

WATER QUALITY AND FISHERY HABITAT CONDITION SURVEY
BLACK BEAR CREEK and BLACK CREEK

by

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Black Bear Creek is located north of Klawock, on the west side of Prince of Wales Island. Most of the Forest service ownership within this watershed was transferred to native interests under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The remaining Forest service land is confined to the headwaters of the watershed.

The only studies of this watershed, were done in the early 80's for the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC), for the EIS and feasibility report relating to a proposed hydroelectric facility. It was proposed, that Bear Lake be regulated, and a penstock be constructed from the lake outlet to a power plant below. A stream gaging station was installed at the outlet of the lake by the U.S.G.S. in 1980 (period of record 1980 to present).

The area adjacent to Black Bear Creek, on private lands, has had extensive timber harvest in recent years. Habitat restoration work was conducted on Forest Service lands during 1990 to remove a logjam that was a major barrier to pink and chum salmon. Upper Black Bear lake receives considerable recreation use at the Forest Service recreation cabin located on the east end of the lake.

Black Creek is a tributary to Black Bear Creek. The upper fourth of the watershed is in Forest service ownership. None of the Forest Service lands in either drainage have been logged, nor are they likely to be logged in the future. The Forest Service holdings are pristine and water quality and fisheries habitat are unimpaired.

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