



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

**HOOPER BAY ALASKA SUBSISTENCE ATV TRAIL PROJECT
PARTNERSHIP**

In recognition of the exceptional contributions of the Hooper Bay Alaska Subsistence ATV Trail Project Partnership through collaboration and partnering.

Land managers in Alaska and other western States face challenges from impacts due to increasing use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs). Several years ago, the Yup'ik elders in Hooper Bay, Alaska, began noticing unwelcome changes to their community that were ultimately attributed to ATV use. Populations of the black brant goose were declining precipitously and berry patches and other plants were being impacted by villagers using ATVs to reach subsistence hunting and gathering grounds. It took the courage, dedication, and ingenuity of the Yup'ik community to rise to these challenges and find solutions through collaborative efforts resulting in nationally significant achievements.

The Hooper Bay Alaska Subsistence ATV Trail Project Partnership includes local native community elders, leaders, and residents, as well as nonprofit partners, State and Federal agencies, and others. To address impacts to goose populations, the Partnership developed conservation and natural resource goals for the species. This resulted in development of educational materials, as well as outreach involving teams of local residents camping out on nearby hunting and gathering grounds and speaking with ATV riders passing through the area. Through these efforts the black brant goose population exhibited a rebound in just a few seasons. To address impacts from ATV use on the landscape, the Partnership collaborated on a technically and logistically complex project to construct hardened ATV trails. A preferred trail location was determined through public scoping meetings, a successful training provided a local crew with the skills to maintain the trail, and the end product was so successful that the village is planning an 8-mile trail extension.

For its initiative, ingenuity, dedication, and commitment towards protecting and conserving critical migratory bird habitat and natural and subsistence resources in Alaska, the Hooper Bay Alaska Subsistence ATV Trail Project Partnership is granted the Cooperative Conservation Award of the Department of the Interior.

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