

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Matanuska-Susitna Borough****Federal Tax ID: 92-0030816****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough - Fisheries and Fish Protection

State Funding Requested: \$2,500,000
One-Time Need**House District: Mat-Su Areawide (7-11)****Brief Project Description:**

Funds will be combined with existing resources to improve fish passage for migrating and juvenile salmon, conserve important salmon spawning, rearing and overwintering habitat via conservation easements and/or acquisitions, and continue the genetic sampling of Mat-Su salmon to help with future allocation strategies for commercial fisheries and complete additional studies to better understand the economic impact of Mat-Su Fisheries.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$2,500,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**Funding Plan**Total Project Costs: \$4,430,000**Funding Already Secured: \$1,930,000**FY2014 State Request: \$2,500,000***Detailed Project Description and Justification:****Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The following project justification is supported by the National Fish Habitat Partnership, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership and represents priorities highlighted in their 2008 Strategic Action Plan.

Fish Passage Request (\$1 million):

In MSB, 75% of all culverts are barriers to salmon. MSB's fish passage program is over a decade old and has a long history of replacing substandard culverts for fisheries as well as for better flood conveyance. Based on FWS letter to MSB Assembly December 6, 2012, the next suite of culverts that are currently unfunded are in Table 1, along with an estimated cost and upstream miles open. Total upstream miles is estimated to be 12.2 miles. MSB can leverage these funds with agencies for at least an additional \$1 million dollars to replace these pipes for salmon so that they can access to critical habitats over the next 3-4 years.

Table 1

No. Road	Stream	ADFG Number	Estimated Cost	Upstream Miles Opened
1 Crabb Circle	Wasilla Crk	20401350	\$150,000	3.0
2 Caswell Lakes Rd	Caswell Crk	20501461	\$300,000	0.25
3 Caswell Lakes Rd	Caswell Crk	20501462	\$300,000	1.84
4 Riverdell Rd	Cottonwood Crk	20401288	\$500,000	0.87
5 Homebuilt Cir	Neklason Lake	20401288	\$200,000	3.41
6 Susitna River Rd	Trapper Crk	20501409	\$500,000	2.9

Habitat Conservation Request (\$1 million):

In 2012, GLT completed a GIS based salmon centric parcel prioritization identifying the most important salmon spawning, rearing, and overwintering habitat within 23 priority water bodies in the MSB (see chart below). With funds from the AKSSF and the State Legislature, GLT is proposing to work with willing landowners conserve 1000 acres or more of critical salmon habitat. These strategic acquisitions will support continued sport fishing and recreational opportunities into the future, permanently conserve and maintain public access where appropriate and support landowner habitat stewardship that will contribute to healthy salmon populations.

GLT identified Priority Waterbodies for Salmon Production Throughout MSB:

Central Portion of Mat-Su Watersheds: Big Lake, Fish Creek, Lucile Creek, Meadow Creek Blodgett Lake and Cottonwood Creek.

Upper Susitna Drainage Watersheds: Queer Creek, Rabideux Creek, Whiskers Creek, Wiggle Creek, Larson Lake and Montana Creek.

Eastern portion of Mat-Su Watersheds: Wasilla Creek, McRoberts Creek, Jim Lake/Jim Creek, Swan Lake Matanuska River, and the Little Susitna River.

Science and Research (\$500,000)

Economic Importance of Sportfishing in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough: Study completed by ISER 2009, would be updated considering the declines in salmon populations, specific sport fish system closures, and the increase in borough population and development. This new study would further analyze the impact that the sports fisheries had on the economy in the Mat-Su Borough, compare 2009 and 2012/13 fiscal impacts and highlight the importance of sport fishing and fishing related tourism relative to other types of economic activities in the region.

Salmon Genetic Sampling: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been conducting genetic sampling of various salmon fisheries to better inform allocation strategies for commercial fisheries in Cook Inlet. The Mat-Su Borough wants more of this analysis conducted on Mat-Su fish.

Explanation of Other Funding

\$1,080,000 -- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game received funding for the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF) to restore fish passage on impassable culverts in the Mat-Su.

\$850,000 -- Great Land Trust (GLT) received funding from the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund to work with willing landowners to place conservation easements or acquire fee title on lands that contain priority salmon habitat.

Project Timeline:

Timeline
Projects would be initiated during the summer of 2013 and carried out through 2017.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

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MAT-SU SALMON HABITAT PRIORITIZATION

Parcels highlighted in red signify high value salmon spawning, juvenile rearing, and overwintering habitat in 24 priority waterbodies in the MSB

 Selected Parcels

 Selected Rivers and Streams

 Major Roads

 Mat-Su Borough Boundary

 Selected Lakes

 Cities

