

Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership

Site Tour, July 25, 2018

Site Tour Theme: *Spotlight on the Matanuska River Watershed, From Mainstem to Tributaries.*

This year we will be learning about how science and culture have supported fish passage efforts in the Matanuska River Watershed, and the importance of connectivity both up and downstream, across floodplains and across cultures.

8:30 am bus departs Anchorage, 9:30 am bus departs Palmer

9:45 am Matanuska River Overlook

- *(Jessica Speed, Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Coordinator)* Overview of Partnership & tour focus
- *(Nick Decovich, Alaska Department of Fish and Game)* Fish habitat and the Matanuska River drainage.

10:30 am Ya Ne Dah Ah School & Chickaloon Village Traditional Council Moose Creek Campus

- *(Chief Gary Harrison, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council and Angie Wade, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council Cultural Program)* Chickaloon Village Tribal connections to fish in the region, and the relationship of culture and natural resources.

11:15 am Moose Creek

- *(Jessica Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)* Chinook salmon importance – a Tribal perspective, site history, fish passage restoration overview
- Salmon tagging project - learning about juvenile salmon distribution.

12:00 am Moose Creek – LUNCH

12:45 pm Eska Creek

- *(Gillian O'Doherty, Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Brian Winnestaffer, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council/Jim Jenson, Mat-Su Borough)* Fish passage restored - upper Eska Creek.

1:20 pm Matanuska River Pullout - ~ Mile 64

- *(Taunnie Boothby, Mat-Su Borough)* Advances in stream mapping - how it's good for people and fish.
- *(Janet Curran, U.S. Geological Survey)* Matanuska River processes, and lifecycle of clearwater side channels

2pm Matanuska River clear water side channel – Mile 69

- *(Janet Curran, U.S. Geological Survey)* Matanuska River clearwater side channels and their importance to salmon
- *(Brianna Blackburn, Mat-Su Borough/Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Steering Committee)* Final conclusions and wrap up for the day

2:30 pm bus departs for Palmer and Anchorage, arriving by 3pm and 4pm respectively.

***Optional tour extension: 2:30-3:30 pm Moose Creek Restoration site** – Buffalo Mine Road. Visit the restoration site on Moose Creek with *Jessica Winnestaffer of Chickaloon Village Traditional Council*.

Note: Access is via a short, but steep route (5-minute walk down, 10 minutes up) on an unestablished foot trail.

3:30pm optional tour ends, and bus departs for Palmer and Anchorage, arriving by 4pm and 5pm respectively.