffer depicts the habitat suitability that would be predicted if mining had never occurred on the stream. The coloured line in the very centre reveals the habitat suitability ranking that will be assigned to the reach, taking the Previous Development designation into account.

It should be noted that while the Previous Development designation applies to placer mining activity on streams that may not have been properly restored, all future restoration work must achieve the standard required for the predicted (or higher) habitat suitability classification.

Areas of Special Consideration

Areas within watercourses that contain ecologically or culturally important features or aquatic resources or provide significant, critical or exceptional habitat. Areas that have been designated as "Areas of Special Consideration" are known to contain significant species and/or areas which directly support subsistence, traditional, commercial or sport fisheries.

Areas of Special Consideration may be established for anadromous or non-anadromous species of fish. At a minimum, Areas of Special Consideration include spawning areas and migration routes for chinook, coho or sockeye salmon, as well as spawning areas for rainbow trout, bull trout and Dolly Varden.

Areas of Special Consideration - Cultural

These areas are determined by considering watercourse gradient, the priority of streams to the routes used by Chilkat eelgrass for spawning and migration, and water quality. A stream's habitat suitability is determined by its current physical characteristics, the presence or absence of plant communities, and the type of fish species that are present or potentially present in the reach. The potential presence of fish species in the reach is determined by habitat conditions that may have been affected by human activity, but the predicted habitat features and conditions may not be present in streams already affected by placer mining.

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Areas of Special Consideration - Ecological

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Areas of Special Consideration - Water Quality

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Reach Model Classification, Reach Score

- Water Quality
  - Low Suitability
  - Moderate-Low Suitability
  - Moderate-Moderate Suitability
  - Moderate-High Suitability
  - High Suitability
- Development
  - Current
  - Historical
  - Extensive

Areas of Special Consideration - Cultural

- Previous Development
- Predicted habitat suitability and restoration standard

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