

# THE EMERGENCE OF LOCAL FISH PASSAGE POLICY IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

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# ASSESSMENT AND POLICY SUPPORT RESTORATION ACTIONS:

## 15 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN THE MAT-SU VALLEY

\$8M IN PROJECTS

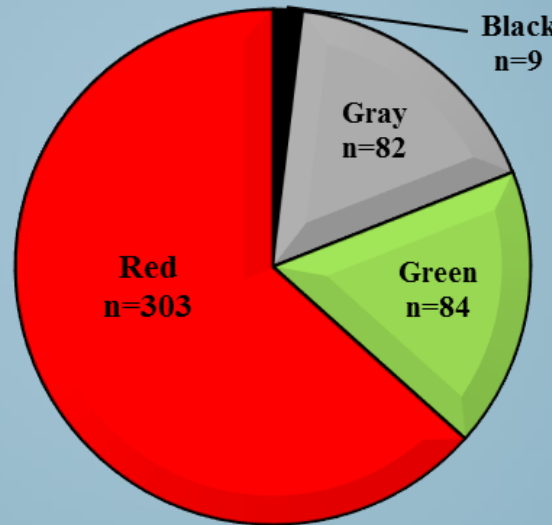
MAT SU FISH HABITAT  
PARTNERSHIP STARTED 2006

## 15 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN THE KENAI PENINSULA

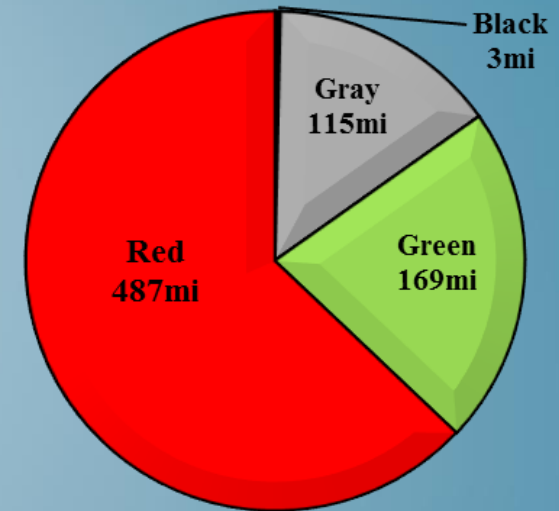
### Mat-Su Valley

#### 2000

Number of Barriers

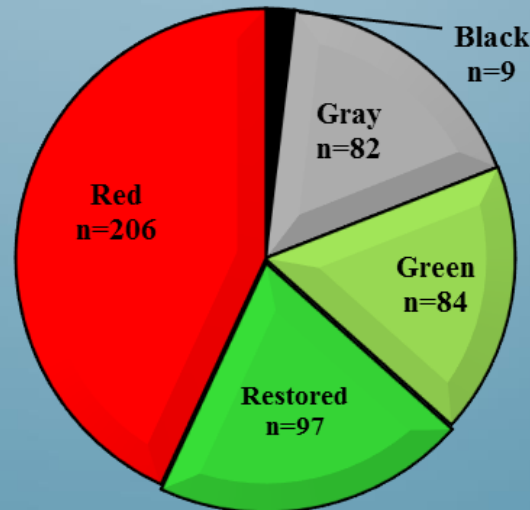


Miles Upstream of Barriers

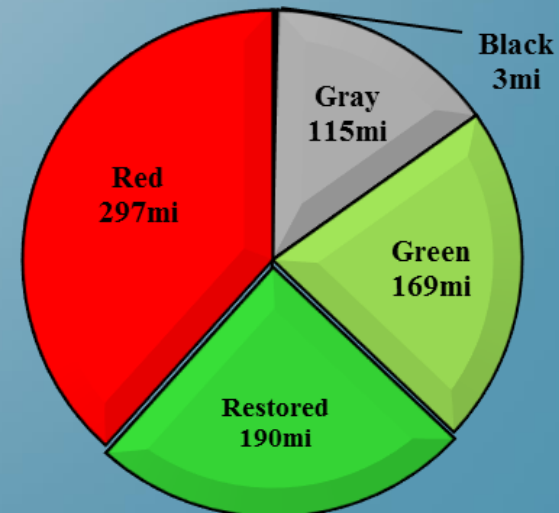


#### 2015

Number of Barriers



Miles Upstream of Barriers



# FLOODS IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

- **2002: MULTIPLE 100-YEAR EVENTS ON THE KENAI PENINSULA**
- **2006: MAT-SU 100 TO 500 YEAR EVENT**
- **2012: MAT-SU 100 YEAR EVENT**
- **2015: ?**





# Restoration Actions and Floods are Informing New Municipal Policy

## “No New Barriers” and “No More Road Failures”

2007: Anchorage Fish Passage Design Criteria passes. Including 100-year flood event design – strong desire to improve salmon habitat within city limits.

2008: Kenai Borough Ordinance passes requiring 100 year flood design for all stream crossings in anadromous waters.



# Municipal Policy

## “No New Barriers” and “No More Road Failures”

2012: 100+ year flood event hits Mat-Su Borough.

2013: Mat-Su Borough Ordinance passes to implement new fish passage design criteria (100 yr) created by local agencies and engineers.



**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM**

**IM No. 13-083**

***A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-  
SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING  
THE SUBDIVISION CONSTRUCTION  
MANUAL TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR  
THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF  
ANADROMOUS WATERBODY CROSSINGS.***



# LOCAL EFFORTS – LOCAL RESULTS

- Floods and Fish - Opportunity for Education
- Immediate impact as these crossings were typically well travelled and people know – it’s in their “backyard”.
- Guidance sets forth range of options and criteria but does not specify what to choose or do.
- Design criteria standardizes and makes it simpler to design fish passage to local conditions
- Design criteria is REQUIRED to be met : Stronger than guidelines, but can be waived by city engineer or mayor
- Ordinances have even stronger power and can be enforced by city or county attorneys