

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Habitat Section
Southeast Region



186-15-10400

CORRECTION

Water body name: Watson Creek

Survey date: 8/21/2024

Quad: Icy Bay D2, D3

Species & Lifestage: COP

Upper Reach Latitude: 59.990477 **Longitude:** -141.587757

Survey crew: NJ, CD, DK, FC

Lower Reach Latitude: 59.962995 **Longitude:** -141.629286

Findings: We surveyed this cataloged stream up to an anadromous fish barrier using a backpack electrofisher, baited minnow traps, and GPS and found that the stream path is incorrectly mapped. We captured juvenile coho salmon and Dolly Varden. Watson Creek is highly mobile, especially at higher gradients when it runs through the forest. The stream path to the south was verified by flying the drone. We documented a waterfall acting as a fish barrier at waypoint 1104 (Table 1; Figures 1–3).

Recommendations: Correct Stream No. 186-15-10400 in the anadromous waters catalog to reflect the field verified stream path, add rearing coho salmon to species, and add anadromous fish barrier (Figure 4).

Nomination: Pending

Table 1.–186-15-10400 survey data.

Waypoint	Latitude	Longitude	Notes	Stream Width ft	Stream Substrate	Habitat Features	Gradient %	Sample Effort	Sample Results
664	59.985228	-141.591008	Dry channel.						
1098	59.989273	-141.588485	At confluence with Watson Creek. Watson Creek river left and the distributary river right. Coho caught at the split.		Cobble		6-8	EF	2 CO
1104	59.990480	-141.587780	Definite fish barrier. Several large bedrock waterfalls, 6-12 ft in height and cascading.						
1135	59.985192	-141.591033	Water in channel that was dry earlier in the season. Set minnow traps for 2 hrs upstream of log stringer bridge in river-right tributary and downstream bridge in river-left main channel (confluence about 40 ft downstream of bridge; main may be route correction of Watson).	20-25	Large Gravel Sand		2-4	MT	2 CO 2 DV



Figure 1.–Coho salmon caught at waypoint 1098.



Figure 2.—Looking downstream at waypoint 1098.



Figure 3.—Stream going under bridge at waypoint 1135, looking downstream.

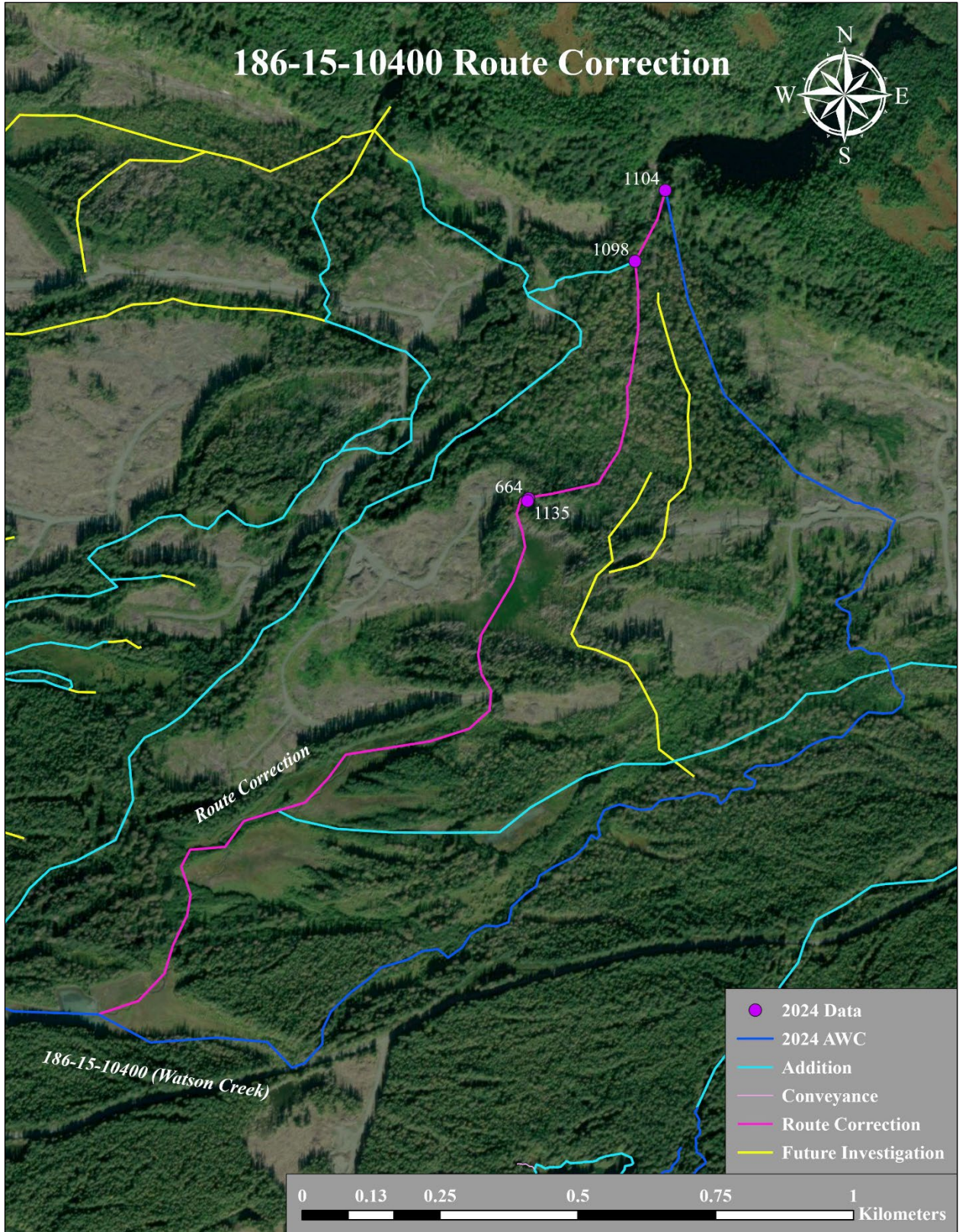


Figure 4.—186-15-10400 route correction map.