

## Project Endorsement

The Steering Committee identified three scenarios under which the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership would conceivably provide advice or make recommendations on projects: (1) allocation of funding made available through NFHAP; (2) periodic reviews of ongoing projects, and (3) other funding opportunities, e.g. State Wildlife Grant. This section explains the Partnership's role under the third scenario.

The Steering Committee will review proposed projects within or affecting the Mat-Su Basin. Proposed projects may be submitted by any Partner organization. The Steering Committee will consider approving submitted projects and decide whether or not to approve the project on its merits. The Steering Committee will not endorse specific grant proposals. However, following Steering Committee approval, projects may be submitted for funding under any program(s). This allows the approved project to be submitted, if an agency chooses, as part of a proposal(s) for consideration by any number of grant agencies and allows time for the Steering Committee to review requests. In this manner, the Steering Committee envisions serving as a clearinghouse for potential project and grant opportunities.

The Steering Committee will also assist Partner organizations in developing projects. For example, the Steering Committee could direct people or organizations with project ideas, as opposed to fully developed projects, to the next step for development. The next step might be a technical expert, an agency with experience with the type of project idea, or a funding opportunity.

Projects submitted for approval or assistance must comply with the five criteria listed below. If a project submitted fails any one of these criteria, it will not be approved by the Steering Committee. Projects must:

1. directly apply to conservation of or increasing knowledge of fish and/or fish habitat
2. affect the Mat-Su Basin
3. address the goals and strategic actions of the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Strategic Action Plan
4. be consistent with the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan
5. be apolitical in nature

The following information should be submitted for each project:

- Date submitted:
- Project name and location:
- Lead organization and contact information:
- Brief description (not to exceed one page):
- Funding source(s) anticipated and status:

- Potential for Mat-Su Salmon Partnership involvement and how the project helps achieve partnership goals
- Other information deemed important by the proposer:

The Steering Committee will endorse projects by consensus and will try to review projects within three weeks of receiving all of the information listed above. The endorsement will follow the format shown in Attachment 1. The Steering Committee will re-assess this process for project endorsement if it proves too time consuming.

## Attachment 1: Project Endorsement Template Letter

Name of Project Proponent  
Proposing Agency  
Address

Dear :

The Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership formed in 2005 to bring together local communities, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies, and residents to prevent the negative impacts that development could have on salmon habitat. Mat-Su Salmon Partners share a common vision of *thriving fish, healthy habitats, and vital communities in the Mat-Su Basin*. The Mat-Su Salmon Partnership is a collaborative effort. This focus on a bottom-up, locally driven, voluntary and non-regulatory effort was inspired by the approach outlined in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP; [www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org)). The mission of NFHAP is to “protect, restore, and enhance the nation’s fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.”

In 2008 the partnership completed a Strategic Action Plan that outlined goals for protecting and restoring salmon habitat in the Mat-Su Basin. Implementation of the plan and achievement of its goals will happen through efforts of partner organizations, like [Proposing Agency]. This project to [fill in project title or objective] addresses goals of the partnership that are identified in the plan. Specifically, this project will address the plan’s goal to [fill in plan goal or action that was identified in the application]. In addition, this project increases conservation of or knowledge of fish and/or fish habitat in the Mat-Su Basin and is consistent with the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

[add if appropriate “ If funding of this project is being considered as a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, please note that we feel this project is a good fit for achieving the goals of this bill as the work proposed will increase resilience to climate change by XXXXXXXX and will impact underserved communities through XXXXX.” ]

Please consider this letter an endorsement from the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership of [fill in project title}. We look forward to working with you on this project and wish you success in finding funding.

*Steering Committee signature*

**Steering Committee Member Name**

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership