

Conservation Options to Improve Salmon Habitat

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers, forest managers, landowners, Tribes & other organizations improve salmon habitat.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Are you interested in improving habitat for salmon and other aquatic species in Alaska? USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may be able to help.

We offer technical and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, forest managers, landowners, Tribes and other organizations to install conservation practices on private land. Participation in our programs is entirely voluntary. We can tailor the practices to suit the unique needs of your property.

NRCS can help remove barriers that restrict salmon access to historical spawning and rearing habitat, such as removing undersized or failing culverts and replacing them with salmon-friendly culverts or bridges. We provide engineering design assistance on fish passage projects to ensure the right design for the right stream and the right cost.

Other salmon-friendly conservation practices include forestry and upland activities that improve water quality and habitat.



Aquatic organism passage bridge project in Juneau, Alaska.



ALASKA
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Service

www.nrcs.usda.gov/ak

Practice

Description

Benefits

Aquatic Organism Passage



Modification or removal of barriers that restrict or impede movement of fish and other aquatic species, including replacing the object with a culvert, bridge or crossing.

- » Enhances fish habitat
- » Can improve fish populations by restoring access to habitat
- » Provides management options to enhance long-term stream function

Obstruction Removal



Disposal of structures, vegetation, landscape features, trash and other material. Typically used as a supporting practice and not a stand-alone practice.

- » Improves water quality for surface and ground water
- » Prevents future flood damage
- » Facilitates other conservation practices

Access Road



An established route for equipment and vehicles.

- » Facilitates human access to areas where access is required to accomplish conservation activities.
- » Provides a fixed route for vehicle travel
- » Minimizes points of human disturbance

Stream Habitat Improvement & Management



Improving, restoring, or maintaining the ecological functions of a stream and its adjacent floodplain and riparian area.

- » Restores stream and riparian area function by utilizing natural materials
- » Maintains adequate in-stream flows to sustain diverse habitats for fish and other aquatic species





Streambank Protection



Treatment used to stabilize and protect banks of streams or constructed channels and shorelines.

- » Prevents loss of land or damage to land uses adjacent to streambanks
- » Maintains flow capacity of streams or channels
- » Reduces offsite or downstream effects of sediment resulting from bank erosion
- » Improves stream corridor for fish and wildlife habitat

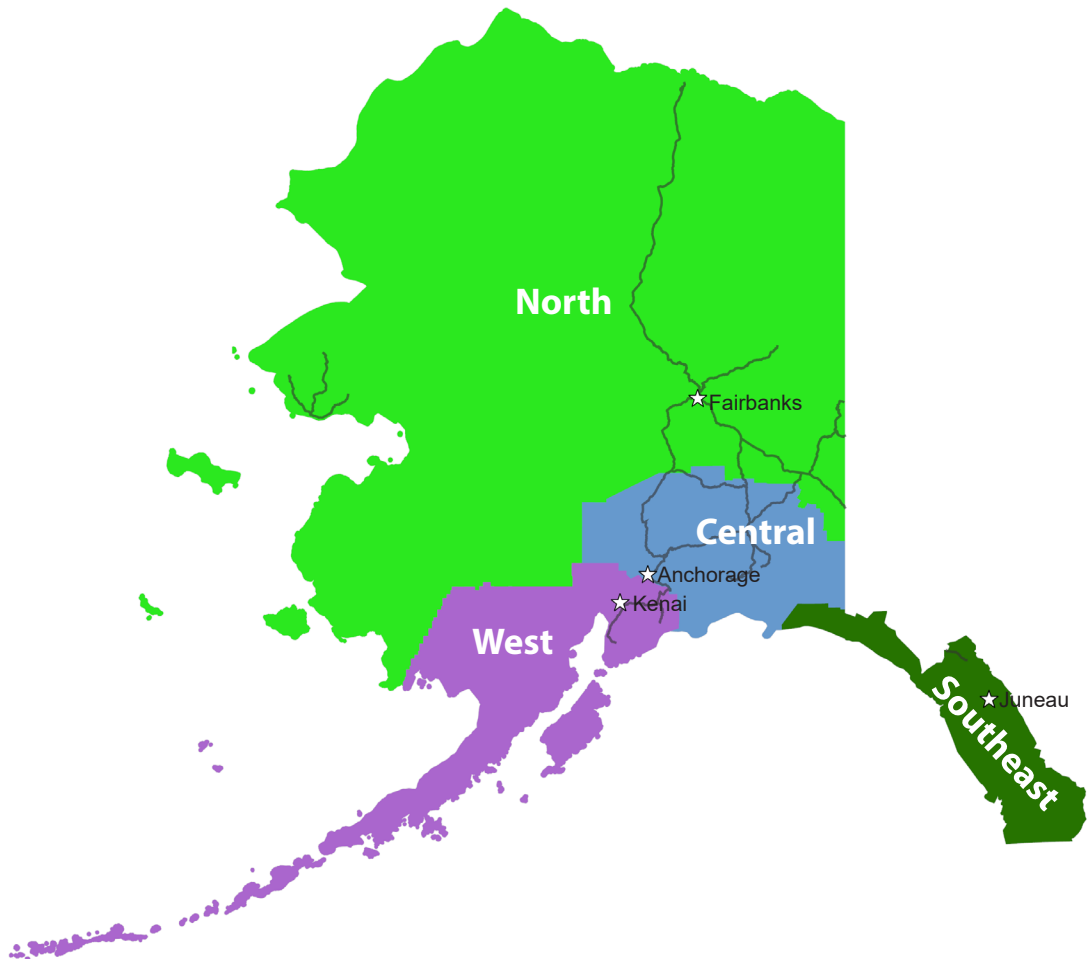


Practice	Description	Benefits
<p>Forest Stand Improvement</p> 	<p>Manipulating tree composition, stand structure and density by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improves forest health and productivity » Restore or maintain natural plant communities » Improves understory habitat for wildlife » Reduces risk of catastrophic wildfire
<p>Riparian Forest Buffer</p> 	<p>Trees and shrubs planted adjacent to a river, stream, wetland or water body.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Protects near-stream soils from over-bank flows » Traps harmful chemicals or sediment transported by surface and subsurface flows from adjacent land uses » Provides shade and woody debris to benefit in-stream ecologic functions
<p>Tree/Shrub Establishment</p> 	<p>Planting seedlings or cuttings; seeding; or creating conditions that promote natural regeneration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Establishes forest cover » Enhances wildlife habitat » Controls erosion » Improves water quality » Captures and stores carbon
<p>Road/Trail Closure</p> 	<p>The closure, decommissioning, or abandonment of roads, trails and/or landings to achieve conservation objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Controls erosion and spread of chemical residue » Restores land to a productive state by re-establishing habitat and reconnecting wildlife migration corridors » Minimizes human impacts to sensitive areas » Improves wildlife habitat
<p>Trails and Walkways</p> 	<p>A constructed path with a vegetated, earthen, gravel, paved, or other hard surface to facilitate the movement of animals, people, or off-road vehicles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Protects ecologically sensitive sites » Reduces erosion » Provides pedestrian or off-road vehicle access for agricultural operations » Provides human access to recreation sites





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