



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

CITATION

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA SALMON HABITAT CONSERVATION  
PARTNERSHIP**

In recognition of the cooperative efforts of the Matanuska-Susitna Salmon Habitat Conservation Partnership to address the increasing impacts on salmon habitat from human use and development in the Matanuska-Susitna basin.

Beginning in 2005, more than 29 partners from a broad range of State, Federal, tribal, local and nongovernmental organizations have come together to form the Matanuska-Susitna Salmon Conservation Partnership. This effort has resulted in the development of a comprehensive conservation assessment of the Matanuska-Susitna Valley watersheds, which has led to the prioritization of the area's fish-habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement needs. As a result of this broad base of community and agency support, the Partnership has collaborated to successfully implement a suite of on-the-ground habitat restoration projects, including the Moose Creek fish passage and restoration project, which was nationally recognized as one of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan's "Ten Waters to Watch." This project has resulted in 3,450 feet of restored river channel and floodplain characteristics and more than 5 miles of improved fish access for Pacific salmon. The Partnership also earned national recognition as one of four currently recognized partnerships under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Wild fish populations are endangered, threatened, or even extinct in other parts of this country. Many see Alaska as providing the Nation's best opportunity to "keep common fish species common" by conserving healthy fish populations and the habitats that sustain them. The Matanuska-Susitna Salmon Conservation Partnership continues to serve as a model for future programs that will help maintain these resources and the economically important recreational and commercial fisheries that they support.

In recognition of their vision and leadership, the Matanuska-Susitna Salmon Habitat Conservation Partnership is granted the Cooperative Conservation Award of the Department of the Interior.

Secretary of the Interior