



State and federal agencies have defined watersheds in a nested hierarchy of units - hydrologic unit codes (HUC). The Mat-Su Basin is comprised of six subbasins (HUC8), 88 watersheds (HUC10), and 519 subwatersheds (HUC12). For this project, HUC10s were used at upper elevations due to either an absence of salmon or data about salmon in those areas. Lower elevations were delineated by HUC12s to capture finer scale information about salmon systems and human activities. This project analyzed 329 distinct drainages (a combination of HUC10s and HUC12s) with areas ranging from 6,345 acres to 260,342 acres. The Eklutna watershed (5 subwatersheds) from the Anchorage Subbasin was also included.

The Mat-Su Basin, over 24,500 square miles in size, is comprised of two large watersheds, the Susitna River and the Matanuska River. A watershed is the area of land where all of the water drains to the same place, including water that flows on the surface and water located underground. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Large watersheds may be composed of several smaller "subwatersheds", each of which contributes runoff from different locations that ultimately combine at a common point.

The Mat-Su Basin is the fastest growing area in Alaska and is home to coho, Chinook, sockeye, pink, and chum salmon. Most salmon populations are healthy, but the pressures of development have begun to affect salmon habitat and water quality. This project highlights watersheds based on their biological value for salmon and their vulnerability to human activities.

Six Subbasins

1) Chulitna	10 Watersheds 55 Subwatersheds
2) Lower Susitna	14 Watersheds 89 Subwatersheds
3) Matanuska	13 Watersheds 76 Subwatersheds
4) Talkeetna	6 Watersheds 42 Subwatersheds
5) Upper Susitna	24 Watersheds 130 Subwatersheds
6) Yentna	20 Watersheds 122 Subwatersheds

Matanuska-Susitna Basin Watersheds

Major Streams

Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) - USGS

HUC classification (total number)

HUC 10 - Watershed (43)

HUC 12 - Subwatershed (281)

0 10 20 40 Miles

0 20 40 80 Kilometers

DATA SOURCES:
Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) Hydrography Subcommittee. <http://agdc.usgs.gov/hydro/>
United States Geological Survey (USGS)