



Wednesday November 18, 2015

Palmer Community Center (Depot), 610 S. Valley Way, Palmer

8:30 Registration

9:00 Symposium Welcome

Erika Ammann (Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Steering Committee member, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Gary Harrison (Chief, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

Tom Brookover (Director, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish)

9:20 Keynote Address: *Telling the Story: Communicating the Miracle of Salmon* – Richard Nelson

Introduction by Sierra Doherty (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

10:15 Networking Break

10:45 Mapping Water & Salmon Resources & Their Economic Value

Moderator: Kim Sollien (Great Land Trust)

Mat-Su Basin NHD Update: Lessons Learned – Andy Robertson (Saint Mary's University of Minnesota)

Salmon Habitat Mapping for Landscape-scale Planning in the Matanuska-Susitna Basin – Christine Woll (The Nature Conservancy)

The Economic Value of Salmon Habitat in the Mat-Su – Corinne Smith (The Nature Conservancy)

The Economic Geography of Salmon: A Conceptual Framework and Preliminary Characterization of the Spatial Distribution of Economic Values Associated with Salmon in the Mat-Su Basin Alaska – Davin Holen (Cultural Research North)

The Return on Investment of Mat-Su's Open Space – Maya Kocian (Earth Economics)

12:00 LUNCH

1:00 Communicating the Wonder of Salmon through Film

Moderator: Katrina Mueller (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Enjoy fish and fish habitat related short films!

Baby Salmon Live Here (Pat Race/The Salmon Project)

King Maker in Chickaloon Village (The Salmon Project/Great Land Trust)

Spring to Fall: A Season with Salmon (Katrina Mueller/US Fish and Wildlife Service)

King Maker in Hatcher Pass (The Salmon Project/Great Land Trust)

Hidden Treasure (Liz McKenzie/ SalmonWorld/ The Salmon Project)



1:30 Hydropower & Salmon

Moderator: Matthew LaCroix (Environmental Protection Agency)

Eklutna Dam Removal Project – Brad Meiklejohn (The Conservation Fund)

Riparian Instream Flow Study for the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project – Michael Mazzacavallo (R2 Resource Consultants)

2:00 Tidbits

Moderator: Catherine Inman (Mat-Su Conservation Services)

Please sign up at the registration desk to present a 3 minute project summary or announcement. If you have a slide or two to project (maximum 2 slides), please load them by the end of lunch.

2:30 Break

2:45 Planning & Prioritization

Moderator: Laura Eldred (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation)

Tyonek Area Watershed Action Planning – Christy Cincotta (Tyonek Tribal Conservation District)

Cold Water Habitat Use by Juvenile Salmon Directing Conservation in the Big Lake Basin – Sue Mauger (Cook Inletkeeper)

Prioritizing Riparian Habitat: an Update of on- the-Ground Conservation – Tess Frenchik (Great Land Trust)

Efforts to Prioritize Fish Passage Barrier Removal and Instream Flow Reservations in the Mat-Su Basin – Franklin Dekker (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Using Construction Opportunities to Increase Green Infrastructure – Cindy Gilder (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation)

4:00 Announcements & Adjourn for Daytime Portion of Symposium

Arni Thomson (Alaska Salmon Alliance)

4:05– Evening Social & Poster Session

6:00 Palmer Community Center (Depot), 610 S. Valley Way, Palmer

Jessica Speed (Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy)

Come visit with your colleagues and our keynote speaker. Poster authors will be on hand to answer questions about their projects and are encouraged to stay with their posters for the first half hour of the evening social. The Mat-Su Salmon Partnership is providing appetizers from Turkey Red and a cash bar will be available.

Mapping of Mat-Su's 35 Highest Priority Water Bodies – Louisa Branchflower (Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District)

Mat-Su NHD Update Map – Jim DePasquale (The Nature Conservancy)

Site Selection, Operating and Maintenance of Fish Wheels for Salmon Capture in the Susitna River Drainage – Stephen Dotomain (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)



Early Detection of Elodea (Elodea nuttallii and E. canadensis) in Matanuska-Susitna Basin Waters – Emily Heale (Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association)

Susitna River Bering Cisco – Jon Gerken (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

Baby Salmon Live Here – Kim Sollien (Great Land Trust)

Lake Habitats and Life History Strategies among Coho Salmon Oncorhynchus kisutch in the Big Lake Watershed, Alaska – Caroline Walls (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

6:30– Evening Public Presentation: The *Miracle of Salmon* – Richard Nelson

7:30 Palmer Community Center (Depot), 610 S. Valley Way, Palmer

Jessica Speed (Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy)

Vern Halter (Mayor, Matanuska-Susitna Borough)

Everyone is welcome to come hear Richard Nelson talk about the Miracle of Salmon in our backyard!

Thursday November 19, 2015

Palmer Community Center (Depot), 610 S. Valley Way, Palmer

8:30 Registration

9:00 Symposium Welcome

Roger Harding (Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Steering Committee member, Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

Lee Stephan (Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Steering Committee member, President, Native Village of Eklutna)

9:15 Water Quality & Flows for Salmon

Moderator: Franklin Dekker (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

The Effects of Land Use and Climate Change on Lake Water Quality in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Alaska – Matt McMillan (Alaska Pacific University)

Analyzing Peatland Discharge to Streams in an Alaskan Watershed: An Integration of End-member Mixing Analysis and a Water Balance Approach – Mike Gracz (Kenai Watershed Forum)

Fish Passage Design: Meadow Creek – Heidi Robuck (DOWL)



10:00 Aquatic Invasive Species *Elodea*

Moderator: Lisa Ka'aihue (Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association)

Invasive Elodea: Management Actions in Alaska and the Future of the Mat-Su – Heather Stewart (Department of Natural Resources)

Expert Probability Elicitation Through Adaptive Choice: The Risk of Elodea Spp. for Salmonid Persistence in Alaska – Tobias Schwoerer (Institute of Social and Economic Research)

10:30 Networking Break

11:00 Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Accomplishments & Priorities

Moderator: Frankie Barker (Matanuska-Susitna Borough)

Progress of the Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership: 2014-2015– Jessica Speed (Mat-Su Salmon Partnership, The Nature Conservancy)

Index Watersheds: Tracking Change Within and Across the Mat-Su Basin – Jeff Davis (Aquatic Restoration and Research Institute)

Prioritizing Conservation Strategies of the Partnership – Corinne Smith (The Nature Conservancy)

12:00 King Makers

There are “King Makers” Among Us – Kim Sollien (Great Land Trust)

12:15 LUNCH

1:15 Tracking & Monitoring Fish

Moderator: Brian Winnestaffer (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

Fish Tracker: A GIS Tool for Analyzing Radio-tagged Fish Migration – Gayle Neufeld (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

*Seasonal Movements and Habitat Use of Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in the Susitna River Basin, Southcentral Alaska* – Jeff Falke (U.S. Geological Survey)

Monitoring Juvenile Salmon in Mat-Su Basin Streams – Jeff Davis (Aquatic Restoration and Research Institute)

2:00 Tidbits

Moderator: Kendra Zamzow (Center for Science in Public Participation)

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2:30 Networking Break



3:00 Chinook Salmon Studies

Moderator: Jon Gerken (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Inriver Run Abundance of Chinook Salmon, Susitna River, 2014 – Pete Cleary (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

Spawning Distribution of Susitna River Chinook Salmon in 2014 – John Campbell (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

Northern Cook Inlet Chinook Salmon Marine Harvest – Adam St. Saviour (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

3:45 Conclusions

Moderator: Sue Mauger (Cook Inletkeeper)

4:00 Adjourn