



Thursday November 20, 2025

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

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome

Jessica Winnestaffer (Director, Lands and Environment Department, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

9:30 Keynote Address: *Mat-Su's Changing Environment: Connecting the Past, Present and Future* • Rick Thoman, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Preparedness

Introduction: Grace Fahrney (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

10:30 Networking Break

11:00 Impacts of Thermal Stress on Salmon

Moderator: Sue Mauger (Cook Inletkeeper)

How Warm is Too Warm? Growth Impacts of Thermal Stress on Juvenile Chinook and Coho Salmon in the Deshka River • John Hermus (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

11:15 Traditional Knowledge and Salmon Stewardship

Restoring Moose Creek: A Tribal Effort to Bring Salmon Home • Andrea James and Jessica Winnestaffer (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

Bridging Knowledge Systems: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Salmon Research in Chickaloon • Ben Americus and Cody Henrikson (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

Stream Temperature Monitoring in the Matanuska River Watershed • Kendra Zamzow (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

Plants for Salmon: Knik Tribe's Native Plant Nursery and Restoration Efforts • Cody Beus (Knik Tribe)

12:15 LUNCH

1:00 Partnership Updates

Updates from the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership • Jessica Speed (Trout Unlimited)

1:15 Strategic Conservation and tools

Moderator: Tim Troll (Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership)

Anadromous Waters Prioritization for the Matanuska-Susitna Basin • Erin Larson (Alaska Center for Conservation Science, University of Alaska Anchorage)

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District's 2025 Anadromous Fish Surveys • Andrew Wizik (Tyonek Tribal Conservation District)

1:45 Poster Session & Art Showcase

Moderator: Mike Campfield (Mat-Su Borough)

Poster authors and artists from Palmer Highschool will be on hand to answer questions about



their work.

Chickaloon Native Village Salmon Research in the Matanuska Watershed • Ben Americus
(Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

*Monitoring Salmon Spawning Dynamics and Thermal Regimes in the Eklutna River: Baseline Data
Collection for Restoration* • Alice Bandeian (Native Village of Eklutna)

*Canaries in the Coalmine: Permitted Discharge and Known Contaminants Affecting Cook Inlet
Belugas* • Ragen Davey (Defenders of Wildlife)

Tribally Led Salmon Stewardship: Restoring Fish Passage on Premier Creek • Madelynne Dey
(Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

AKTEMP – Alaska’s Stream and Lake Temperature Database • Marcus Geist and Erin Larson
(Alaska Center for Conservation Science)

Overview and Future of Cost Share Work in the Mat-Su Basin • Grace Fahrney (Alaska
Department of Fish and Game)

Integrating Traditional, Local, and Scientific Perspectives to Track Pacific Lamprey in Alaska •
Meghan Montagne (Knik Tribe)

Interconnection • IB Biology, IB Chemistry & IB Visual Arts Students (Palmer High School, Mat-Su
Borough School District)

Multimedia Salmon Art Showcase • Visual Arts Students (Palmer High School)

2:15 Networking Break

2:30 Tidbits

Moderator: Cody Jacobson (Alaska Department of Natural Resources)

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), please load them by the end of lunch.

3:00 Water Quality, Wildlife and Urban and Industrial Development

Moderator: Laurie Stuart (Tyonek Tribal Conservation District)

Lethal Levels of 6PPD-Quinone in Anchorage Waterways • Brian DiMento (University of Alaska
Anchorage)

Beluga, Eulachon, and Salmon • Bill Bechtol (Bechtol Research)

*Undermining the Inlet: How the Johnson Tract Mine Threatens Cook Inlet’s Connected
Ecosystems* • Cooper Freeman (Center for Biological Diversity)

3:45 Watershed Planning

Watershed Planning Kick-Off • Margaret Stern (Susitna River Coalition)

4:00 Announcements and Adjourn

Jeff Fisher (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation)

4:15 Evening social

Matanuska Brewing Company, 513 S. Valley Way, Palmer

Come visit with colleagues and new and old friends. The Mat-Su Salmon Partnership is providing
appetizers, and a cash bar will be available till 7pm, when the social ends.



Friday November 21, 2025

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

8:30 Registration

9:00 Symposium Welcome

Cody Beus (Member, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Steering Committee, Knik Tribe)
Angie Wade (Director, Culture and Historic Preservation Department, Chickaloon Village
Traditional Council)

9:15 Fish Health: State Regulatory Program & Regional Cases

Moderator: Nicole Swenson (Tyonek Tribal Conservation District)
*Overview of ADF&G's Statewide Fish Health Regulatory Program with Select Diagnostic Cases
from the Mat-Su Region* • Jayde Ferguson (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

9:30 Aquatic Invasive Species

*ADNR Elodea Control Project Updates for Alaska 2025– The State of Elodea, at a Decision Point:
Challenges, Choices, and the Road Forward* • Cody Jacobson (Alaska Department of
Natural Resources)
Out of Sight, Out of Mind? The Unrealized Devastation from Invasive Northern Pike • Parker
Bradley (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)
Pike in Cook Inlet? Preliminary Results from Salinity Trials, Cook Inlet Salinity Monitoring •
Brennan Watson (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)
Prioritizing Invasive Dreissenid Mussel Monitoring with Web Mapping Tools • Marcus Geist
(University of Alaska Anchorage)

10:30 Networking Break

10:45 Fish and Fish Habitat Conservation Efforts of the Mat-Su Borough

Moderator: Ben Americus (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)
Ensuring Passage for Fish in the Mat-Su Borough • Mike Campfield (Mat-Su Borough)
Mat-Su Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission • Andy Couch (Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife
Commission)

11:15 Science to Conservation Outcomes: Data Transfer

Moderator: Erin Larson (Alaska Center for Conservation Science, University of Alaska
Anchorage)

Since its inception, the Partnership has focused on filling foundational salmon habitat data gaps in the Mat-Su. But what happens once those gaps are filled? This session explores the challenges and opportunities of transferring scientific data into actionable information for local decision-makers.

Leslie Jones will provide updates from the Alaska Geospatial Office, highlighting statewide mapping initiatives and coordinated efforts to fill data gaps and update existing data we depend on daily. She will also share best practices for data accessibility, stewardship, and interoperability to strengthen science-to-policy translation. Sue Mauger will follow with updates



on the Partnership's Science to Conservation Outcomes initiative and how we've fared in our efforts to incorporate cold water refugia into local decision making. The session will conclude with a discussion on bridging science and community decision-making.

Connecting the Landscape: Advancing Mapping, Data Access and Stewardship Across Alaska •

Leslie Jones, PhD (Geospatial Information Officer, State of Alaska, Alaska Geospatial Office)

Identifying Strategies for Moving Local Science into Community and Agency Decision Making:

How are We Doing? • Sue Mauger (Cook Inletkeeper, Partnership Science and Data Committee)

12:15 Lunch

1:00 Tidbits

Moderator: Margaret Stern (Susitna River Coalition)

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.

1:30 Where the Partnership has Been and Where It's headed: Updating the Strategic Action Plan

Moderator: Meg Friedenauer (Agnew::Beck Consulting)

This session will kick off the next update of the Partnership's Strategic Action Plan — reflecting on progress, current challenges, and priorities for conserving Mat-Su salmon, and exploring how the Partnership can best support achieving these shared goals.

2:15 Networking Break

2:30 Where the Partnership has Been and Where It's Headed: Updating the Strategic Action Plan – Continued

Moderator: Meg Friedenauer (Agnew::Beck Consulting)

3:45 Conclusions

Laurie Stuart (Tyonek Tribal Conservation District)

4:00 Adjourn