

SOUTH FORK SKYKOMISH Skykomish Area

This section includes the 8 miles of mainstem South Fork Skykomish River from the mouth of Money Creek upstream to the mouth of the Foss River. The Stevens Pass U.S. Highway 2 and Burlington Northern Railroad parallel this stretch of river. Within this reach is the junction for several important tributaries, including Money Creek, Miller River, Beckler River, and the confluence of the Tye River and Foss River. Miller River is discussed in Snohomish 2401 and the Beckler River is continued in Snohomish 2501. Only three unnamed tributaries are discussed here, namely Money Creek, Maloney Creek, and Anthracite Creek, which total 36.6 stream miles.

Stream Description

The South Fork Skykomish in this section flows through a confined valley floor with high mountain ranges of moderate to moderately steep slopes on both the north and south. Baring Mountain and Beckler Peak comprise the northern mountain slope while Lennox Mountain, Cascade Mountain, and Maloney Ridge form the southern range. The valley floor averages approximately 0.5 mile in width through this section. The mainstem river here courses through well-defined channels with heavy rubble and large rocks and gravel along the shoreline banks. One large channel split in the vicinity of Grotto forms a rock island approximately 0.5 mile in length and covered with deciduous growth. River gradients descend gradually at less than 20 feet per mile. The river here contains considerable gravel substrate and excellent pool-riffle balance. Natural cover and shade are profuse along the shoreline. Clay banks along the northern shore above R.M. 67.0 slough off and erode during high water periods.

Land use is forestry and recreation with forest service campgrounds along the river. The town of Skykomish is the only community with some rural residences. The mountain ranges in this section lie principally within the Snoqualmie National Forest although private forest lands have been heavily logged and clear-cut particularly around Beckler Peak. The headwaters of the tributary streams all lie within the Snoqualmie National Forest.

Money Creek is the largest of the tributaries, totaling 28.3 miles in length. It originates from the Crystal Lake area in Goat Basin near the 3,400-foot elevation. The lower 2 miles are of moderate gradient while many rapids and cascades are formed above the forks of Kimble Creek. The lower 3 miles of stream have excellent gravel composition as well as long riffles and glides interspersed with pools. Considerable sand and fine material covers the lower 0.25 mile of Money Creek and a large island of gravel and sand is formed in the main river at R.M. 61.45 at the mouth of Money Creek. The stream contains heavy natural cover throughout its length.

Maloney Creek originates from Maloney Lakes, a series of three small lakes, on Maloney Mountain at the 4,400-foot elevation. This creek is only 3 miles in length and enters the Skykomish River at the town of Skykomish. The stream contains good gravel in the lower 0.25 mile and is a pristine tumbling mountain stream above. Anthracite Creek is

formed in the Maloney Ridge area at about the 3,200-foot elevation and flows northerly to its confluence with the South Fork at R.M. 65.2. Cascade sections above the Stevens Pass Highway provide a total block. The creek is also pristine and steep above this point. The lower 0.25 mile flows through Cass Pond, which was created for trout rearing and juvenile fishing.

Salmon Utilization

The mainstem South Fork provides transportation, spawning, and rearing for chinook, coho, and some pink. The entire 8-mile stretch within this section is heavily utilized by these species. Only the lower 4 miles of Money Creek are accessible and chinook, coho, and some pink utilize this area. A steep cascade section forms a block approximately 0.5 mile upstream on Maloney Creek. Coho and a few pink salmon spawn in this stretch. Only coho are known to ascend into Anthracite Creek, and utilize the lower 0.25 mile below the falls.

Limiting Factors

High river flows from precipitation and snow melt have deposited silt and fine sands in some sections of the mainstem. Logging activities in the upper Beckler Mountains have also contributed to this condition. Small sections of earth slide and clay bank sloughing occurs above the confluence of the Beckler River. The steep gradients in the tributary streams curtail the available salmon habitat.

Beneficial Developments

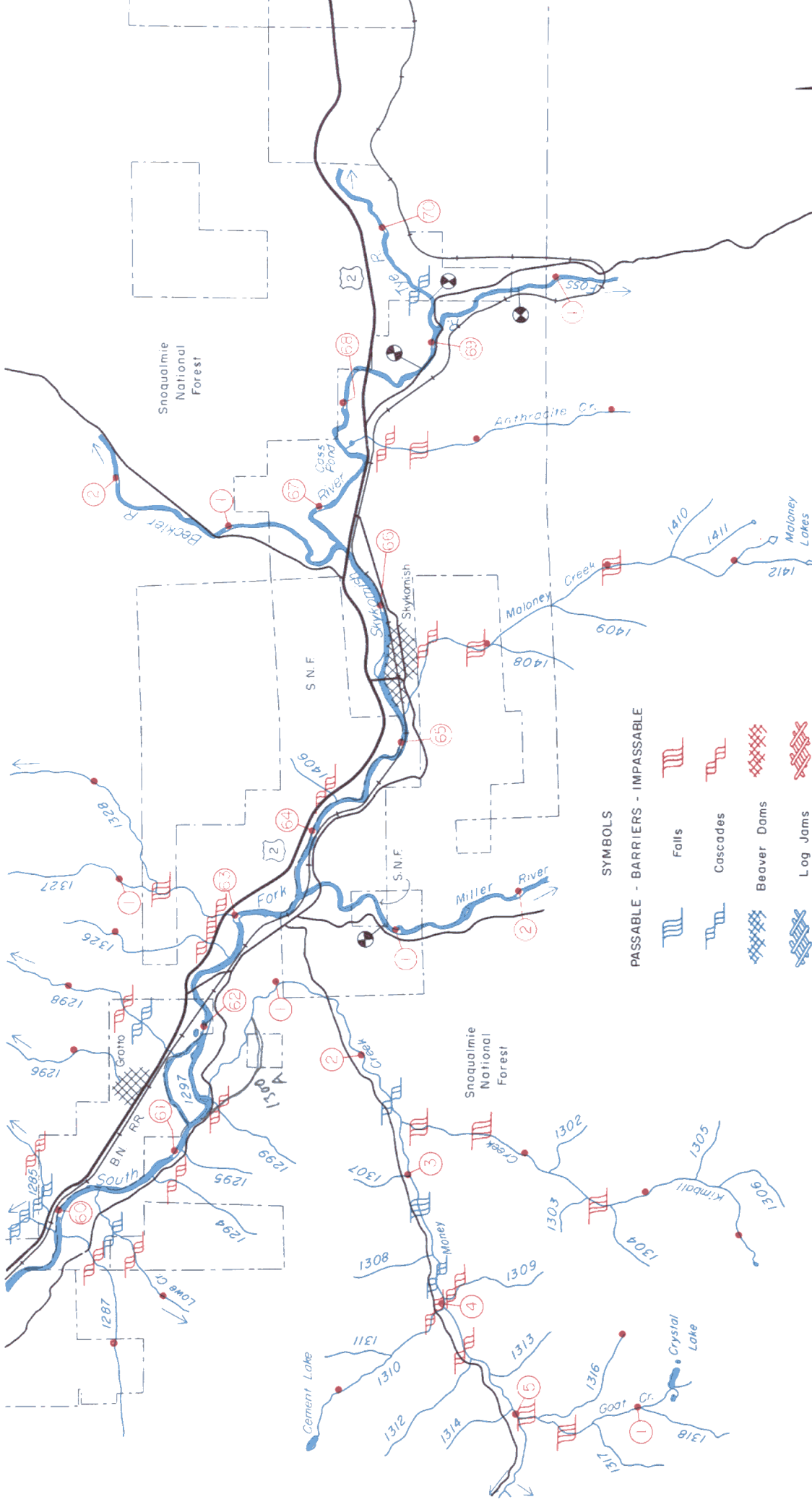
Salmon utilizing this river section have benefitted from the truck and haul operation at Sunset Falls.

Habitat Needs

The major requirement to maintain salmon production in this section is to preserve existing stream bank cover and the natural stream habitat. Reforestation of the clear-cut logged areas on the upper watersheds should be implemented to eliminate the flash flood runoff.



PHOTO 07-31. A good chinook spawning riffle.

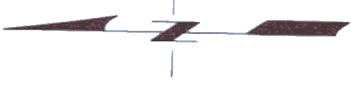


SOUTH FORK SKYKOMISH Area



SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

SYMBOLS	
PASSABLE - BARRIERS - IMPASSABLE	
	Falls
	Cascades
	Beaver Dams
	Log Jams
	Dams
	Salmon Hatchery
	Fish Passage Facility
	Stream Gage
	Stream Mile
	Reference Point



SOUTH FORK SKYKOMISH — SKYKOMISH AREA
Snohomish River Basin — WRIA 07

Stream Number	Stream Name	Location Of Mouth	Length	Drainage Area	Salmon Use
0012	Snohomish River				
	Snohomish R. cont. as Skykomish R.	@ mi. 20.51	—	—	
	Skykomish R. cont. as S.Fk. Skykomish R.	@ mi. 49.61	—	—	
1300	Money Creek	LB-61.45	7.7	—	Chin.,Coho,(Pink)
1301	Kimball Creek	RB-2.6	3.2	—	(Chin.), (Coho)
	Unnamed Lake	Outlet-3.2	—	—	
1310	Unnamed	LB-4.0	1.4	—	None
	Cement Lake	Outlet-1.4	—	—	
1315	Goat Creek	RB-5.0	1.4	—	None
1316	Unnamed	RB-0.15	1.0	—	None
	Crystal Lake	Outlet-1.25	—	—	
	Unnamed Lake	Outlet-1.4	—	—	
1322	Unnamed	LB-6.1	1.1	—	None
1323	Unnamed	LB-6.2	1.2	—	None
	Lake Elizabeth	Outlet-7.1	—	—	
1326	Unnamed	RB-62.7	1.4	—	(Coho)
1327	Unnamed	RB-63.0	1.9	—	Unknown
1328	Unnamed	LB-0.7	1.8	—	None
1329	Miller River	LB-63.5	15.9	46.0	Chin.,Coho,(Pink)
	(See Snohomish 2403)				
1407	Maloney Creek	LB-65.2	3.3	—	Coho, (Pink)
	Maloney Lake	Outlet-3.3	—	—	
1413	Beckler River	RB-66.6	13.2	101.0	Chin.,Coho,(Pink)
	(See Snohomish 2503)				
1561	Anthracite Creek	LB-67.6	2.1	—	(Coho), (Pink)
1562	Foss River	LB-69.1	12.3	55.4	Chin.,Coho,(Pink)
	(See Snohomish 2603)				
	S. Fk. Skykomish R. cont. as Tye R.	@ mi. 69.11	—	—	
	(Cont. Snohomish 2703)				

