

**June 2006
Final Community Action Plan**

Anchor River State Recreation Area

Background:

With support from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Alaska Clean Water Action Program, the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District has assessed and monitor streambank conditions on the lower Anchor River (within the Anchor River State Recreation Area) in 2004 and 2005.

Results:

Two years of monitoring and meetings with the South Peninsula State Parks Advisory Board and Community Rivers Planning Coalition identified the following concerns:

- Picnic Hole
 - Right streambank sloughing and erosion rates are increasing in the past two years, as seen by the increased exposure of the culvert on the left streambank.
 - Meetings held with Alaska State Parks, Community Rivers Planning Coalition, the Natural Resources Conservation Service indicate that removing the fill placed at this site and restoring the area's natural floodplain will help reduce erosion rates
 - If not possible to restore the area's natural floodplain, a recommendations for a streambank restoration project has been made, consisting of rootwads and willows, similar to the 2003 installation
- 90 Hole
 - Sloughing rates on the left streambank appear to be both naturally and human caused. River energy is naturally eroding the left streambank, yet human pressure on the bank is causing compaction and increasing



In the photo series above, the Picnic Hole erosion over a two year period is evident (May 2004, May 2005, October 2006, respectively).

- the likelihood of erosion.
- Observations of emergent vegetation on the right streambank indicate streambank recovery on this bank.

The other fishing sites monitored saw little change in habitat scores over the two year period.

Recommendations:

The concerns identified at the Picnic Hole will only be exacerbated if intervention does not occur. Erosion rates witnessed in 2005 (especially after spring breakup) indicate that streambank loss is increasing.

Progress: Approximately \$70,000 has been acquired by Alaska State Parks to restore the Picnic Hole. These funds have been placed on the construction list with the other deferred maintenance items on the Anchor River State Recreation Area's 2007 work list.

Construction of a trail and access to the river from the left streambank would be ideal, but on-site conditions and limited funds may prohibit this. Providing proper fishing etiquette information is recommended and could serve to reduce streambank impacts.

Continued visits and monitoring of the dynamic river system is recommended to understand the rates of erosion and deposition in this system.