

## Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Annual Workplan – 2025

Based on organizational priorities from [2019 Addendum to the Strategic Action Plan](#).

**\*Find a list of prioritized general partnership activity and a summary list of key activity in 2025 at bottom of document.**

\*Key known activity for 2025 from discussion at the January 14<sup>th</sup> SC meeting has been incorporated into the below table (salmon color) and is [listed here](#) as well as distilled discussion content from Jan. 8th Steering Committee Strategy Meeting discussion.

<b>Priority 1: Encourage the development and dissemination of relevant science-based information.</b>				
<b>Objective 1:</b> The Science and Data Committee will focus on providing technical expertise within and outside the partnership, including identifying and filling data gaps, inform and establish best practices, and interpreting research on Basin habitat impacts.				
<b>What Strategy/Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding Source &amp; Status</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status:</b>
Technical review of projects for NFHP funding	February/March 2025	Operational	Science and Data Committee, Coordinator	
Support Strategic Action Plan update process and other annual requests of the Steering Committee – either through annual workplan or other.	Spring 2025 - Ongoing	Committee work funded, plan update funding need: \$10,000. *More detail in objective 5.	Science and Data Committee, Steering Committee, Coordinator	
Support NFHP, National, Statewide or other regional requests for information and engagement (NFHP National Assessment, MSB efforts to update waterbody setback standards).	Ongoing 2025	Operational	Science and Data Committee, Coordinator, Matt LaCroix	
<b>Objective 2: Identify and implement strategy to improve dissemination of relevant science-based information.</b>				
<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>

Update and implement annual outreach plan <i>*Find more detail in outreach section (Priority 4).</i>	April 2025	Operational	Outreach Committee, Coordinator	
Support MSB riparian ordinance update including MSB Waterbody Setback Advisory Board effort.	Ongoing as needed. Board report due March 2025	In-kind partner/Operational	Matt LaCroix (MSBWBSAB rep), Coordinator, Steering Committee, Science and Data	
Science to Conservation Outcomes: Cold Water Refugia – complete pilot initiative	Spring/fall 2025  <i>*partnership may choose to continue with some aspects – like data transfer or new science.</i>	In-kind partner/Operational  Applied FY25 NFHP funding (Cook Inlet Keeper)	Sue Mauger/partnership collaboration. Other support Mike Daignault (USFWS), Coordinator, Science and data committee.	

**Priority 2: ~~Removed from 2025 workplan.~~ Support the development of an Elodea and other emerging aquatic invasive species management framework that includes prevention, early detection, rapid response, eradication, and monitoring.**

**Priority 3: Continue to provide and allocate strategic grant funds in support of prioritized salmon habitat projects.**

**Objective 1:** Establish a process for identifying annual Partnership conservation priorities to guide organizational activities and ensure that projects funded through the National Fish Habitat Partnership program align with local Partnership priorities.

<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>
Annually revise the MSBSHP RFP to reflect current MSBSHP priorities and NFHP National Conservation Priorities.	Begin SC discussion in July or Sept 2025, ready to announce RFP in November 2025.  <i>*Adjust as needed due to ACE Act Re-authorization.</i>	Operational	Steering Committee, Coordinator	

Annually distribute RFP to email subscribers and partner networks. Promote RFP on website news blog and funding page.	December 2025	Operational	Coordinator, Steering Committee	
Engage Science and Data Committee in technical review of proposals annually.	February/March 2025	Operational	Coordinator, Science and Data Committee	
Evaluate and finalize ranked project list, update projects in NFHP database and complete report with recommended projects for funding to NFHP board.	March 2025	Operational	Steering Committee, Coordinator	
Share latest and most relevant science through standing Partnership events (Symposium, site tour for community leaders and community planting day).	June 2025/August 2025/November 2025	Operational	Coordinator, Outreach Committee	

**Objective 3: Track implementation of ACE Act Reauthorization and proactively engage to ensure the Partnership remains competitive.**

<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>
Provide updates to project sponsors for FY25 and FY26 projects and improve this process in 2025.	May 2025 and ongoing	Operational	Coordinator, Steering Committee or committee volunteer	
Identify primary opportunities and challenges with ACE Act reauthorization and engage with NFHP Board through a phone call or	Spring/summer 2024	Operational	Steering Committee, Coordinator	

invitation to Steering Committee meetings to learn more and discuss.				
Engage in National Coordinator and other relevant meetings and communicate key information to Steering Committee.	Ongoing	Operational	Coordinator	
<b>Objective 3: Streamline and automate RFP Process</b>				
<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>
For FY27, look for more efficiencies for both applicant and coordinator in the application and updating projects in NFHP database. *Consider NFHP pilot if available	Late summer/early fall 2025, <i>in advance of Sept SC meeting.</i>  <i>Note: ACE Act Re-authorization could shift RFP timing for FY27 to fall 2026.</i>	Operational	Steering Committee, Coordinator	
<b>Priority 4: Provide effective and inclusive outreach and education focused on healthy salmon habitats.</b>				
<b>Objective 1:</b> Grow and utilize the ability of the Partnership to be an effective convener on salmon habitat issues.				
<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>
Host summer site tour for community leaders	August 2025	Operational, partner donations	Coordinator, Outreach Committee	
Host Mat-Su Salmon Science and Conservation Symposium with a modified format to be more focused and support strategic plan update among other priorities.	November 2025	Operational, partner donations	Symposium Planning Committee, Coordinator	

Continue Science to Conservation Outcomes Initiative (including focused efforts on data transfer)	Ongoing, plan session for 2025 Mat-Su Salmon Symposium	Operational other partner funds	Partners (Sue Mauger, Mike Daigneault) and Coordinator, and science and data committee	
<b>Objective 2:</b> Improve community knowledge, awareness, and understanding that leads to informed decision making and works towards salmon-friendly land use and development.				
<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>
Summer site tour for community leaders – focus on most relevant topics, invite affected community councils, and at least 2 new attendees. Invite media.	Host August 2025	Funding need: \$600 lunch.  Knik Tribe offered, possible shuttle/bus (\$600 equiv)  Greater \$ support if a non-local or more remote tour or if other event organization support (intern or other staff time)	Outreach Committee, Coordinator, Steering Committee	
Work with outreach committee to support Mat-Su Borough implementation of a grant to provide riparian outreach and education to Mat-Su residents and community leaders.	Start summer/fall 2025	MSB partner led operations	Outreach Committee, Coordinator	
Share with Partnership list-serve, and provide public comment for strategic plan relevant topics (e.g. MSB riparian ordinance process)	Ongoing	Operational	Coordinator, Steering Committee	
<b>Objective 3:</b> Develop and implement an annual event directed to a community audience.				

Strategy/Action:	Timeline	Funding	Committee lead & support	Status
Continue to host community riparian planting day and associated restoration (Montana Crk/Susitna River drainage)	June 14, 2025	Funding need: Met by partners. Includes funding or in-kind for dirt work and hydroseeding (estimated 16,000k+). *Note SHP has contributed very limited cash in the past – is in kind-coordinator time.	Montana Creek restoration partners (SRC, Knik Tribe, TU, ADFG, USFWS , MSB) Coordinator	
<b>Objective 4:</b> The Partnership will work collaboratively with ACE Act funded agencies, Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships, northern Cook Inlet local governments and partners to address larger scale issues with regional impact.				
Strategy/Action:	Timeline	Funding	Committee lead & support	Status
Work with UAA and others to plan and host Cook Inlet Salmon event	April 21/22, 2025 <i>* Planning and decision making for event framework by March 24th</i>	UAA lead organizing and funding	Partner led (UAA) Coordinator, SC and other committees, Kenai FHP Coordinator,	
Evaluate and take 1 to 2 actions to support partners and organizations impacted by federal funding and workforce reductions that were working toward key Mat-Su salmon habitat goals outlined in the Strategic Action Plan.	2025	Operations	Steering Committee, coordinator	
<b>Priority 5: Continue to strengthen the Salmon Partnership’s internal organizational capacity.</b>				

<b>Objective 1:</b> Continue to develop and implement a sustainable staffing plan – explore strategies for increasing staff capacity, including additional paid staff, consultant capacity and/or contractors with a vision to longer term stability.				
<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>
Work with Steering Committee and fiscal sponsor to update and implement a development plan. Fundraise for Strategic Plan update)	Ongoing	Operations	Steering Committee, Fiscal Sponsor (Trout Unlimited), Coordinator	
<b>Objective 2:</b> • Deepen existing engagements with partner organizations to increase their involvement and contributions to Partnership business.				
<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>
Evaluate and update partnership and committee structure as needed, to better provide for partner engagement and leadership. Also look for other opportunities through standing events (session space at Symposium, opportunities to host trainings, or at committee levels)	Ongoing	Operations	Symposium planning, Coordinator, Steering Committee, Outreach	
<b>Objective 3:</b> Continue to diversify the partnership’s revenue stream – decrease reliance on federal dollars				
<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>
Identify funding gaps and scopes of work to be funded. Invite Steering Committee and other partner organizations to contribute to fundraising goals.	By December 2025	Operations	Steering Committee, Fiscal sponsor, Coordinator	
Increase foundation and corporate funding by at least \$10,000. <del>Work with Coordinator to identify non-federal match for Partnership operations.</del> *Coordination match is N.A. beyond August 2025).	By December 2025	Operations	Steering Committee, Fiscal sponsor, Coordinator	

<b>Objective 4: Other Organizational</b>				
<b>Strategy/Action:</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Committee lead &amp; support</b>	<b>Status</b>
Strategic Plan update process: Fundraising, contracts solicitation and support, scoping, content development, write document.	Ongoing  By fall 2025 have funding and contractor in place for Symposium	Funding Need: \$10,000.	Steering Committee and Coordinator	
Get feedback from partners on what is the Partnership's best self - how the Partnership can best serve them?	Summer/fall 2025	Operational. Possible funding need: estimated \$1000	Steering Committee and Coordinator	
Coordinate effective meetings of the Steering and other Partnership Committees (SC = 6-8x/yr, Symposium, outreach, science and data = 4-6/yr) and facilitate development of annual committee workplans.	Ongoing  Annually in December	Operational	Coordinator	
Develop annual Partnership budget, share with fiscal sponsor and Steering Committee for approval and ensure meeting budget.	May or July Steering Committee meeting annually.  Status update halfway into fiscal year (January)	Operational	Coordinator	
Track partnership progress: organizational priorities, conservation goals and NFHP funded projects.	NFHP projects: annually in March and into NFHP database.  Organizational priorities: annually December  Conservation goals: annually December	Operations funding,	Coordinator. UAA staff/regional mapper, NFHP staff/national database,	

# Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Annual Activity and Key Activity for 2025

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Facilitate RFP process and submit report with recommended projects for funding (*update annual RFP, post and announce RFP, coordinate review meetings, write and submit report and recommended projects for funding, communicate with applicants/funding recipients and report on success, update NFHP tracking database*).
- National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) requests and requirements/ACE Act transition (eg in 2024 applied to Congress for Fish Habitat Partnership status)
- Host Steering Committee meetings
- Point of contact for partners, public, National NFHP
- General partnership operational functions – pay bills, develop and track budget, fundraise.
- Maintain website

## IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS:

- Host Annual Symposium (November)
- Host Summer Site Tour (August)
- Host Community Planting Day (June)
- Monthly communications to the list-serve
- Progress reporting – to NFHP and/or more substantial printed progress report (2-4yrs)
- Track annual partnership progress

## LESS-ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Newsletters (2x/year) – (this is beyond bulletins)
- Maintain social media presence (1x/wk)
- Summer outreach at community events and school visits
- Media:
  1. Preceding Symposium & ideally letter to newspaper following (have not done in a long time)
  2. Announce annual NFHP funded projects
  3. Community planting day
  4. Other opportunities identified in annual outreach plan

## STANDING MEETINGS

- NFHP – Coordinator calls (monthly)
- NFHP Board meetings (every two months)

- AK FHP's – 2x per year: fall and spring
  - Partnership Steering Committee – second Tuesday of odd months, 1:30-4pm (6x/yr minimum with two additional meetings: RFP review (March) and SC seat review (early May))
  - Other Partnership standing committees:
    1. Outreach (minimum 4x/yr)
    2. Symposium planning (every 4-6wks starting early Feb)
    3. Science and Data Committee – once or twice/yr (RFP review/late Feb/March and some years in fall).
- Adhoc committees for part or all of 2025:
4. Science to conservation outcomes
  5. Community Riparian Planting Day/Montana Crk Restoration

### **SOME KEY ACTIVITY ANTICIPATED FOR 2025**

- Joint Mat-Su and Kenai FHP Cook Inlet Salmon Symposium (April 21/22, 2025), organized by UAA/Kachemak Research Reserve
- Outreach re: 20-year anniversary of the Partnership
- Strategic Plan update (Scoping, progress, fundraising and begin update)
- Host 3 annual outreach events (spring/riparian planting, summer/site tour, fall/Symposium or other)
- Engagement in MSB Waterbody Setbacks Advisory Board and potential update to MSB code
- Misc public comments –as arise and appropriate.
- Update and implement a fundraising plan. Apply for FY26 NFHP Partnership coordination and outreach funding (due Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Curate FY26 and FY27 request for proposals for NFHP funding