



# Pursuing Connection & Sustainability in the Mat-Su Basin

Amplifying some themes from the 2019 Salmon Science &  
Conservation Symposium

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# **A focus on stewardship**

**What does it mean to be a steward?**

# **We are all stewards**

**We are in this together**

# **A focus on connection**

**What does it mean to be connected?**

An aerial photograph of a wide river valley. The river is a light brown color, winding through a lush green valley. In the background, there are blue mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow, serif font.

**What does it mean to be a steward?**

**Where is our focus?**

**Shifting from management to stewardship**

**manipulation**

**sustainability**

**authority**

**responsibility**

**exploitation**

**protection**

**take**

**receive**

**today**

**future**

**self**

**community**

An aerial photograph of a wide river valley. The river flows from the top center towards the bottom left. The valley floor is a mix of green forest and brownish-red soil. In the background, there are blue mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# What does it mean to be a steward?

Where is our focus? What do we value?

- A different approach to defining problems and seeking answers.
- Focusing on connections; on systems and processes; on healing and wholeness.
- Valuing ecosystem (and community) health, resiliency, and sustainability. What is created and real versus manufactured and artificial.



We are all stewards

We are in this together

“In every chair a leader.” We all have work we can do. We must take responsibility for our own conscious choices.

We must acknowledge that actions have consequences.

1949: DOI Little Susitna hydropower evaluation. *“It was reported that all fish life in the stream had been killed in years past by mine waste, possibly cyanide from concentrating processes. The mines have not been operating since before the war and small native trout are now plentiful....Salmon do not run in this stream.”*

A landscape photograph of a river with a car wreck on the bank. The car is crushed and partially submerged in the water. The background shows a forest of bare trees and a hillside under a cloudy sky.


# We are all stewards

## We are in this together

- We can't go around, we must go through.
- We must engage more deeply.
- We can achieve more collectively. Community and equity and inclusion are essential elements.
- We must honor individual agency: “deep listening;” “I see you;” I value you.”

# Recognizing Connections

What does it mean to be connected?

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- We must connect more deeply to each other and to the earth.
  - Recognize that we need each other and the land. Practice reciprocal support.
  - Act with respect, humility and gratitude.
  - Connection is a path to wisdom and energy for the journey. We are all part of the larger whole.



Thank you for attending.

Go and do good.

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