**Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership**

**Introduction and Site Visit for**

**Margaret Everson, Principal Deputy Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Exercising the Authority of the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**June 18, 2019**

**Location:** Mat-Su Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Ave, Palmer, AK

**Purpose:** To meet in-person with Margaret Everson, the Partnership and member groups to introduce and highlight the work of the Partnership, and how its use of science, and collaborative approach has produced on-the-ground results.

**1:00 PM Margaret Everson departs USFWS Regional Office and travels to Mat-Su Borough office in Palmer, AK**

**1:45 PM Meet the Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership – a nationally recognized Fish Habitat Partnership**

*Moderator: Jessica Speed (Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy)*

* Welcome from the Mat-Su Borough, Vern Halter (Mayor, Mat-Su Borough) (5 minutes)
* Partner Introductions (10 minutes)
* Fish Passage Video (5 minutes)
* Overview of the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership (5 minutes)
* Partner Perspectives (35 minutes)

*Moderator: Christy Cincotta (Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Steering Committee Member, Tyonek Tribal Conservation District)*

A roundtable discussion on the value of Mat-Su salmon, their habitat and the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership.

* Takeaways and Looking Ahead: The Future of the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership (5 minutes)

*Moderator: Ted Eischeid (Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Steering Committee Member, Mat-Su Borough)*

**3 PM** **Break: Wild and local food snack**

**3:15 PM** **Depart for site visit**

**3:45 PM  Site Visit: Spotlight on Cottonwood Creek at Riverdell Drive**

* Fish Science: Increasing our knowledge of salmon habitat use – today and into the future, *Dan Rinella (USFWS)*
* Fish Passage: Using Science to inform strategic restoration, and ensure connectivity for fish – juveniles and adults, *Gillian O’Doherty(Alaska Department of Fish and Game), Alex Senta (Mat-Su Borough), Heather Hanson (US Fish and Wildlife Service)*
* Habitat Conservation: Using partner science to inform strategic conservation of intact habitat. *Amanda Hults (Great Land Trust)*

**4:45 PM Depart for Anchorage/Regional Office**

**5:45 PM** **Arrive Anchorage**

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