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Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Symposium

Dedicated to Mat-Su's First Peoples and Salmon Stewards

PALMER, ALASKA – The Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership is hosting the 12th annual Salmon Science and Conservation Symposium on November 13-14 at the Palmer Community Center (Depot). This annual event brings people together to share information and exchange ideas about salmon science and conservation in the Mat-Su Basin. This year's Symposium is dedicated to the First Peoples of the Mat-Su – the Dena'ina and the Ahtna, including the federally recognized tribes of Knik Tribal Council, Chickaloon Native Village, Native Village of Eklutna and Native Village of Tyonek – who have successfully stewarded their salmon resources for thousands of years.

The agenda includes over 25 oral presentations, including a special session focused on the impacts of stream temperature on salmon – of particular relevance following a very hot and dry summer. A keynote talk scheduled for 9:30am November 13th by Courtney Carothers and Jonathan Samuelson will explore Indigenous salmon management. A talking circle dialogue will follow at 2:30pm the same day. Also, on Wednesday evening there will be a Wild, Local and Traditional Foods Dinner, when Angie Wade of Chickaloon Native Village will highlight traditional uses of salmon and lead a short salmon skin craft activity that can be taken home.

Keynote presenters Dr. Courtney Carothers, Professor of Fisheries in the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Jonathan Samuelson, Yup'ik and Athabascan from Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, will present their project *Indigenizing Salmon Science and Management*. This work examines how Indigenous Peoples have stewarded Alaska lands and waters for thousands of years yet have been largely excluded from science and management systems. Their project aims at better understanding the ways in which Alaska Native Peoples steward salmon, the values connected to salmon stewardship, and ideas for improving current management practices and systems. Keynote speakers will also host an open dialogue taking a deeper and more personal dive into this topic. These sessions provide an opportunity to learn, share and explore how we can work together to ensure thriving salmon and healthy communities in the Mat-Su for years to come.

Symposium presentation topics will range from Eklutna River restoration, working in Partnership and organization updates, salmon and traditional lands, tribal salmon conservation efforts, economics of sportfishing, salmon habitat science, river restoration, Cook Inlet science, juvenile salmon distribution, invasive species such as pike and elodea, salmon in a warming climate, and influence of stream temperature on salmon. Knik Tribal Council representative Debra Call, Maria Coleman of Eklutna Native Village, Lisa Wade of Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, and Mat-Su Borough Assembly Member Jim Sykes will convene the symposium with opening remarks. John Wood and Israel Payton of the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries will commence proceedings on the second day.

Organizations sponsoring the event include the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, ConocoPhillips Inc. Alaska, BP Alaska, Trout Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Native Village of Eklutna, Tyonek Tribal Conservation District, Bureau of Land Management, The Alaska Center, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy, Mat-Su Conservation Services, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, City of Palmer, Great Land Trust and Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership.

All are invited to attend. Registration cost is \$25 per day. For elders and students, registration is free. The evening Wild, Local and Traditional Foods dinner costs \$20 per person, with registration closing Nov. 13th. Donations to support the Partnership and salmon habitat science and conservation in Mat-Su are appreciated! Register online or at the door.

For more information, including full agenda, visit <http://www.matsusalmon.org/> or contact: Jessica Speed, jspeed@tnc.org (907) 865-5713.