

**Alaska Department of Fish & Game**  
Habitat and Restoration Division  
**“Susitna Valley Fish Habitat Identification and Trail Survey”**



*FY02 Grant Award: \$52,265*

*Project Match: \$34,844*



**Description and Purpose:** To survey the distribution of anadromous and resident fish habitat in Southcentral Alaska watersheds. Accurate identification of fish habitat is essential to implementing existing non-point source pollution control statutes, regulations, and programs. During the trail survey, stream-crossing sites used by all-terrain vehicles (ATV) within the Willow, Little Willow, Kashwitna, Caswell, Sheep, and Montana Creek drainages will be located and evaluated. The purpose is to document existing conditions to determine

the degree of impact ATV stream crossings have on fish habitat and water quality and provide baseline data to determine whether conditions change over time.

**Evaluation of Environmental Benefits:**

The anticipated environmental benefits of the project include:

- Knowledge of resident and anadromous fish distribution, spawning and rearing areas within the Susitna River drainage.
- Knowledge of ATV activity within selected stream corridors, ATV crossing locations, degree of impact to adjacent streams, and baseline data to be used to monitor how crossings change over time.
- Education of local school aged youth in the role of riparian habitat through classroom presentations and hands on restoration work.

Participating resource management agencies and representatives who may use the information from the project will evaluate the project's success. The ADF&G project coordinator will develop a form, or other evaluation tool, that the user group will be asked to complete. Indicators of project success and environmental benefit will include, at minimum:

- Consensus of user group that the maps and habitat assessments enables them to significantly improve targeting and effectiveness monitoring of their protection and restoration efforts.
- Successful completion of all deliverables.

**Project deliverables include:** Deliverables consist of reports describing the findings of each survey. The fish habitat report will follow the format of Technical Report 99-4: *Carbon Mountain Tract 1998 Fish Habitat Survey*. The ATV trail stream crossing report will indicate the location of each stream crossing and give a qualitative ranking illustrating their degree of impact on water quality and fish habitat. A presentation illustrating the results of the ATV trail stream crossing



survey will also be developed using Microsoft PowerPoint. This presentation will be provided to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts for use as an educational tool to inform ATV users about water quality and fish habitat impacts associated with trail crossings.

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