



*Farmland Conservation:  
Interactions to Improve Salmon  
Habitat*

# Alaska Farmland Trust

Envisions a future with thriving local food markets that will give Alaskans access to fresh, healthy food, and keep our farmers farming



FARMS. FOOD. FUTURE.

I SAVE FARMERS

WHAT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER?



# WHY WE SHOULD CARE ABOUT INCREASING OUR FOOD PRODUCTION: ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY

One in five Alaskans is considered food insecure.  
Access to affordable, healthy foods is a challenge for  
many.

Thankfully, farms still exist to provide reasonably  
priced, nutritious and fresh vegetables.



Farms in the Mat Su Borough are responsible for over  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the States agricultural production.

The MSB has  $\sim 16\%$  of the State's population and yet in 2020 we built  $43\%$  of the new homes in the State

# What is a Conservation Easement?

A **conservation easement** is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that *permanently* limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values.

Landowners retain many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it and pass it on to their heirs.

# What is an AGRICULTURAL Conservation Easement?

A voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that *permanently* limits uses of the land in order to protect its agricultural values and requires continued agricultural use of the property.

Landowners retain many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it and pass it on to their heirs.

# Protecting Agriculture improves salmon habitat





## 381 ACRES of Mat-Su Farmland Permanently Protected

- Closing on ~90 acres in early 2023,
  - Currently working on 2 properties on the Spring System, one which borders the Matanuska River
  - Initial phases of a property in Soldotna, with a salmon stream that runs through the fields
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- Provide facilitation for the UAF Experimental farm gravel extraction project

# Questions?

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