

CHENA RIVER WATERSHED RESOURCE ACTION PLAN AT A GLANCE



OBJ. 1

NATURAL STREAMBANK VEGETATION

No net loss of native vegetated streambank areas within the Lower Chena River mainstem, tributaries and sloughs.

Consider minimum streambank buffer width (i.e. 50 feet) and vegetation composition needed.

Assess reasonable uses by landowners - existing setback and zoning guidelines.

Mobilize support of key constituencies (e.g., Riverfront Commission), community members and other stakeholders.

Show the benefits of restoring streambank vegetation.

Develop a list of prioritized "shovel ready" restoration projects based on habitat value, current degradation, and opportunity.

OBJ. 2

NATURAL STREAMBANKS

Restore important fish habitats by reducing hardened banks (i.e. riprap) in the lower Chena River mainstem, sloughs and tributaries; also increase large woody debris and native vegetated or bioengineered banks.

Identify streambank restoration projects, and promote best management practices (BMPs) for streambanks.

Allow for more large woody debris below the dam.

Discourage future bank hardening practices.

Share the *Power of Roots* by showing landowners the benefits of intact vegetation within riparian areas.

OBJ. 3

FISH PASSAGE UPSTREAM

Restore connectivity so both juvenile and adult fish have timely access to key habitats in the Chena River tributaries and sloughs.

Build constituency to support both ADOT&PF and borough fish-passage culvert upgrades.

Based on ADF&G inventory, turn high priority degraded "red" and "grey" culverts to "green."

Identify significant fish passage barriers, not yet catalogued, and add them to the shovel-ready list.

ABOUT WRAP

Scientists and agencies worked as an interdisciplinary team over the past six months to produce a Watershed Resource Action Plan (WRAP) for the Tanana Valley watershed's Chena River. This process was facilitated by Greg Low of Applied Conservation and hosted by the Tanana Valley Watershed Association. The timeliness of this plan was inspired by a genuine concern for Chinook salmon populations in the Chena and Salcha Rivers.

The team of knowledgeable experts, representing numerous agencies and community representatives, worked to identify and craft solutions for the highest sources of threats to the Chena River. Through implementing strategic objectives the river's health will improve over the next ten to fifteen years.

The working group identified these seven objectives and many action items that the community can take to improve the health of the Chena River.

www.ESCAPEwrap.com



OBJ. 4

GOOD WATER QUALITY

Ensure Lower Chena River mainstem, tributaries and sloughs meet ADEC water quality standards.*
(* restoration plan in place - e.g., Noyes Slough)

Promote healthy streambank vegetation (see Obj. 1) to filter runoff contaminants.

Address rainwater runoff issues associated with existing development.

Assess major sources of runoff from highways, borough and city roads, and private lanes.

Explore the use of vacuum street-sweepers (not pushers and brooms), catch basins, and sediment filters.

Improve existing education and training regarding rainwater pollution.

Continue ongoing assessment/monitoring of water quality.

OBJ. 5

HEALTHY FOREST HABITAT

Responsibly develop roads and residential areas within the boreal forests of the Chena watershed.

Minimize forest fragmentation.

Mitigate habitat loss.

Promote BMPs for residential/commercial development.

Avoid adverse downstream impacts on water quality and flows.

Avoid incompatible activities in fire-prone areas.(black spruce)

OBJ. 6

CONSERVE SLOUGHS AND WETLANDS

No net loss of sloughs and wetlands in the upper and lower Chena River watershed as well as restore wetlands and sloughs to function naturally.

Address filling of sloughs and wetlands.

Promote BMPs for residential/commercial development.

Manage water levels, flow and fluctuations.

Improve juvenile salmon and grayling habitats.

OBJ. 7

MAINTAIN NATURAL DIVERSITY

Implement programs to control invasive species (terrestrial and aquatic) in the Chena River watershed.

Eradicate high priority invaders (e.g. elodea).

Contain any established invasives from future spreading outside existing areas (e.g. bird vetch).

Prevent the establishment of any new invasives.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conservation Action Planning has been used by hundreds of project teams to help conserve great places, including the Kenai, Mat-Su, Southwest Alaska, and Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships.

The process included three, 2.5-day workshops to assess current and projected future health of the resources, identify critical threats, and develop conservation strategies to enhance health and abate threats. Workshops were held in November of 2014, February of 2015 and April of 2015 at TVWA's Rain to Rivers Resource Center, 516 2nd Avenue in downtown Fairbanks.

The team was able to develop objectives that included landscapes for species important to the Chena River watershed. They also explored parallels on the Salcha River and determined additional information was required to craft meaningful objectives and actions for that watershed.

The draft plan was released on June 12, 2015 at the Chena River Summit. For more information contact Tanana Valley watershed staff at TVWatershed@gmail.com or by phone 907-374-8890.

www.TVWatershed.org