

Merritt BCTS – Copper Creek Operating Area TA0729 Blocks CO9KU and KV stream assessments September 2020

BCTS is planning cutblocks and roads in association with 2 Copper Creek tributaries. The streams are WSC 310-367800-78300-25500 (east tributary) and -26700 (west tributary). There is no existing information for these streams; Copper Creek is a known fish-bearing stream (RB) and tailed frog is known to occur in some Copper Creek tributaries. The streams were assessed on September 24 2020 by Karen Grainger RPBio and Campbell Burwash (BCTS).



In summary, neither of these streams have fish potential, neither were found to have tailed frog and no mountain beaver sign was noted. Both streams are very steep with no gravels (angular rock and fines) or suitable pools or cover for fish. The east stream is discontinuous with NCD and S6 sections throughout the block. The west stream has more flow and is a continuous S6 stream.

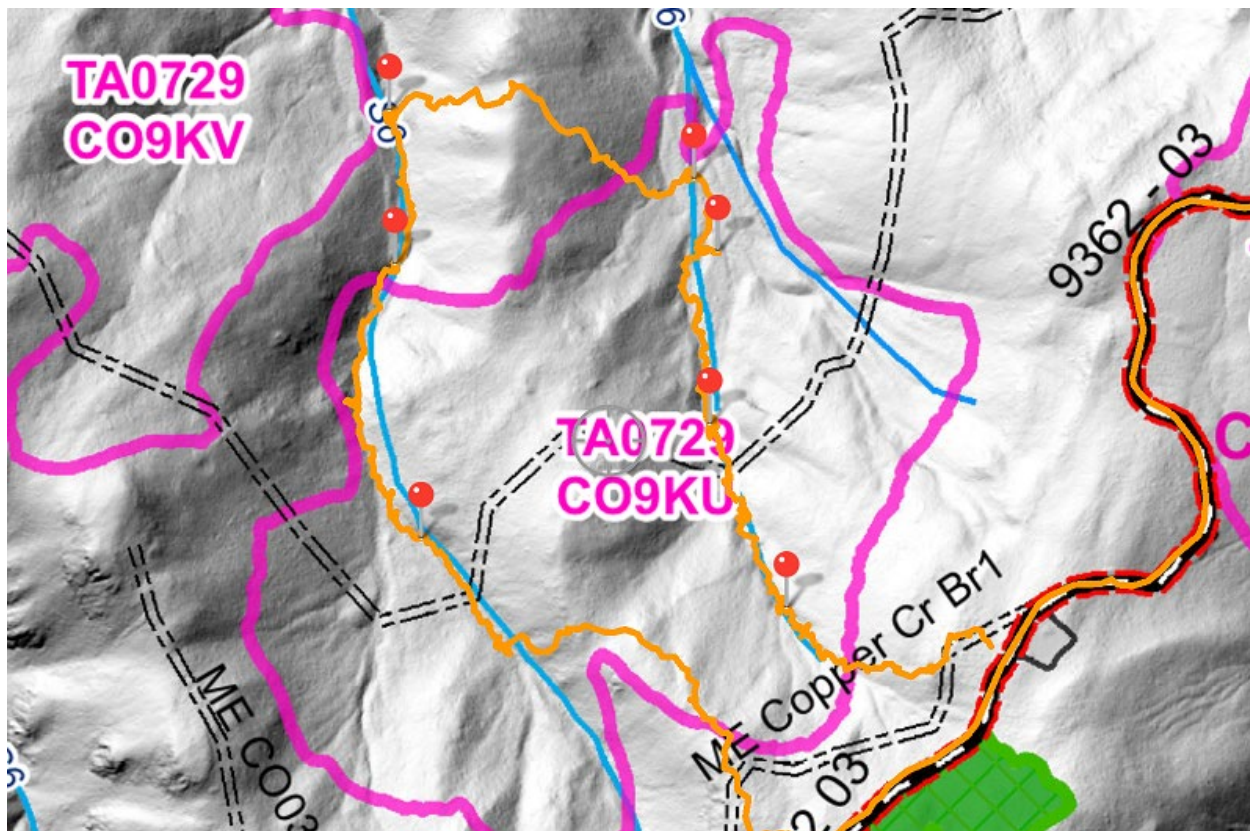


Figure 1. The east stream is discontinuous NCD/S6 and the west stream is a continuous S6.

Findings:

1. **Copper Creek east tributary WSC 310-367800-78300-25500:** There are dry sections of channel and discontinuous channel banks throughout block KU.

Conclusion: this stream is not fish-bearing and is not tailed frog habitat.



Photo 1. At a proposed crossing, very steep small channel.



Photo 2. At the bottom boundary of block KU, the channel is still discontinuous.

2. **Copper Creek west tributary WSC 310-367800-78300-26700:** This stream is steep but has a continuous channel and likely perennial flows. The substrate is not suitable for tailed frog (angular rock and fines). There is no potential fish habitat as there are no large pools or spawning gravels and poor cover for rearing. There are steep sections and drops with no plunge pools.

Conclusion: this stream is not fish-bearing and is not tailed frog habitat.



Photo 3. Along KV boundary, no fish potential and no tailed frog found.



Photo 4. At north KU boundary, low flows, steep, angular substrate.



Photo 5. Within block KU, steep, low flows, angular substrate, no fish habitat or tailed frog.