

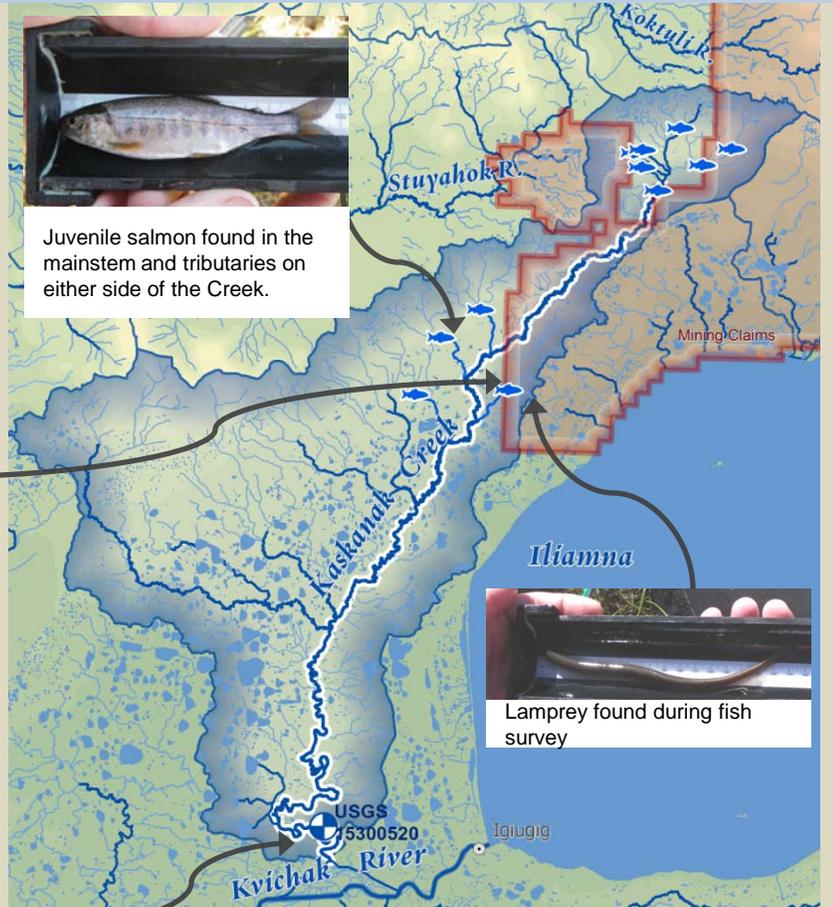
KASKANAK CREEK

Instream Flow Report

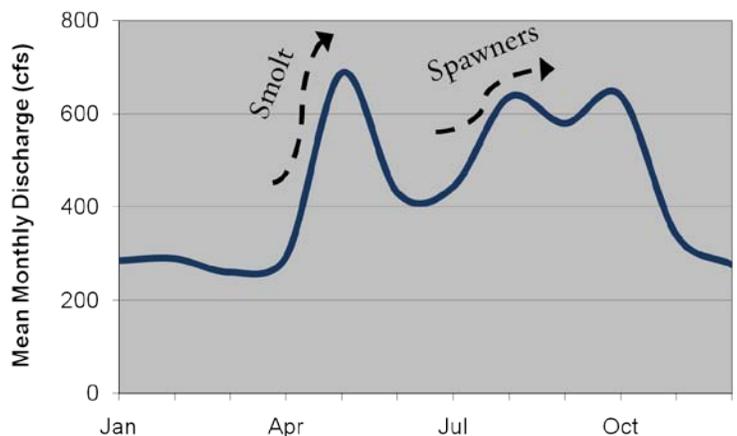
Kaskanak Creek flows for 75 miles from a fan of kettle ponds and small tributaries eventually joining the Kvichak River just below the Village of Igiugig and Lake Iliamna's outlet. The creek meanders in a serpentine path providing excellent habitat throughout its length.



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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