

Natural Resources Conservation Service



# Opportunities to Improve Salmon Habitat



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)





## **Who We Are: Natural Resources Conservation Service**

- **We are a federal government agency under the United States Department of Agriculture**
- **Our motto is “Helping People Help the Land”**
- **We work with agricultural producers to conserve natural resources: soil, water, air, plants, animals and energy**
- **We work on private lands including Tribal land**
- **Participation in our programs is entirely voluntary**
- **We offer technical assistance (such as conservation planning, engineering design) and financial assistance.**



# Financial Assistance



## **EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

- Reimburses you for a portion of the cost to install conservation practices
- Conservation practices must address a natural resource concern
- Can include engineering design assistance

## **RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

- Collaborative projects addressing resource concerns on multiple land ownerships (public-private partnerships)
- Requires a proposal from a lead partner
- Can address conservation concerns on a landscape scale



# Financial Assistance (continued)



## WFPO – Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program

Provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments and Tribal organizations to help plan and implement authorized watershed projects for the purpose of:

- Flood Prevention
- Watershed Protection
- Public Recreation
- **Public Fish and Wildlife**
- Agricultural Water Management
- Municipal and Industrial Water Supply
- Water Quality Management

**18 projects funded in Alaska; one is for the purpose of fish/wildlife habitat in Tyonek.**

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Manager

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# Inflation Reduction Act



- NRCS received **\$19.5 billion nationwide** beginning in FY23 and ramping up over the next 4 years.
- The IRA funds are **additional funds** on top of our normal program allocations
- Alaska FY23 IRA-EQIP allocation was an **additional \$1.8 million** on top of our normal EQIP allocation of \$10 million.
- In FY24, we anticipate receiving an **additional \$15 million** in IRA-EQIP on top of our normal EQIP of about \$10 million, plus additional IRA funds for our other programs such as CSP and easements.
- IRA funds may only be used for specific conservation practices that **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** and increase storage of carbon in soil and trees. (soil health and forestry practices)





# Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Conservation Practices (Inflation Reduction Act)

- Forest Stand Improvement
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Wildlife Habitat Planting
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Woody Residue Treatment
- Fuel Break
- Critical Area Planting
- Hedgerow Planting
- Silvopasture
- Windbreaks/Shelterbelt
- Alley Cropping
- Range Planting
- Prescribed Grazing
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- Brush Management
- Nutrient Management
- ....and more!



# Conservation Practices for Salmon Habitat

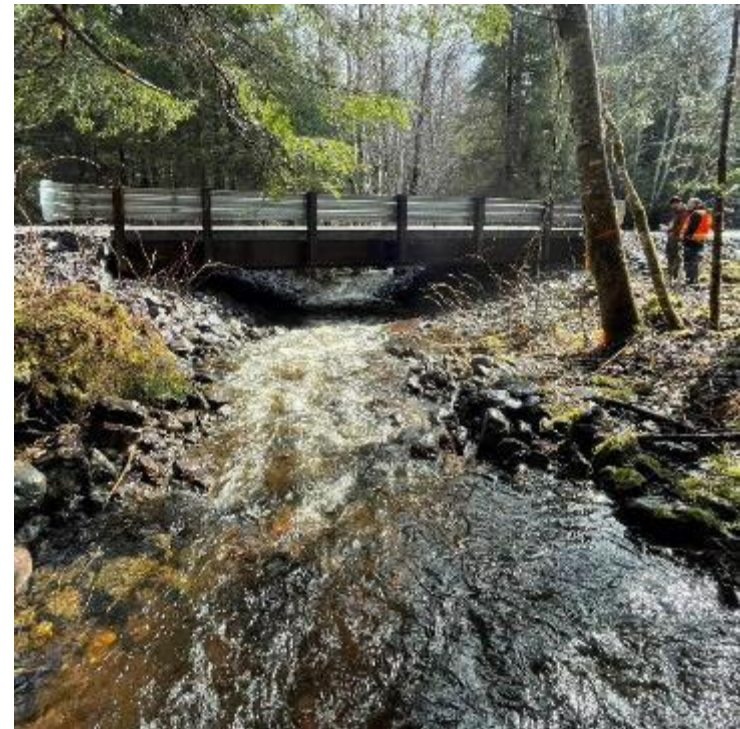
- Critical Area Planting
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Aquatic Organism Passage
- Access Control
- Obstruction Removal
- Access Road
- Wildlife Habitat Planting
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
- Trails and Walkways
- Stream Crossing
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
- Forest Trails and Landings
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Filter Strip
- Field Border



# Aquatic Organism Passage

Hoonah, Alaska.

Modification or removal of barriers that restrict or impede movement of fish and other aquatic species, including replacing the object with a culvert, bridge or crossing. Improves access to habitat for fish and other species.





# Obstruction Removal

Tonsina, Alaska.

Removal and disposal of structures, vegetation, debris, or other materials that impact water quality or hydrologic function. This is a supporting practice used in conjunction with other practices.



# Forest Stand Improvement

**Kake, Alaska.**

**Manipulating tree species composition, stand structure, or density to achieve desired forest conditions. Improves forest health, wildlife habitat, and reduces wildfire risk.**



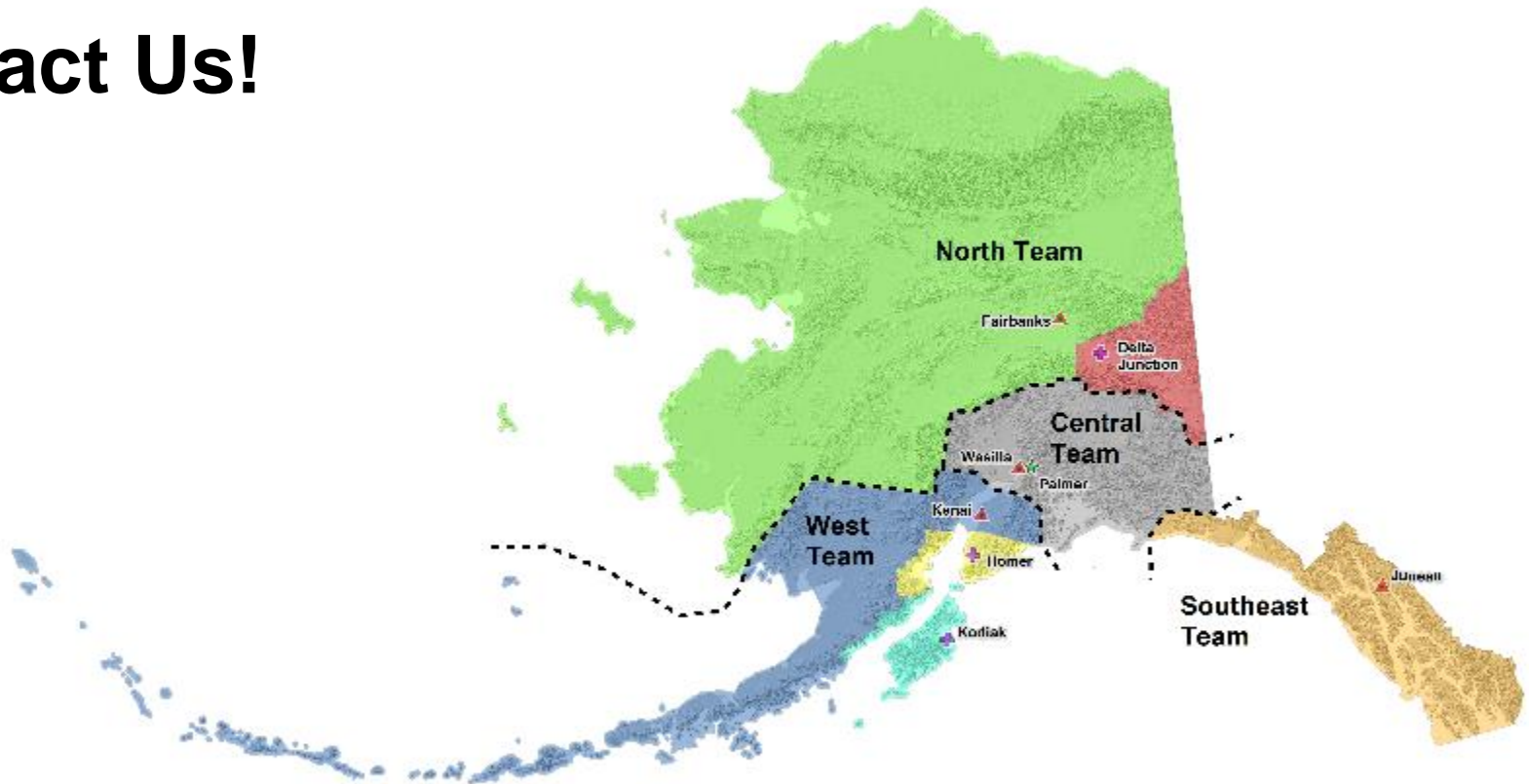
# Tree/Shrub Establishment

Tyonek, Alaska.

Planting seedlings or cuttings; seeding; or creating conditions that promote natural regeneration.



# Contact Us!



**Mat-Su Valley:**

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- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

