

# LOWER TALARIK CREEK

## Instream Flow Report

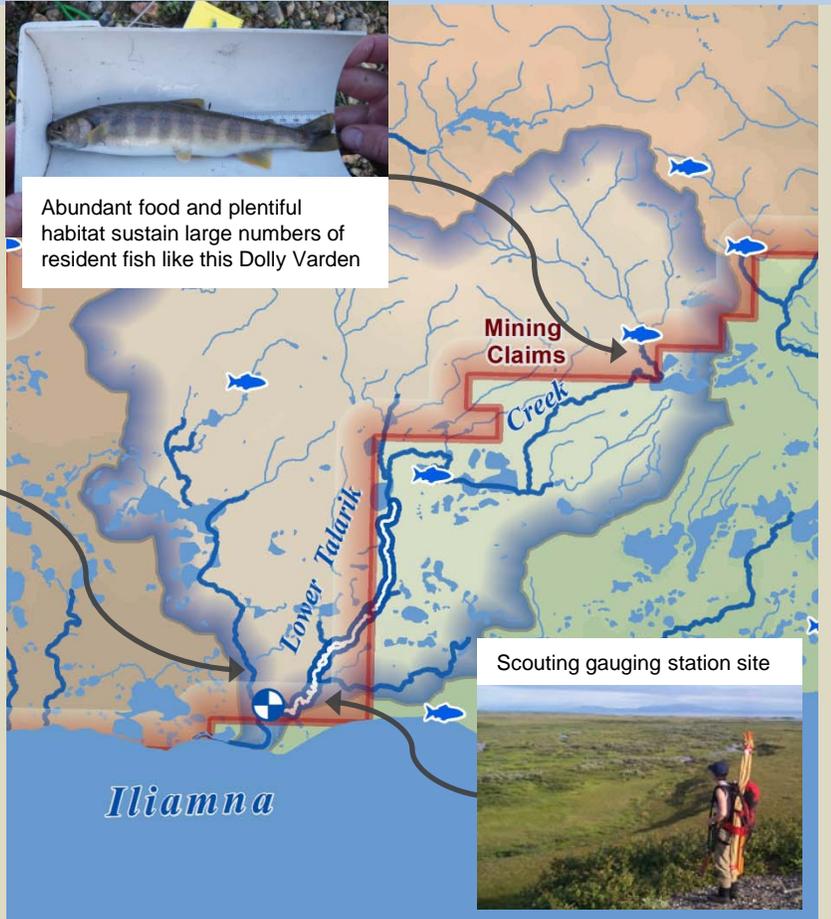
Lower Talarik Creek flows approximately 20 miles across relatively flat terrain through a series of small ponds and along its final deep bends before emptying into Lake Iliamna. The creek meanders in a serpentine path providing excellent habitat throughout its length.



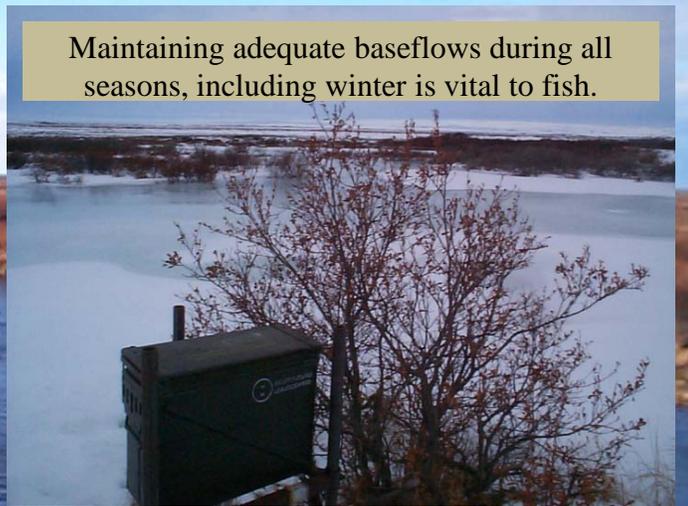
Lower Talarik Creek's west fork contributes significant fish habitat to the overall system. The Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game has filed an instream flow reservation for this reach.



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



Scouting gauging station site



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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