





## Our vision

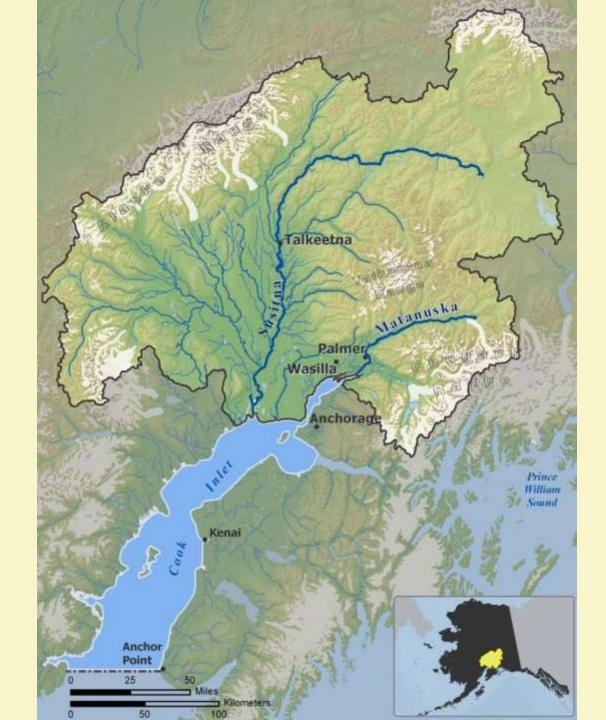
thriving fish, healthy habitats, and vital communities in the Mat-Su Basin







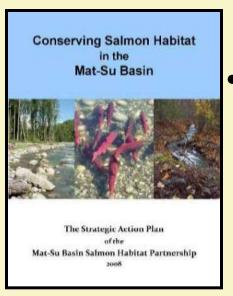
Together the Matanuska & Susitna watersheds total over 25,000 square miles





#### **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





## 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





# 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

	Table 2. Potential Threats	and Fo	ocal Is	sues fo	or Salı	mon ar	nd Sal	mon H	labita	t in th	e Mat	-Su B	asin	
Potential Threats to Salmon Habitat														
		Science Strategies			Current Strategic Action Plan						New or Expanded			
		Salmon distribution and habitat use	Comprehensive Groundwater and surface water studies	Comprehensive baseline and monitoring of water quality	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	Invasive Aquatic Species (including northern pike and plants)	Climate Change	Large-scale Resource Development (including hydropower and mining)	Motorized Off-road Recreation
Focal Issues for Salmon and Salmon Habitat	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													
	Insufficent Science & data for Policy and Decision Making													