

Watershed Plan



Project Kick-Off

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**Who is the Susitna
River Coalition?**

**Why is SRC the right
choice to create a
watershed plan?**

Grassroots organization

Focused on Watershed-Level
health

We are a Diverse Coalition

Desire for long-term protections
of the Susitna

Good at Coalescing information
and Education

Your name will not be shared | 0 votes

What is a Watershed Plan?

A watershed plan is essentially a community's roadmap for understanding and improving the health of the rivers, lakes, and wetlands that all drain from the same landscape. It lays out where threats are coming from, what needs to change, and how to get there.

EPA often frames these plans around 6 steps which help communities design clear strategies for restoring waters that are struggling and safeguarding those that are still in good shape.



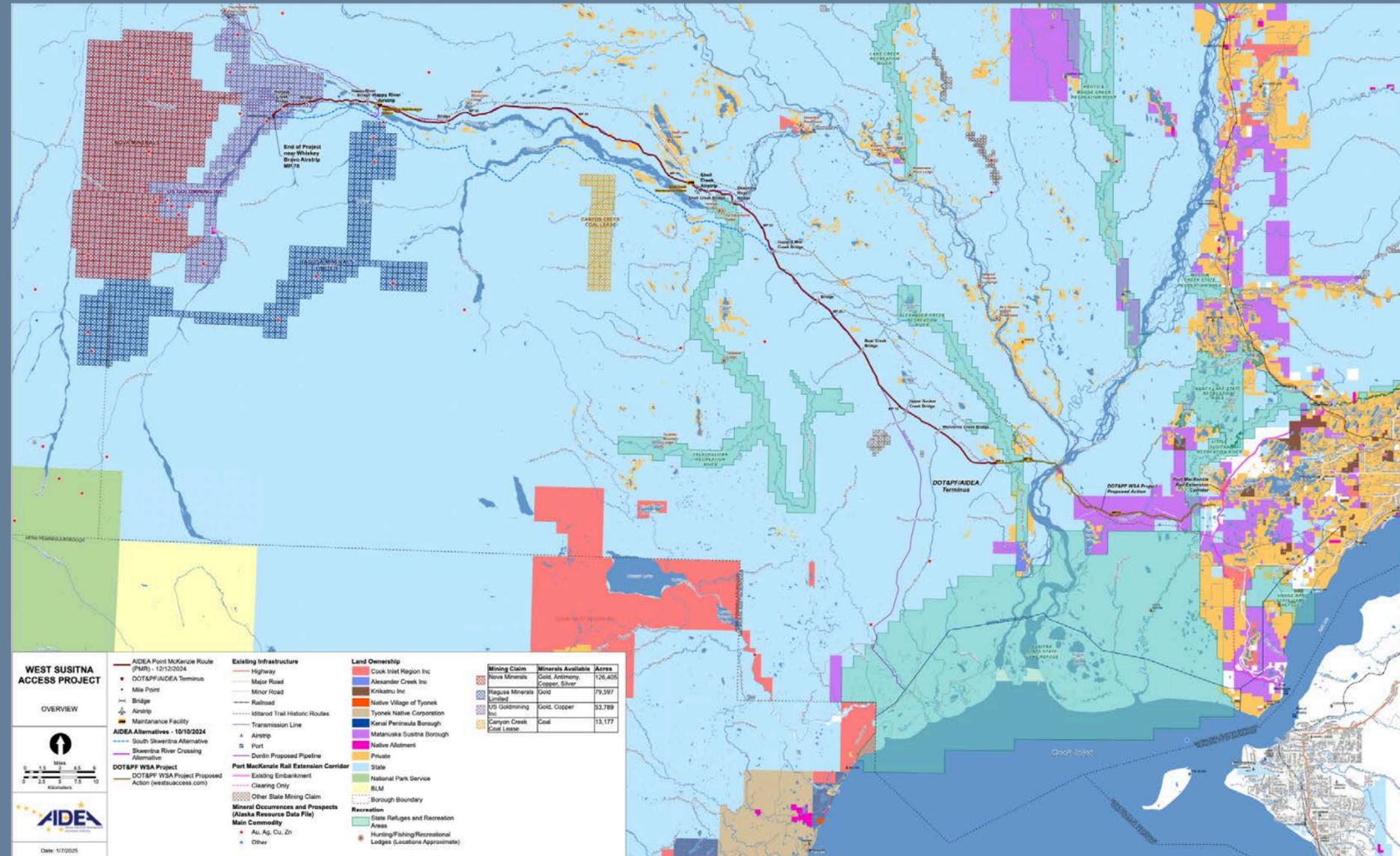
Susitna Watershed

- Source: Glacial headwaters in the Alaska Range.
- Length: Over 300 miles.
- Size: The watershed covers over 20,000 square miles, roughly the size of West Virginia.
- Fish & Wildlife: Supports five species of Pacific salmon, rainbow trout, moose, black and brown bears, and the Nelchina caribou herd
- Economy: A major economic driver for Alaska through fishing, hunting, tourism, and recreation.
- Subsistence: Critical for communities who depend on it for subsistence and cultural practices



Why Now?

- Susitna River : Endangered River Designation Status
- Rapidly Growing Mat-Su Borough
- Rapid number of rising risks to watershed integrity
- 75% of residents served are from disadvantaged or rural communities who rely directly on the river
- Potential to drive long-term protections on the Susitna



EPA Watershed Plan Steps

1 Build Partnerships

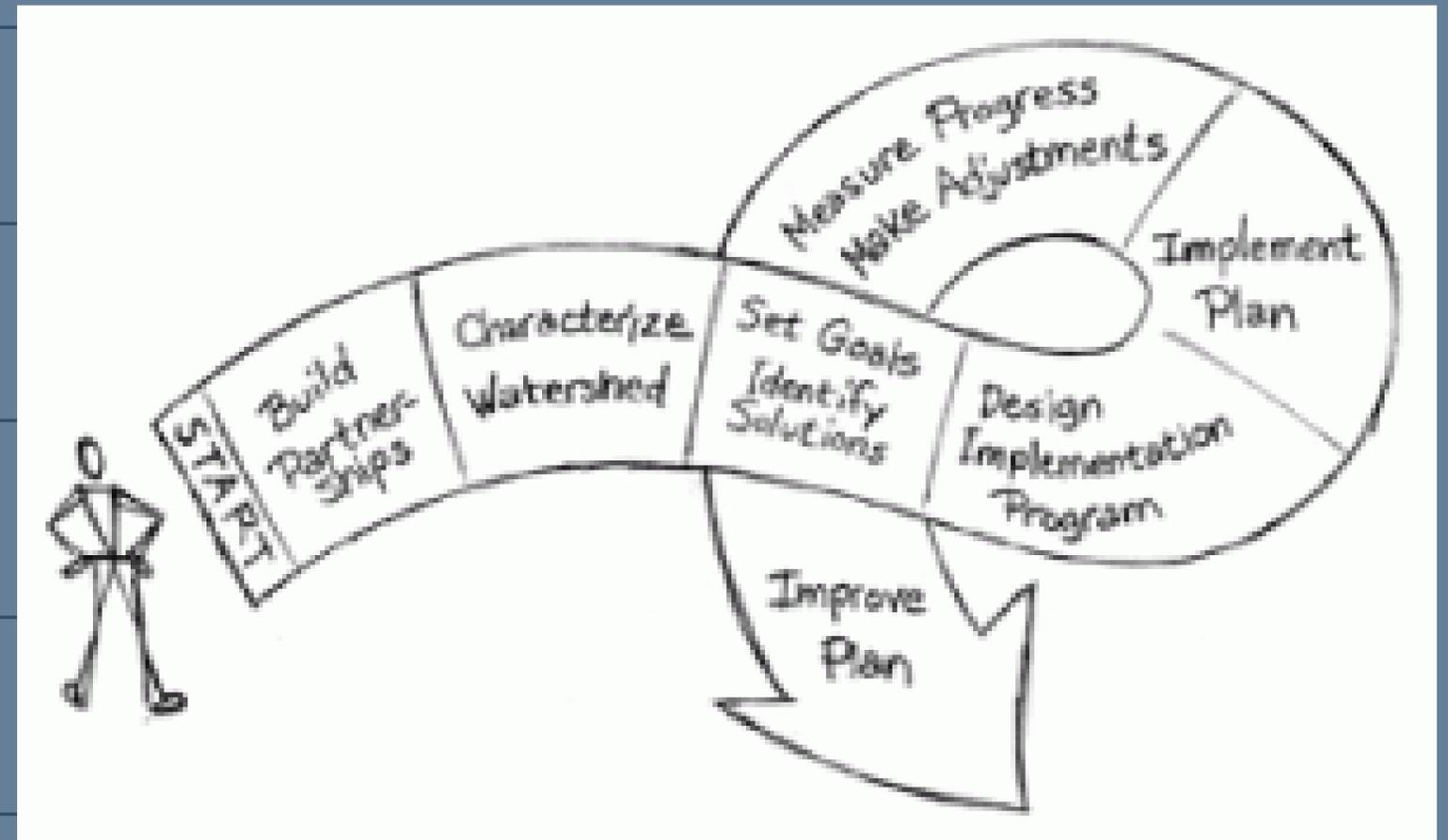
2 Characterize the Watershed

3 Set Goals and Identify Solutions

4 Design an Implementation Program

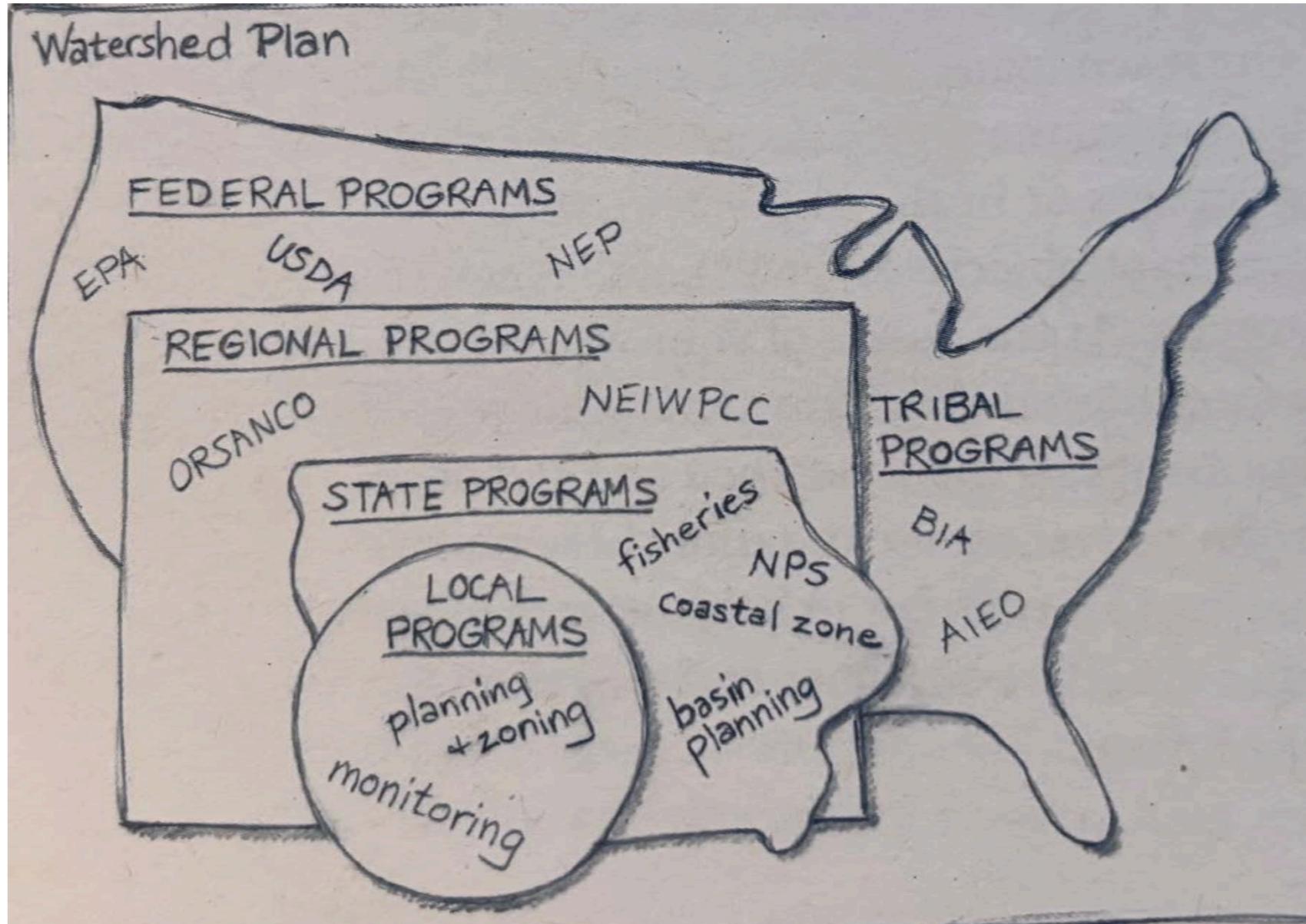
5 Watershed Plan Implementation

6 Measure Progress & Make Adjustments





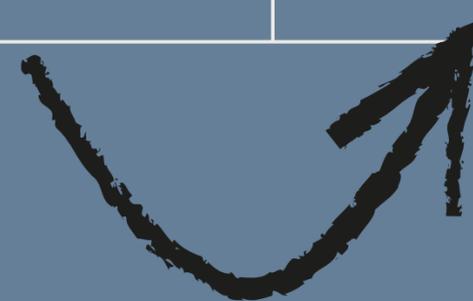
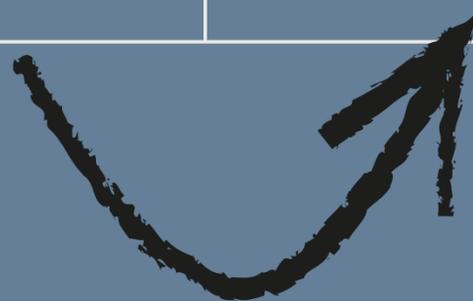
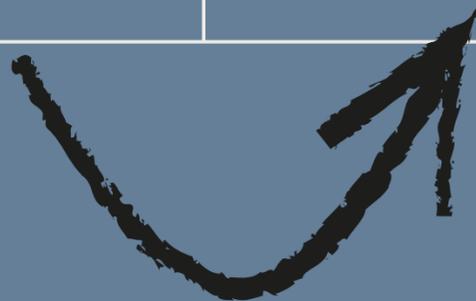
Step 1: Identify Partners





Step 2: Characterize the Watershed

What do we already know?		What's Missing?	
Partners	Existing Info	Data Gaps	Priority Needs
Who the people and organizations are that hold knowledge	Identification and compilation of data	ID gaps and opportunities from compiled information	Identify Community priorities through outreach and partner engagement



3. Set Measurable & Attainable Goals

**What Does Success Look like?
Short and Long Term**

- **Pro-watershed policies**
- **Data gaps filled**
- **Greater Community
Education**
- **Permanent protections for
the Susitna**



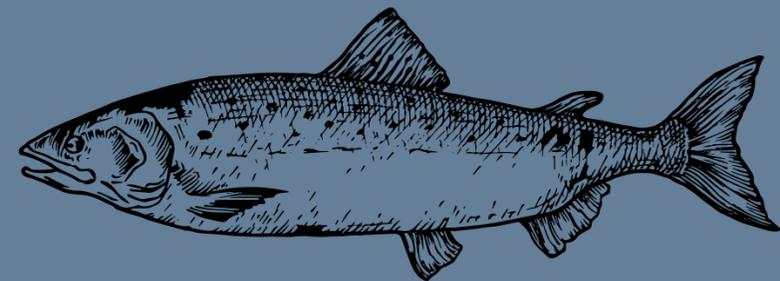
4. Design an Implementation Process



- **Disseminating information**
- **Community Education**
- **Citizen Science & Trainings**
- **Supporting Partners**

How to plug in:

- Identify knowledge holders
- Share information
- Identify project opportunities
- Join engagement sessions
- Provide feedback



What is SRC excited about?

Community Driven Planning



Restoration Projects

Citizen Science Initiatives



Education Opportunities

What would you want to see more of?

Help create a Susitna Watershed Plan for the future grounded in science and shaped by our communities.



Photo: Bill Rodwell

WE WANT
YOU!



Sign Up

