

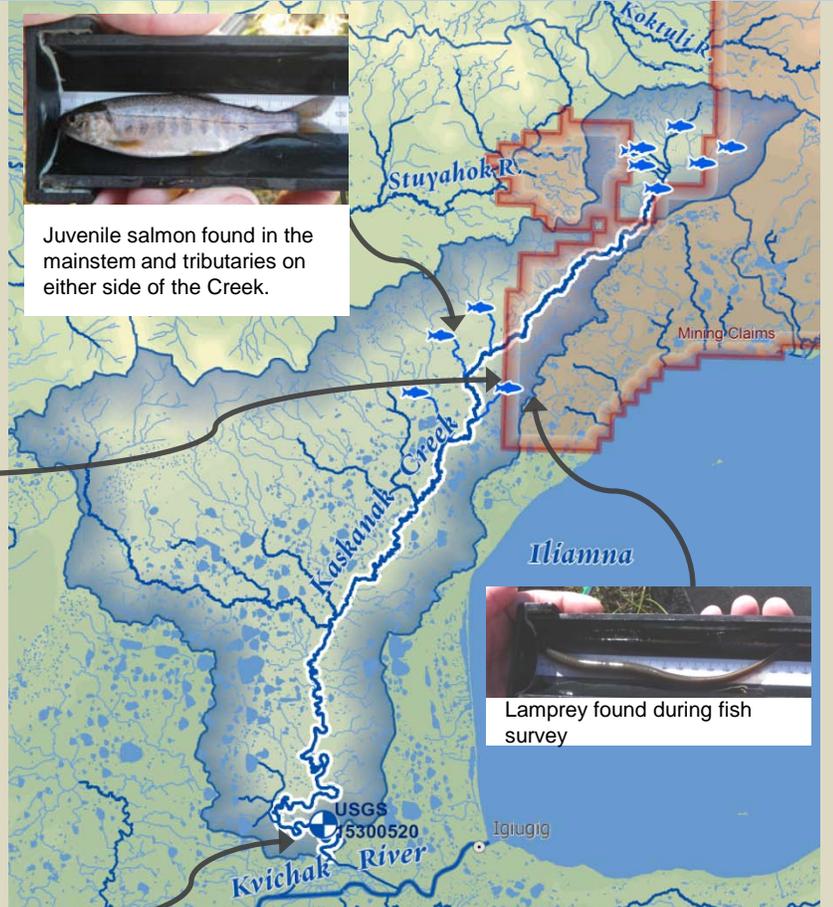
# KASKANAK CREEK

## Instream Flow Report

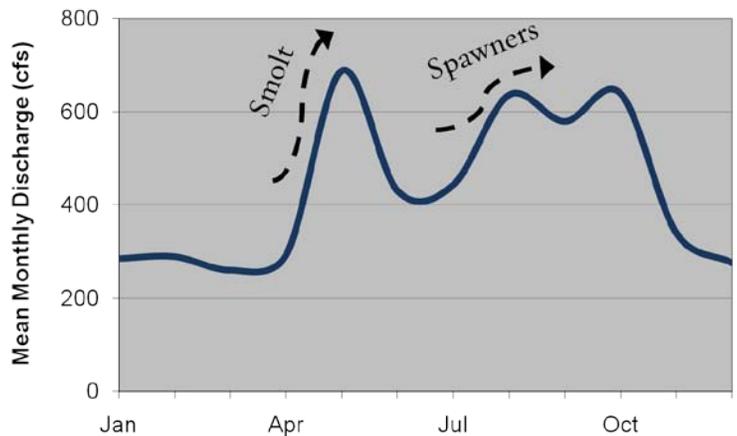
Kaskanak Creek flows for 75 miles from a fan of kettle ponds and small tributaries eventually joining the Kvichak River just below the Village of Igiugig and Lake Iliamna's outlet. The creek meanders in a serpentine path providing excellent habitat throughout its length.



Additionally, clearwater tributaries and ponds flowing into the creek supply spawning and rearing habitat.



Hydrograph - Kaskanak Creek  
USGS Gage 15300520 - 3 year average



Trout Unlimited submitted the initial instream flow reservation application in October 2008. The Nature Conservancy continues to provide financial support to the US Geological Survey to maintain the gauging station and collect flow data

**STATUS**

The application is partially complete and has been accepted by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) while additional years of water flow data are collected at the gage. Due to its status date, this application will have priority over any subsequently filed water rights applications on Kaskanak Creek.

**FISH**

Kaskanak Creek supports populations of chum, coho, king, pink and sockeye salmon. Additionally, the river’s tributaries contain numerous resident fish species including arctic char, grayling, humpback whitefish, lamprey, rainbow trout, and sculpin. Collectively these fish populations supply subsistence, commercial, and sportfishing communities.

**DETAILS**

The application uses data from USGS gage 15300520 which has been functioning since June 2008. This station is about 3.5 river miles upstream from the confluence with the Kvichak River. This work has been partially funded by The Nature Conservancy.

Over 12% of Kaskanak Creek’s watershed has been claimed for mining with staking activity and exploration accelerating rapidly during the past three years. These actions have occurred in the headwaters with the potential to impact aquatic life throughout the system without adequate flows. This instream flow reservation is a legal means to protect fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation.



Data	Application	Funded	Adjudicated	Priority
Ongoing, 3 years of data collected, 2 more years needed (as of June 2011)	Initial application accepted by AK Dept. of Natural Resources	Yes, gage is funded by The Nature Conservancy and its partners	No, awaiting ADNR action upon final submittal (“perfection date”)	This reservation has priority over subsequent water rights applications.

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# LOWER TALARIK CREEK

## Instream Flow Report

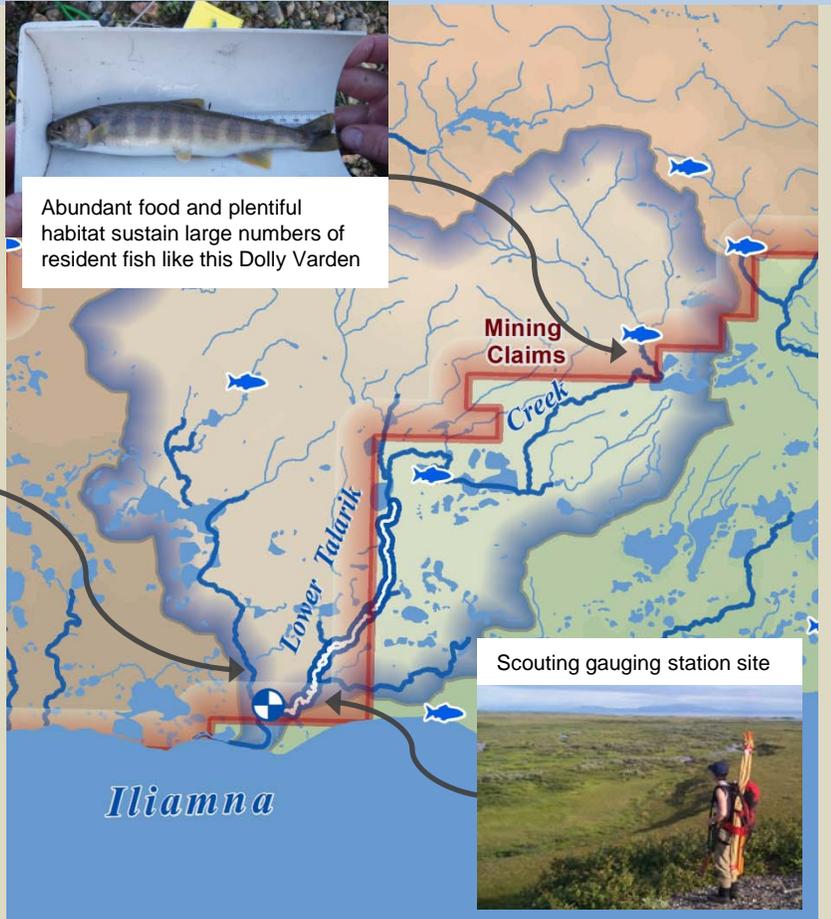
Lower Talarik Creek flows approximately 20 miles across relatively flat terrain through a series of small ponds and along its final deep bends before emptying into Lake Iliamna. The creek meanders in a serpentine path providing excellent habitat throughout its length.



Lower Talarik Creek's west fork contributes significant fish habitat to the overall system. The Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game has filed an instream flow reservation for this reach.



Abundant food and plentiful habitat sustain large numbers of resident fish like this Dolly Varden



Scouting gauging station site

*Iliamna*

Maintaining adequate baseflows during all seasons, including winter is vital to fish.



The Nature Conservancy submitted the initial instream flow reservation application in February 2000. The Conservancy cooperated with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide supplemental information to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in 2003 and 2005.

**STATUS**

The application is complete and has been accepted by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR). Due to its status date, this filing (LAS # 23051) will have priority over any subsequently filed water rights applications on Lower Talarik Creek.

**FISH**

Lower Talarik Creek supports a legendary population of large and abundant Rainbow Trout. The creek was one of Alaska’s first officially designated Trophy Rainbow Trout streams. It also sustains coho, king, and sockeye salmon. Additionally, the river’s tributaries contain numerous resident fish species including arctic char, grayling, round whitefish, nine-spine stickleback, and sculpin. Collectively these fish populations supply subsistence, commercial, and sportfishing communities.

**DETAILS**

The application uses data from a gauging station which operated from 2003-2007. This station was about 1.7 river miles upstream from Lake Iliamna.

Over 75% of Lower Talarik Creek’s watershed has been claimed for mining with staking activity and exploration accelerating rapidly during the past three years. These actions are occurring in the headwaters with the potential to impact aquatic life throughout the system without adequate flows. This instream flow reservation is a legal means to protect fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation.



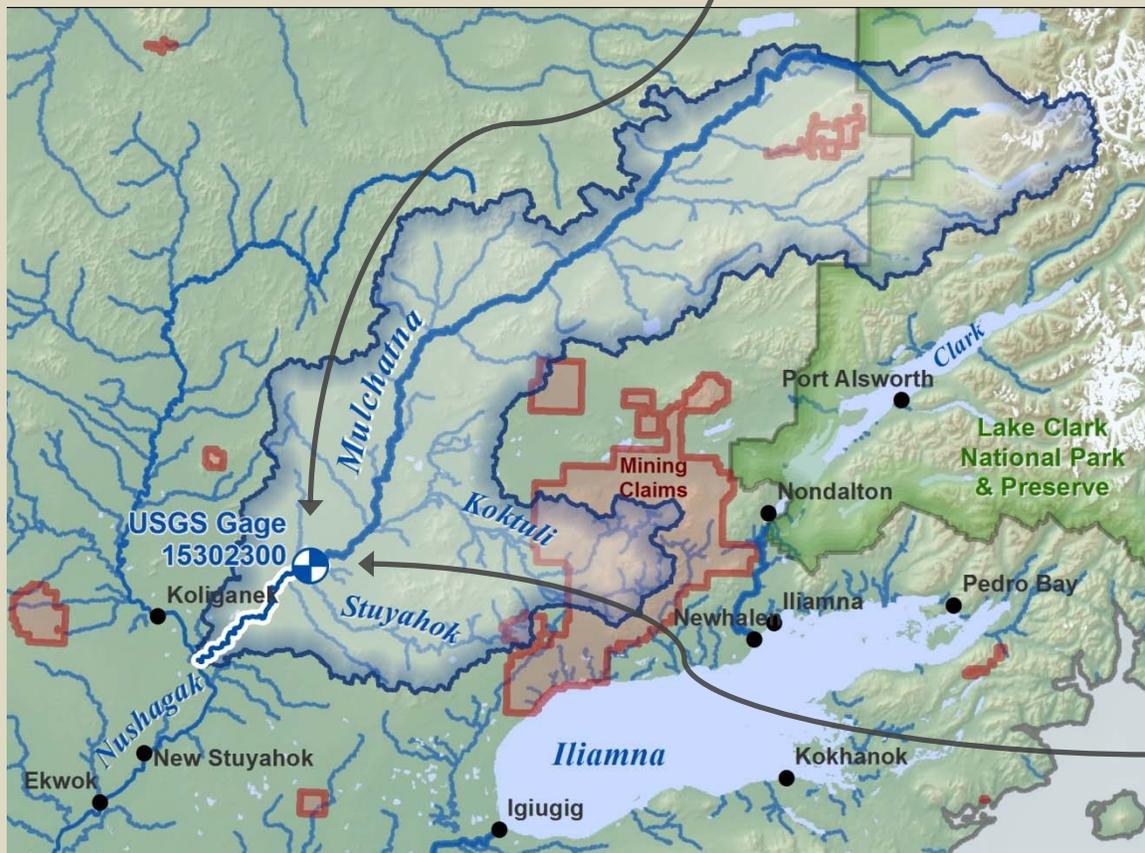
Data	Application	Funded	Adjudicated	Priority
Complete, data collected 2003-2007	Application accepted by AK Dept. of Natural Resources	Yes, gage was funded by The Nature Conservancy	No, awaiting ADNR action	This reservation has priority over subsequent water rights applications.

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# MULCHATNA RIVER

## Instream Flow Report

The Mulchatna River combines with the Nushagak to form one of Southwest Alaska's great river systems serving as a primary transportation route for both fish and the people of the region. The Mulchatna flows over 200 miles before combining with the Nushagak River and continuing another 112 miles to Nushagak Bay, an extension of Bristol Bay.



USGS Gaging Station with solar powered satellite transmitter for real time data collection and transfer.

This reservation covers two reaches which collectively stretch 30 miles upstream from the Nushagak confluence to a point about three miles upriver from the the Stuyahok confluence. Much of the river's 4300 square mile watershed is general state land, with only 14% under permanent conservation management within the Lake Clark National Park. This instream flow reservation is a legal means to protect fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation.

The Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership submitted the instream flow reservation application in June 2009 with substantial support from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. The Nature Conservancy continues to provide financial support to the US Geological Survey (USGS) to maintain the gaging station and collect flow data.

**STATUS**

The Instream Flow Reservation application is partially complete and has been accepted at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) while additional years of water flow data are collected. This application's initial status date is June 15th, 2009 and DNR lists the current status as Application Received: LAS 27309. Due to its status date, this application has priority over subsequently filed water use claims on the Mulchatna River.

**FISH**

The Mulchatna River supports significant spawning populations of chum, coho, king, pink and sockeye salmon. The Nushagak/Mulchatna system historically hosts Alaska's fourth largest king salmon run as well as one the world's largest sockeye runs. Additionally, the river's tributaries contain numerous resident fish species including arctic char, grayling, round whitefish, lamprey, rainbow trout, and sculpin. Collectively these fish populations supply subsistence, commercial, and sport fishing communities.

**DETAILS**

The application uses data from USGS gage 15302300 which has been functioning since June 2009. This station is about 1 river mile upstream from the confluence with the Stuyahok River. This work has been funded by The Nature Conservancy and its conservation partners.



Data	Application	Funded	Adjudicated	Priority
Ongoing, 2 years of data collected, 3 more years needed (as of June 2011)	Initial application accepted by AK Dept. of Natural Resources	Yes, gage is funded by The Nature Conservancy	No, awaiting ADNR action upon final submittal ("perfection date")	This reservation has priority over subsequent water rights applications.

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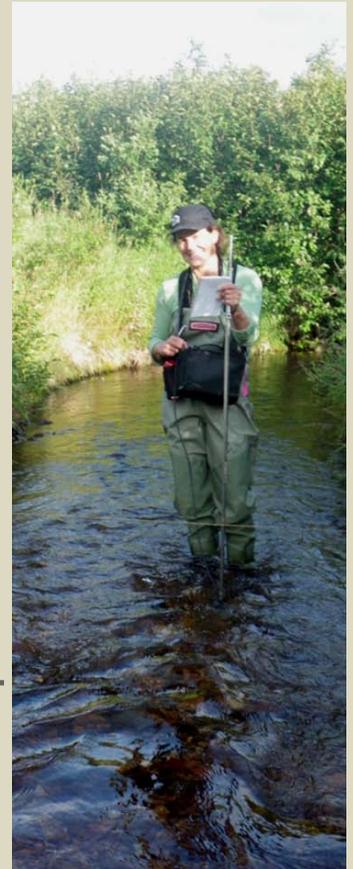
# STUYAHOK RIVER

## Instream Flow Report

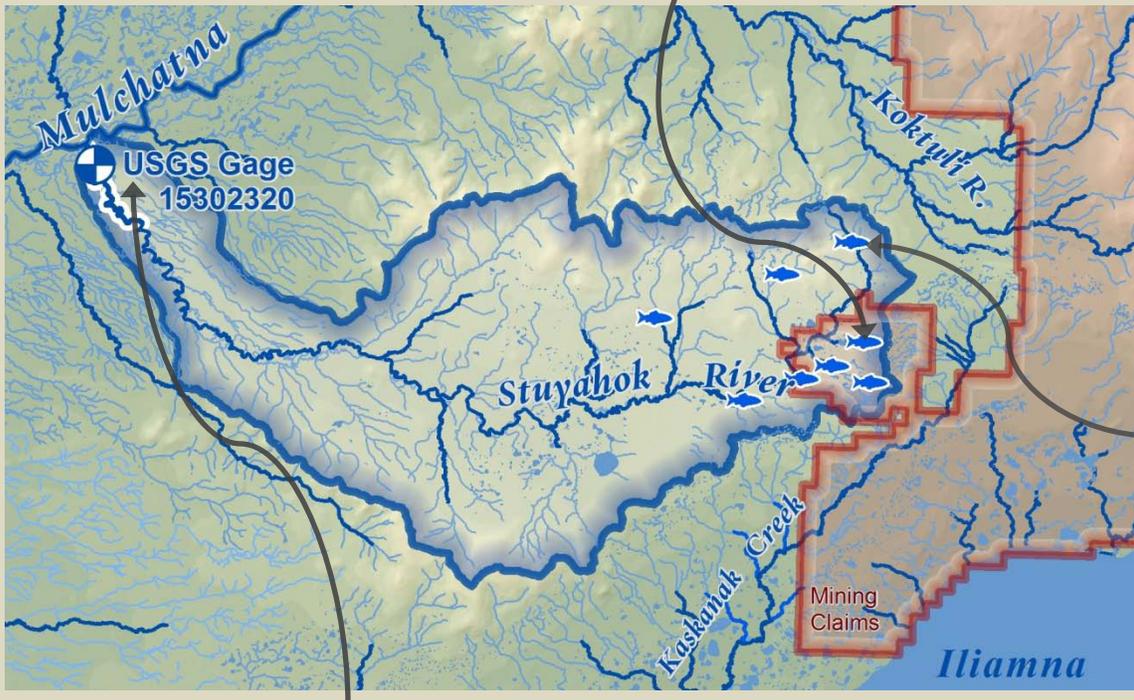
The Stuyahok River flows approximately 71 miles before emptying into the Mulchatna River. Stuyahok's original village existed on the river before eventually moving downriver to New Stuyahok's present location on the Nushagak.



Juvenile salmon of various age classes found in headwaters tributary.



Gathering stream transect data for flow and fish habitat.



The Nature Conservancy staff inspecting gage on lower river.

This reservation covers one reach flowing over 6.5 miles of the lower river to its confluence with the Mulchatna. Portions of the Stuyahok watershed have been claimed for mining with staking activity and exploration accelerating rapidly during the past three years. These actions have occurred in the headwaters with the potential to impact aquatic life throughout the system without adequate flows.

This instream flow reservation is a legal means to protect fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation.

The Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership submitted the instream flow reservation application in June 2009 with substantial support from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. The Nature Conservancy continues to provide financial support to the US Geological Survey (USGS) to maintain the gaging station and collect flow data.

**STATUS**

The Instream Flow Reservation application is partially complete and has been accepted at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) while additional years of water flow data are collected. This application's initial status date is June 15th, 2009 and DNR lists the current status as Application Received: LAS 27310. Due to its status date, this application has priority over subsequently filed water use claims on the Stuyahok River.

**FISH**

The Stuyahok River supports spawning populations of chum, coho, king, pink and sockeye salmon. Additionally, the river's tributaries contain numerous resident fish species including arctic char, grayling, round whitefish, lamprey, rainbow trout, and sculpin. Collectively these fish populations supply subsistence, commercial, and sport fishing communities.

**DETAILS**

The application uses data from USGS gage 15302320 which has been functioning since June 2009. This station is about 1.5 river miles upstream from the confluence with the Mulchatna River. This work has been funded by The Nature Conservancy and its conservation partners.



Data	Application	Funded	Adjudicated	Priority
Ongoing, 2 years of data collected, 3 more years needed (as of June 2011)	Initial application accepted by AK Dept. of Natural Resources	Yes, gage is funded by The Nature Conservancy	No, awaiting ADNR action upon final submittal ("perfection date")	This reservation has priority over subsequent water rights applications.

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