

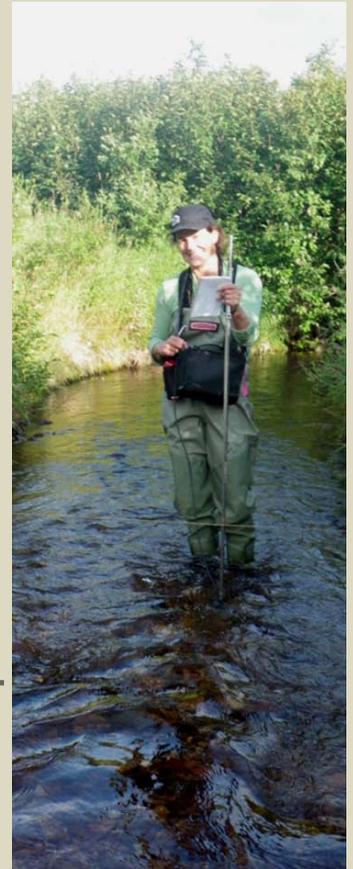
STUYAHOK RIVER

Instream Flow Report

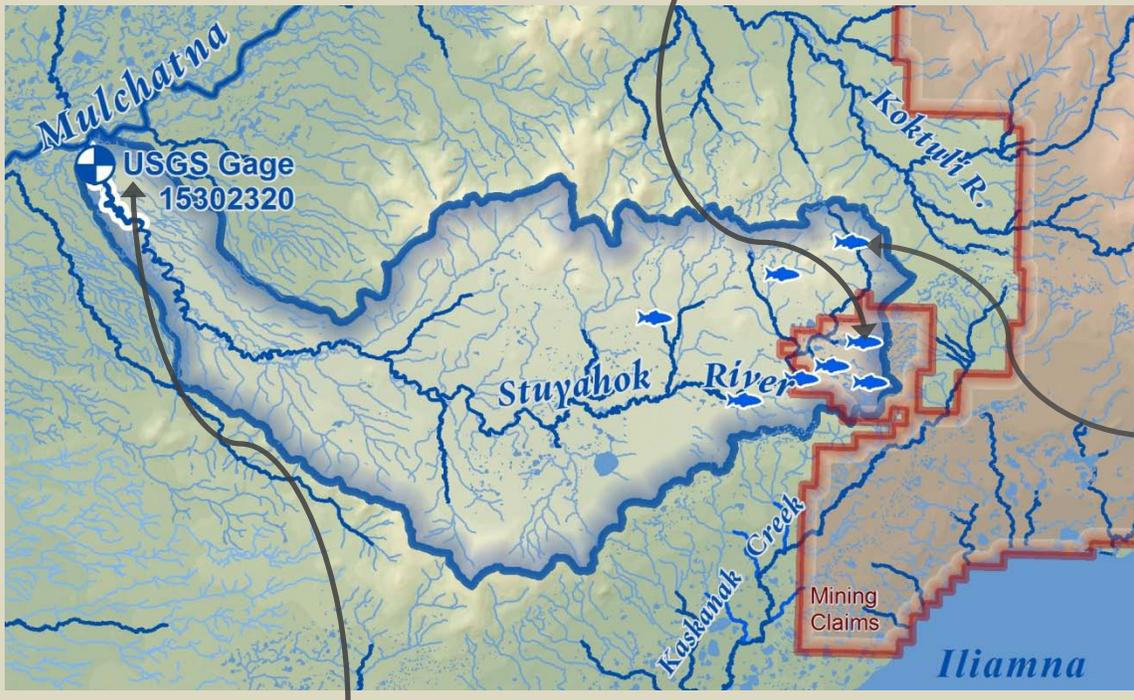
The Stuyahok River flows approximately 71 miles before emptying into the Mulchatna River. Stuyahok's original village existed on the river before eventually moving downriver to New Stuyahok's present location on the Nushagak.



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.

The Nature Conservancy
 715 L Street Anchorage, AK 99501
 (907) 276-3133
 nature.org/alaska
 email: alaska@tnc.org