



Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Winter 2012/2013

*The Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership is a broad-based, cooperative effort to better steward our salmon resources while maintaining economic prosperity.
Our vision – thriving fish, healthy habitats, and vital communities in the Mat-Su Basin.*

Win-win Project for ATV/ORV Users, Fish, and Anglers:

The Little Susitna River supports one of the state's largest sport fisheries for coho salmon. Their nursery? Look to the tributaries! One such tributary, Swiftwater Creek, contains valuable spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon.



With funding support from the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership, the Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District (WSWCD) is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to learn what experiences ATV/ORV users value and how to cooperatively improve stream-side trail systems to accommodate user preferences and maximize quality salmon rearing habitat.



Over 60 users were surveyed on the Swiftwater Creek trail in 2012. A user workshop about fish-friendly trail options was held, and the first phase of a streambank restoration project is scheduled for 2013 pending landowner approval.

For updates or more information about this project, contact WSWCD distmgr@wasillaswcd.org. Read the [full article](#) on our new website.

Reflecting on the Past, Looking to the Future

The Mat-Su Salmon Partnership is in the process of updating its strategic action plan. This critical document outlines threats to salmon and strategies to minimize and eliminate those threats to keep wild abundant salmon in the Mat-Su.

If you have input, or you'd like to be involved in updating the Strategic Action Plan, contact Corinne Smith at corinne_smith@tnc.org. Learn more about the plan update on our website at www.matsusalmon.org.



Visit our NEW Partnership Website!

Find information about the Partnership, projects, resource documents, publications, announcements, blog space and more at:

www.matsusalmon.org



Special thanks to Michael Miller of Out of a Jam Solutions & Katrina Mueller of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service!

WANTED:

~for new website~

Great photos, and project stories with photos.

We'll credit you and your organization.

Contact: matsusalmon@tnc.org

National Fish Happenings

In January, members of the Mat-Su and 3 other Alaska fish partnerships attended a Fish Habitat Excellence workshop in Portland, OR. This event was sponsored by the National Fish Habitat Partnership and was designed to help local organizations achieve organizational resilience and success.

www.fishhabitat.org

Fish Habitat Restoration & Trail Maintenance

Chickaloon Native Village teamed up with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Mat-Su Trails Council, the Mat-Su Borough, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to rehabilitate an ATV trail that had eroded the banks of McRoberts Creek and caused half of the flow of the creek to divert down the ATV trail.



Chickaloon Native Village, Mat-Su Trails Council, and the State Department of Forestry's Intern Crew (with direction from USFWS and ADF&G), directed most of the flow back into the original stream corridor. They also re-established the old ATV trail onto higher ground and out of the new wetlands that were created because of the stream diversion. As evidence of solid design, even the floods of 2012 did not notably impact this work!

For more information about this project contact Brian Winnestaffer at brian@chickaloon.org. Read the [full length article here](#).

National Award Received at 2012 Salmon Symposium

The 2012 Mat-Su Salmon Science and Conservation Symposium was a great success. Over 120 participants representing dozens of private, non-profit, governmental, and tribal entities met in Wasilla November 7-8 for the 5th annual symposium. Keynote speaker Dr. Bob Lackey from Oregon State University kicked off this year's event with lessons learned from the Pacific Northwest. Over 20 researchers shared their work through presentations covering a range of topics including planning and economic valuation, to salmon distribution and habitat use. Valuable input for updating the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership's strategic plan was also gained from the diverse partner organizations and participants in attendance.

This year's event was particularly special because Corinne Smith, Mat-Su Basin Program Director for The Nature Conservancy, received national recognition for her contribution to aquatic resource conservation. Corinne was awarded the National Fish Habitat Partnership 2012 Scientific Achievement Award.

Read the [full article](#), and find 2012 presentations, booklet, and keynote address on [our new website](#).

Announcements

- Jeff Davis of Aquatic Restoration & Research Institute (ARRI) is serving a second term on the Partnership Steering Committee, where he continues to lend solid science support and commitment to the Partnership. Located in Talkeetna, ARRI provides applied stream and lake research and restoration services. The 9 person Steering Committee is made up of member organizations with 2 at-large seats opening in January 2014. Seats will be announced in November 2013.
- The Mat-Su Salmon Partnership and member organizations received a 2012 Coastal America Partnership Award, recognizing a coordinated effort for salmon conservation. Find a full announcement [on our blog](#).
- Did you know the Mat-Su Borough has an online wetlands viewer? Check it out at: www.matsugov.us



Got Ideas? Contact the Steering Committee:

Jeff Davis, *ARRI*
Jessica Winnestaffer, *Chickaloon Village*
Laura Allen, *Upper Susitna SWCD*

Frankie Barker, *Mat-Su Borough*
Eric Rothwell, *NOAA Fisheries*
Bill Rice, *US Fish & Wildlife Service*

Sue Rodman, *AKDF&G*
Kim Sollien, *GLT*
Corinne Smith, *TNC*