Waterbody Use and Observation Questionnaire
Return mailing:
Attn: ANILCA PROGRAM
Access/Navigable Waters Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518

Date: May 2 2003

Full Name of Interviewee: John Thomas

Signature of Interviewee:

Telephone interview with Bob Stephenson, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

Current Address:
General Delivery
Fort Yukon, Alaska
99740

Phone Number: 907-662-2441

Waterbody Name: Black River
U.S.G.S quadrangle map name, if known:

PLEASE ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAPER OR INFORMATION TO BEST DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCES

A. Please describe the waterbody. Please be as specific as possible and include widths, depths, gradients, obstructions (artificial and natural), and seasonal water flows, i.e., lower dry periods, flood periods, and freeze up periods.

1) Black River above Salmon Fork - Myself and others occassionally traveled as far upstream as the mouth of Wood River with 20-30 foot boats. Inboard and outboard powered

2) Grayling Fork of Black River. Myself and others regularly traveled with 20-30 foot boats to the mouth of Bull River, where Paul Henry's trapping cabin still exists. These cabins were built where they could be reached by boat on a regular basis

3) Bull Creek - Tributary of Grayling Fork
I am not aware of much boat travel up this river any distance. There was no reason to travel by boat further than the mouth.

I have also traveled 6 miles above Bull Riv on Grayling Fork with a 20 foot boat/40 HP O.B.

B. Have you ever used the waterbody? Yes - All 3

1) How long have you been using the waterbody, and how often? Include months and years. From 1930's to present

2) What sections of the waterbody are you most familiar with? Attach a map if necessary. Grayling Fork to Confluence with Bull River and Black River upstream to Wood River

3) What types of activities have you conducted on the waterbody? Example fishing, hunting, boating, transportation, and guiding.

Hunting, Fishing, Transportation for trapping.

C. How do you access the waterbody? - 25-foot inboard in early days - 20-foot riverboat with 40 Hp outboard presently

1) Where do you actually enter the waterbody? Fort Yukon

2) Where do you travel to? - As far as Bull River

3) Where do you take out at? List names of roads, trails, etc.- Fort Yukon

3) Are there more access points that you are familiar with but have not used? -

4) If there are obstructions, is it possible to portage? Yes, but not neccessary at most times of year

D. What type of craft do you use when you are on the waterbody?. Flat bottom Aluminum Riverboat

1) What is the size of the craft used? 20'

2) What is the weight of the craft?

Less than 100 lbs 100-400 lbs (400-800) 800-1000+ lbs.

3) What is the estimated weight of the gear and people transported?

Less than 100 lbs. 100-400 lbs 400-800 (800-1000+ lbs)

4) What type of propulsion is used on the craft? Outboard motor - 40 HP

5) What is the largest size craft you have seen on this waterbody? Based on your experience, what is the largest craft this waterbody could support? - 25 to 30 foot wooden "launch" used in early days. Powered by inboard motor.

E. Have you observed other people on the waterbody? In what types of crafts? What activities? Yes - Today many use aluminum boats up to 30 feet

1) Do you know of anyone who is paid to take people out in a boat on the waterbody as a guide? No

2) Do you know of anyone that has used this waterbody but not actually seen them on the waterbody? Not really, but I have not seen everyone who goes on the river.

F. Please list any other contacts that would provide first hand accounts of use on this waterbody.

Fred Thomas
Box 31
Fort Yukon, Ak 99740
907-662-2343

Rev. David Salmon
Box 54
Chalkyitsik, Ak.
99788
907-848-8228