



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

**CITATION**

**PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD**

**SOUTHWEST ALASKA SALMON HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**

In recognition of Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership for their leadership in preserving fish and wildlife habitat in southwest Alaska and their efforts to sustain the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources that are managed by the Department of the Interior or influenced by that management.

Southwest Alaska, an area of 39.8 million acres (62,200 square miles) or approximately the size of Washington State, includes hundreds of miles of diverse coastal habitat and an abundant array of wildlife. Formed in 2001, the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership is a group of over 70 Tribal, nongovernmental, private, local, State, and Federal partners working together to preserve, protect, and restore salmon habitat, watersheds, and cultural and national heritage resources in southwest Alaska. The Partnership provides coordination among and serves as a clearing house for member groups. Its technical committee supports the Partnership Board which meets at least annually. As a result of the Partnership efforts, more and more local people are participating in habitat assessments, including local conservation stewardship activities and working with land managers to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into land management actions and decisions. The Partnership has an extraordinary record of accomplishment in expanding its membership, increasing the conservation capacity in the region, and implementing voluntary place-based conservation actions to protect habitat for fish and wildlife. The Partnership has conserved, through acquisition and easement, approximately 94,000 acres of high value habitat in 71 tracts throughout southwest Alaska. Their recent success was a permanent conservation agreement protecting 21,000 acres of the Agulowak River and surrounding watershed inside Wood-Tikchik State Park. The river is one of the most fish and wildlife rich, scenic, and strategic sites in Alaska, providing spawning habitat for 200,000 sockeye salmon. It passes an additional 1.2 million sockeye and other salmon species to spawning grounds higher in the drainage. For of their dedication to the resources of southwest Alaska and the conservation outcomes they have achieved, the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership is granted the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.