



Strategies of the Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership

*Corinne Smith * Mat-Su Salmon Symposium 2012*

Our vision

*thriving fish, healthy habitats,
and vital communities
in the Mat-Su Basin*



*Together the
Matanuska &
Susitna watersheds
total over 25,000
square miles*



Broad Goals

- **increase knowledge** about Mat-Su salmon and their freshwater and marine habitats
- **protect priority salmon habitats** in the Mat-Su Basin and Upper Cook Inlet
- **mitigate** the impacts of potential threats to salmon and their habitats
- **restore connectivity** between salmon habitats

Conserving Salmon Habitat
in the
Mat-Su Basin



The Strategic Action Plan
of the
Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership
2008

Overarching Science Strategies

- Salmon Distribution & Habitat Use
- Comprehensive Surface & Groundwater Studies
- Comprehensive Baseline & Monitoring of Water Quality



Focal Issues for Mat-Su Salmon

1. Housing and Urban Development
 - *Alteration of shoreline areas*
 - *Filling of wetlands*
 - *Culverts that block fish passage*
 - *Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces*
 - *Septic systems*
2. *Loss of estuary and nearshore habitats due to marine transportation infrastructure*
3. *Loss of instream flow due to ground and surface water withdrawals*
4. *Invasive northern pike*



Progress on Strategies

- Anadromous Waters Catalog
- Protection of Priority Salmon Riparian Habitat
- Conserve Wetlands for Salmon
- Assessing Impacts of Impervious Surfaces
- Fish Passage Restoration

Do we need to update the plan?

YES!

But some things stay the same ~

- Minimizing impacts from development due to population growth
- Development in estuaries
- Invasive northern pike
- Emphasis on science and filling in the gaps about salmon and water quality and quantities

Potential Threats in an Updated Plan

In the current plan:

- Residential & Commercial Development
- Urban stormwater runoff from Impervious surfaces
- Roads and Railroads
- Household Septics and Urban Wastewater
- Ground and surface water withdrawals
- Development in Estuaries



Potential Threats in an Updated Plan

Expanded or new:

- Invasive Aquatic Species
- Climate Change
- Large-scale Resource Development
- Motorized Off-road Recreation



What are we concerned about?

- Alteration of riparian areas
- Filling of wetlands
- Degradation of water quality
- Impairments to fish passage
- Loss or alteration of water quantity
- Loss of estuaries and nearshore habitats
- Alteration of native plant & animal communities
- Insufficient science & data for policy & decision making



How to update the Strategic Action Plan

Timeframe	Action
October 2012	Steering committee identifies focal issues and potential threats
November	Partnership discusses issues and threats at symposium
December	Steering Committee forms working groups
January 2013	TNC provides CAP methodology training
Jan – March	Working groups revise or create sections of the plan
April	TNC compiles an updated plan draft
May	Partnership reviews updated plan draft
June	Steering Committee approves final updated plan

Your Part

Today ~

- Participate in an Open Space discussion group
- Let us know if you want to be part of the Partner Planning Team



After today ~

- Send me comments about the proposed update
- Scoping document at www.matsusalmon.org

An underwater photograph of several salmon swimming in clear blue water. The fish are in various stages of spawning, with some showing bright red and blue colors. They are swimming over a rocky riverbed covered in green algae. The water surface is visible at the top, showing ripples and light reflections.

Thanks!

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Other Potential Threats to Mat-Su Salmon Habitat

1. Invasive Aquatic Plants
2. Climate Change
3. Recreational Activities
4. Oil, gas, and coalbed methane drilling
5. Hydroelectric power generation
6. Mineral and coal mining
7. Gravel mining
8. Logging and wood harvesting
9. Tidal energy power generation
10. and more ...

Do we need to update the plan?

Potential threats to address:

- Invasive aquatic plants
- Motorized off-road recreation
- Hydropower
- Mining
- Climate change

