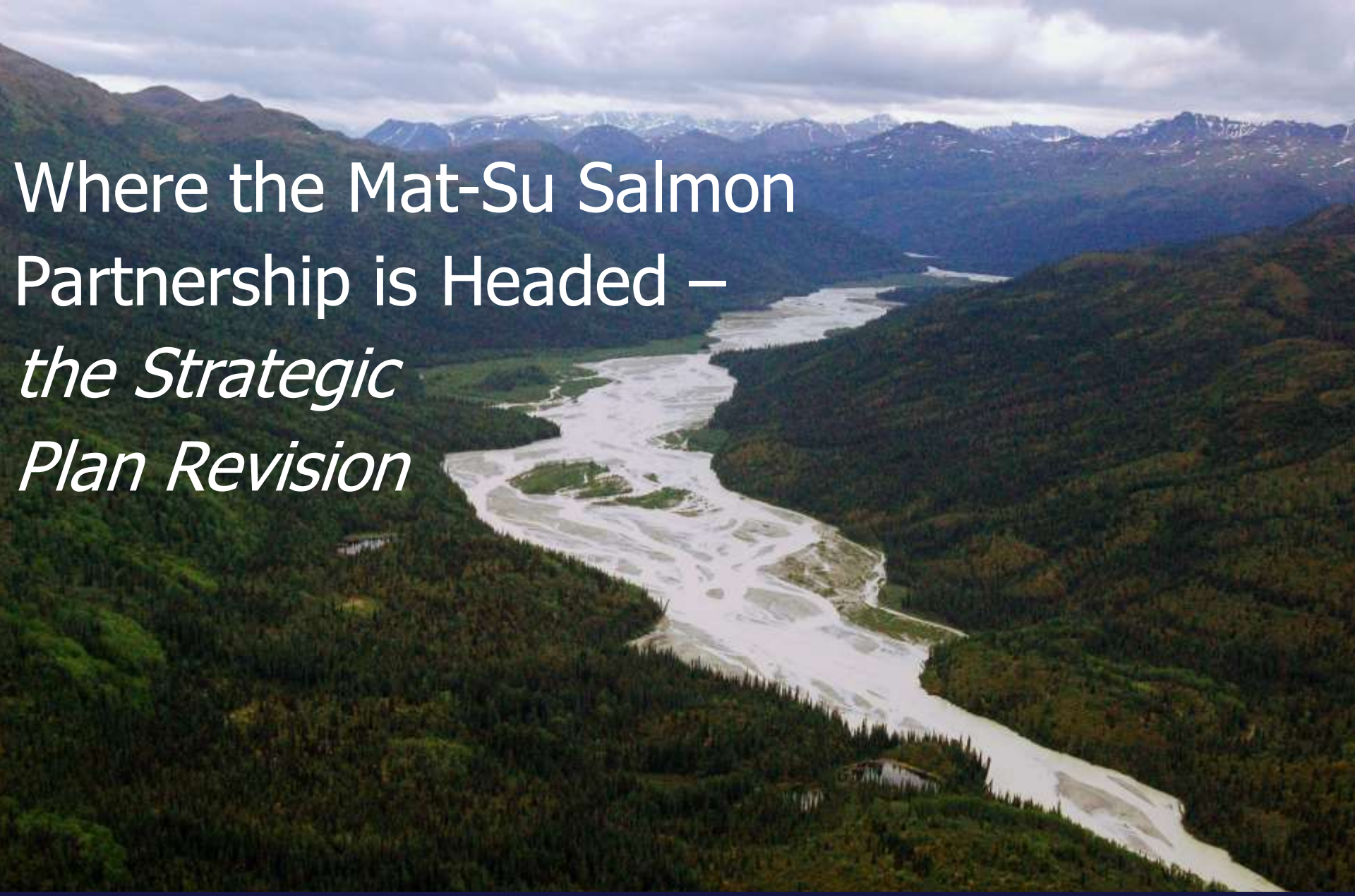


# Where the Mat-Su Salmon Partnership is Headed – *the Strategic Plan Revision*

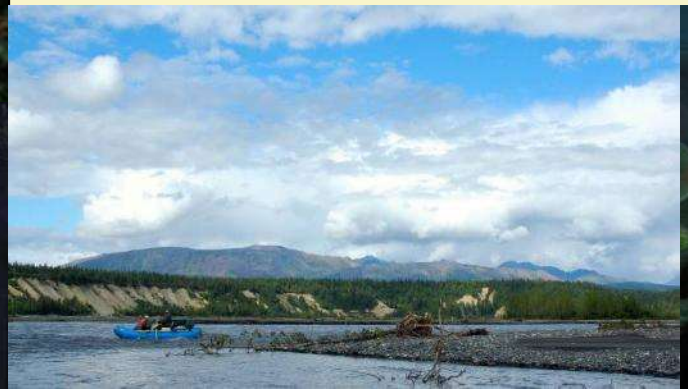
*Corinne Smith * The Nature Conservancy*

*Mat-Su Salmon Symposium 2013*

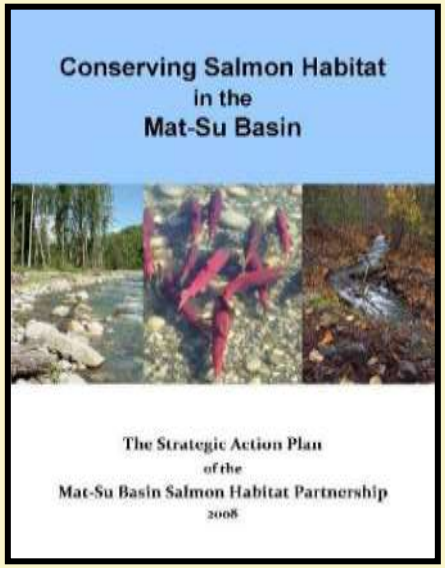
Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

# Our vision

*thriving fish, healthy habitats,*
*and vital communities*
*in the Mat-Su Basin*



# Partnership Goals




- **increase knowledge** about Mat-Su salmon and their habitats
- **protect priority salmon habitats**
- **mitigate** the impacts of potential threats to salmon and their habitats
- **restore connectivity** between salmon habitats

# Updating the Plan

***Priorities that remain***

- Emphasis on science and filling in info gaps
- Residential & commercial development
- Development in estuaries
- Invasive northern pike



# Updating the plan

***Priorities that remain***

- Emphasis on science and filling in info gaps
- Residential & commercial development
- Development in estuaries
- Invasive northern pike

***New Concerns***

- Large-scale resource development
- Climate change
- Off-road motorized recreation
- Invasive aquatic plants

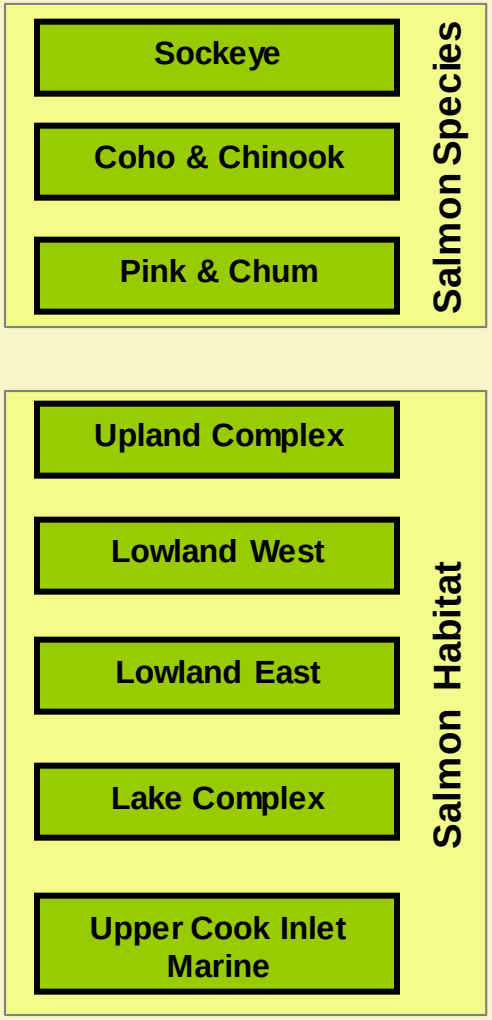




## SOURCES

## STRESSES

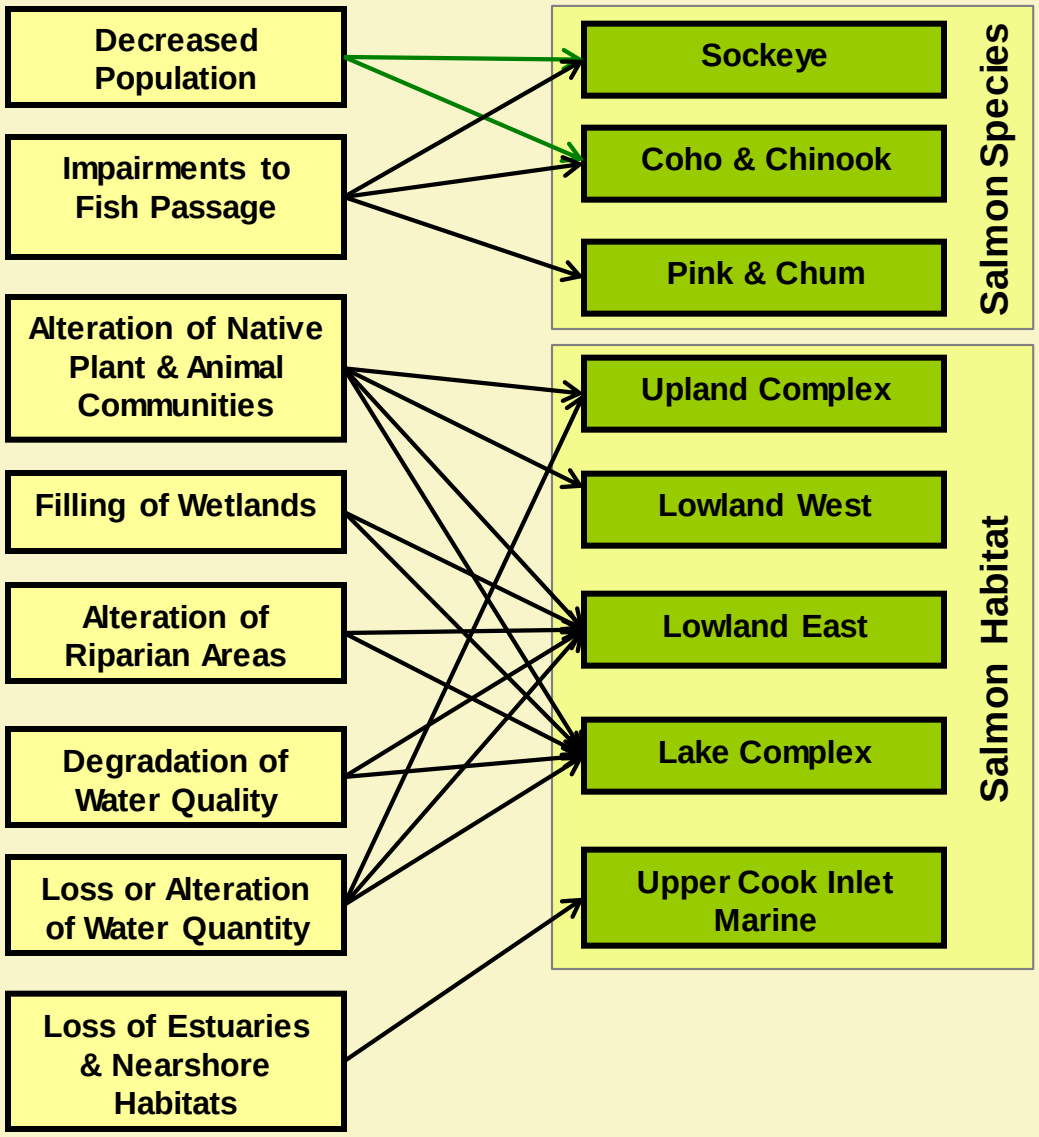
## CONSERVATION TARGETS

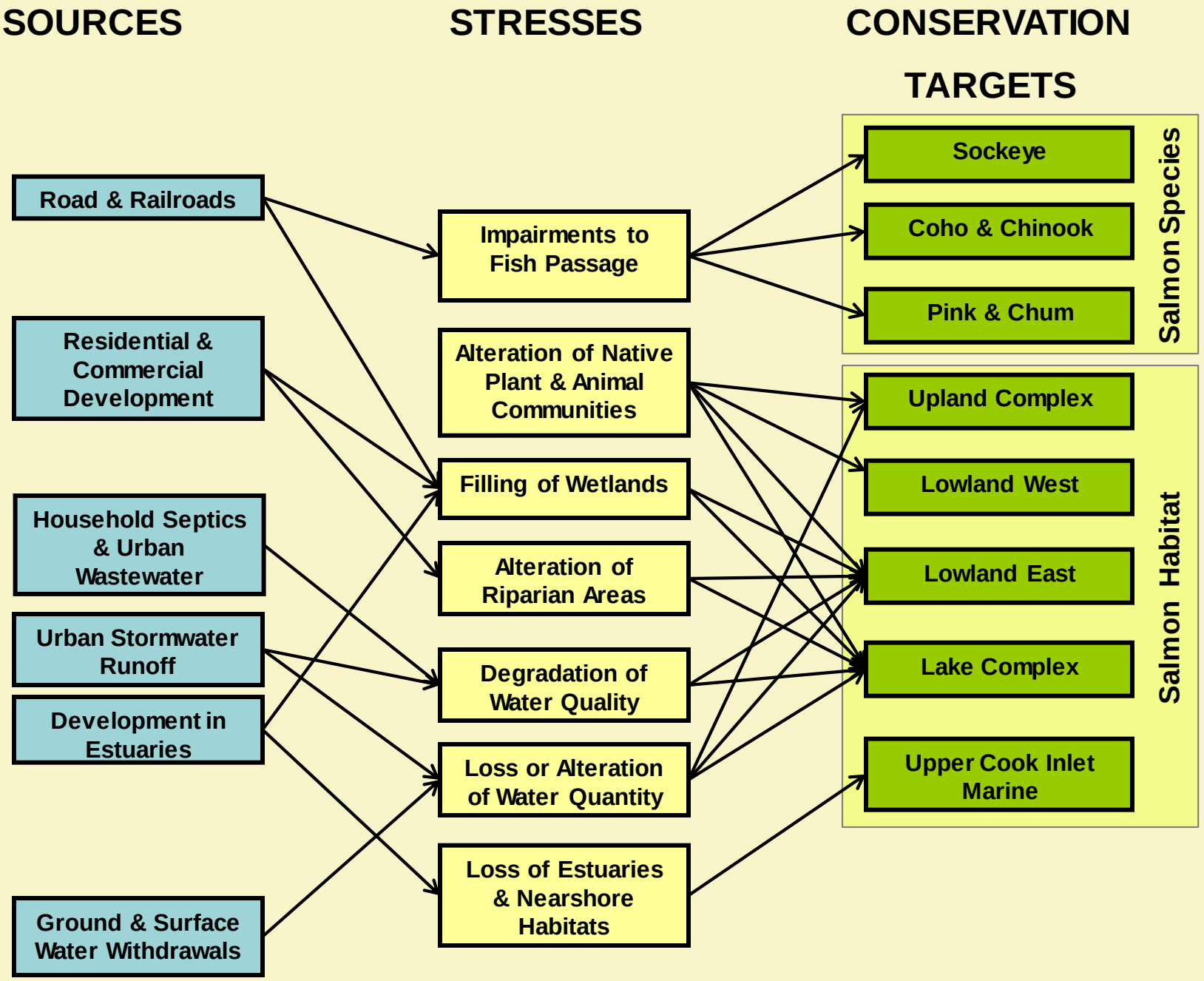


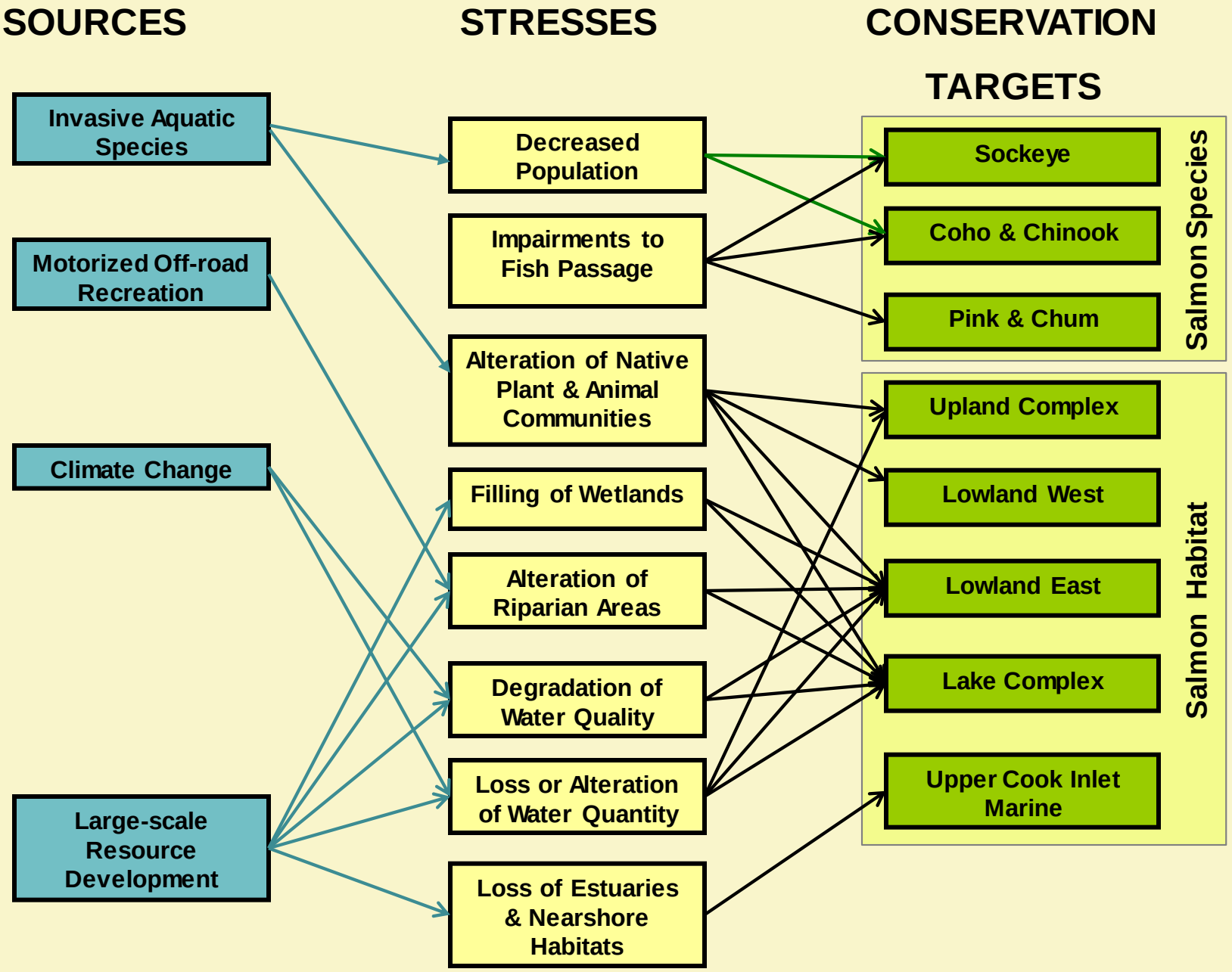
SOURCES

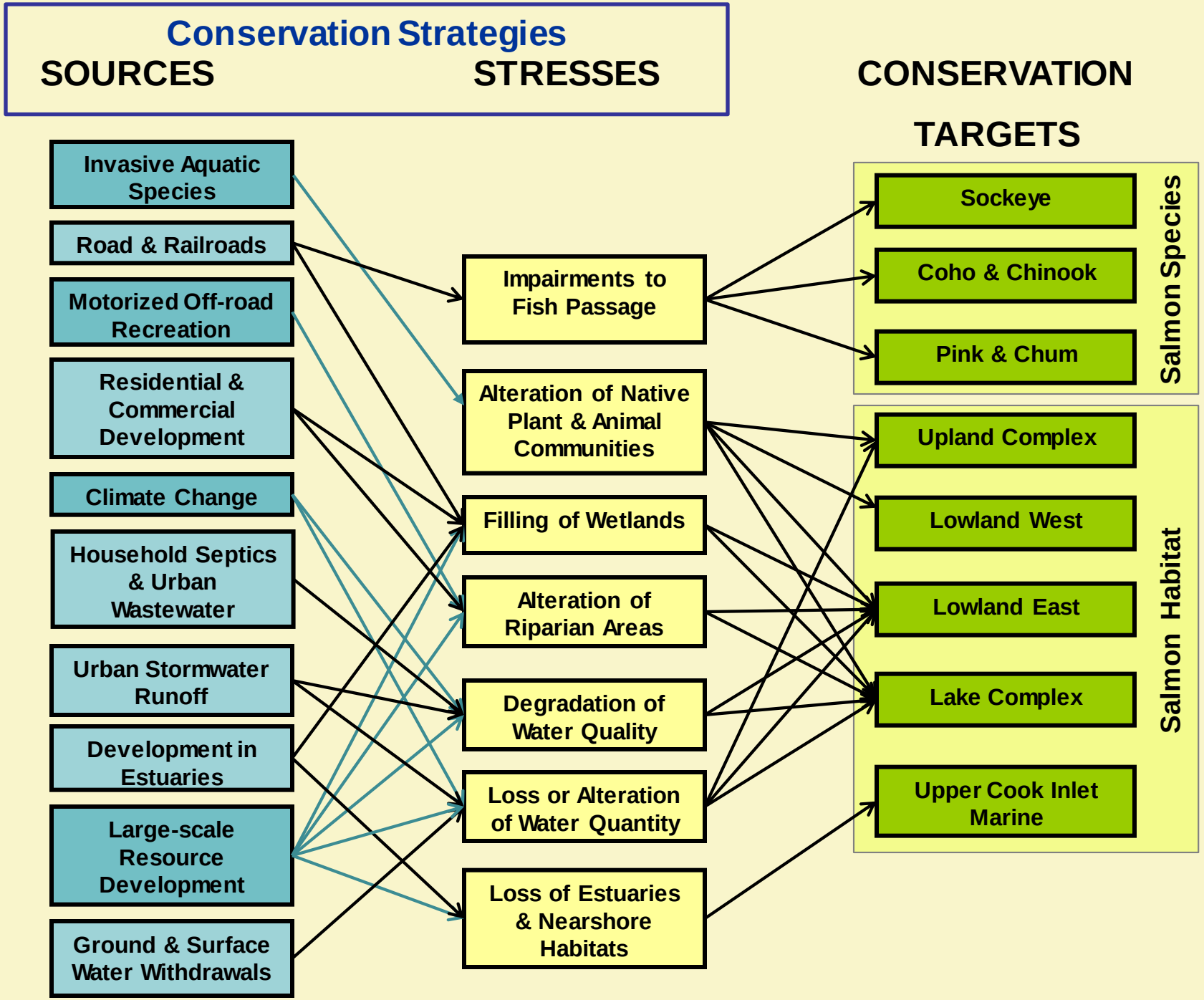
STRESSES

CONSERVATION TARGETS

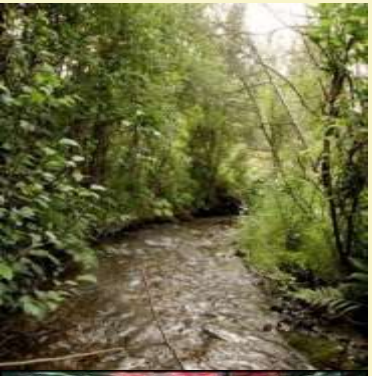



SOURCES
STRESSES
CONSERVATION TARGETS
Road & Railroads
Residential & Commercial Development
Household Septics & Urban Wastewater
Urban Stormwater Runoff
Development in Estuaries
Ground & Surface Water Withdrawals
Impairments to Fish Passage
Alteration of Native Plant & Animal Communities
Filling of Wetlands
Alteration of Riparian Areas
Degradation of Water Quality
Loss or Alteration of Water Quantity
Loss of Estuaries & Nearshore Habitats
Sockeye
Coho & Chinook
Pink & Chum
Salmon Species
Upland Complex
Lowland West
Lowland East
Lake Complex
Upper Cook Inlet Marine
Salmon Habitat


SOURCES
STRESSES
CONSERVATION TARGETS
Invasive Aquatic Species
Motorized Off-road Recreation
Climate Change
Large-scale Resource Development
Decreased Population
Impairments to Fish Passage
Alteration of Native Plant & Animal Communities
Filling of Wetlands
Alteration of Riparian Areas
Degradation of Water Quality
Loss or Alteration of Water Quantity
Loss of Estuaries & Nearshore Habitats
Sockeye
Coho & Chinook
Pink & Chum
Salmon Species
Upland Complex
Lowland West
Lowland East
Lake Complex
Upper Cook Inlet Marine
Salmon Habitat


Conservation Strategies
SOURCES
STRESSES
CONSERVATION TARGETS
Invasive Aquatic Species
Road & Railroads
Motorized Off-road Recreation
Residential & Commercial Development
Climate Change
Household Septics & Urban Wastewater
Urban Stormwater Runoff
Development in Estuaries
Large-scale Resource Development
Ground & Surface Water Withdrawals
Impairments to Fish Passage
Alteration of Native Plant & Animal Communities
Filling of Wetlands
Alteration of Riparian Areas
Degradation of Water Quality
Loss or Alteration of Water Quantity
Loss of Estuaries & Nearshore Habitats
Sockeye
Coho & Chinook
Pink & Chum
Salmon Species
Upland Complex
Lowland West
Lowland East
Lake Complex
Upper Cook Inlet Marine
Salmon Habitat

Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP



# Conservation Strategies

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Overarching Science Strategies |
| 2 | Alteration of Riparian Areas |
| 3 | Climate Change |
| 4 | Culverts that Block Fish Passage |
| 5 | Filling of Wetlands |
| 6 | Impervious Surfaces & Stormwater Runoff |
| 7 | Invasive Aquatic Species |
| 8 | Large-scale Resource Development |
| 9 | Loss or Alteration of Water Flow or Volume |
| 10 | Loss of Estuaries & Nearshore Habitats |
| 11 | Motorized Off-road Recreation |
| 12 | Wastewater Management |

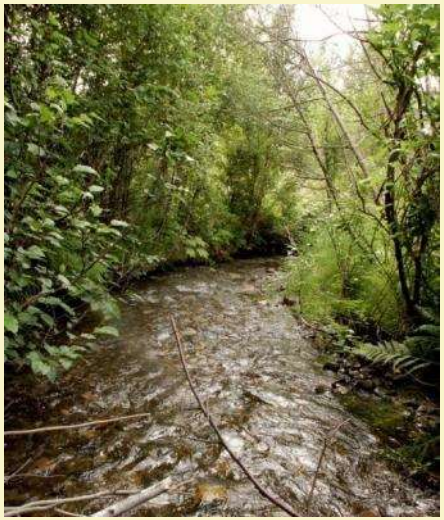
Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

# Science Strategies

- Where are the salmon?
- How does groundwater and surface water contribute to salmon habitat?
- What's the baseline water quality and is it changing?



# Alteration of Riparian Areas



- Map and prioritize 50% of salmon riparian areas
- Protect 10% of priority shoreline habitats
- Restore 5% of priority shoreline habitats

Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

# Filling of Wetlands

- Map wetlands important to salmon
- Avoid loss of important salmon habitat wetlands

# Impervious Surfaces & Stormwater Runoff

- Design new developments and roads so that stormwater runoff doesn't alter water in streams
- Understand impacts of stormwater runoff in the most developed watersheds

Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

# Culverts that Block Fish Passage

- Ensure fish passage is maintained at new road crossings
- Restore fish passage in priority streams

# Wastewater Management

- Quantify extent and sources of pollution to ground and surface waters due to wastewater systems
- Support expanded wastewater infrastructure, including community systems

COUNTY OF SONOMA
Department of Health Services
Environmental Health Division

**WARNING**

**SWIMMING NOT ADVISED**

Bacterial levels at this beach have exceeded recommended State of California guidelines for freshwater bathing.

Date of Sample _____

For more information, contact the Department of Health Services, Environmental Health Division, at (707) 565-6565.

Results of Russian River bacterial sampling are available at: www.sonoma-county.org/health/eh/russian_river.htm

Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

# Estuaries and Nearshore Habitats

- Improve the understanding of salmon ecology in Knik Arm
- Ensure no long-term impairments to coastal salmon habitat
- Work with Kenai Fish Habitat Partnership on Cook Inlet salmon habitat issues

Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

# Water Flow and Volume

- Apply for instream flow reservations on priority salmon streams and lakes
- Quantify community water needs to assess future draw on surface and ground water



Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

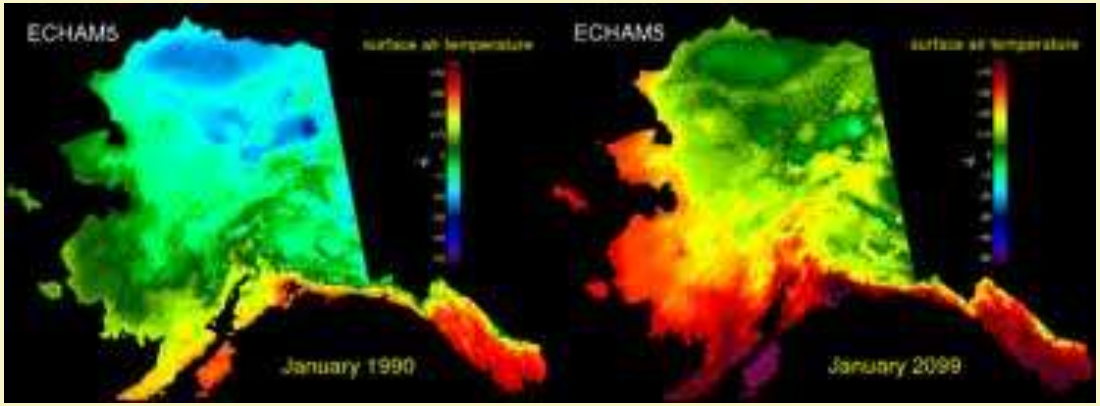
# Invasive Aquatic Species

- Reduce new introductions through public education
- Early detection surveys at priority waterbodies
- Rapid response to new introductions
- Effective program for integrated pest management

Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

# Climate Change

- Monitor stream temperatures in priority lakes and streams
- Integrate climate change into protection and restoration prioritizations



Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

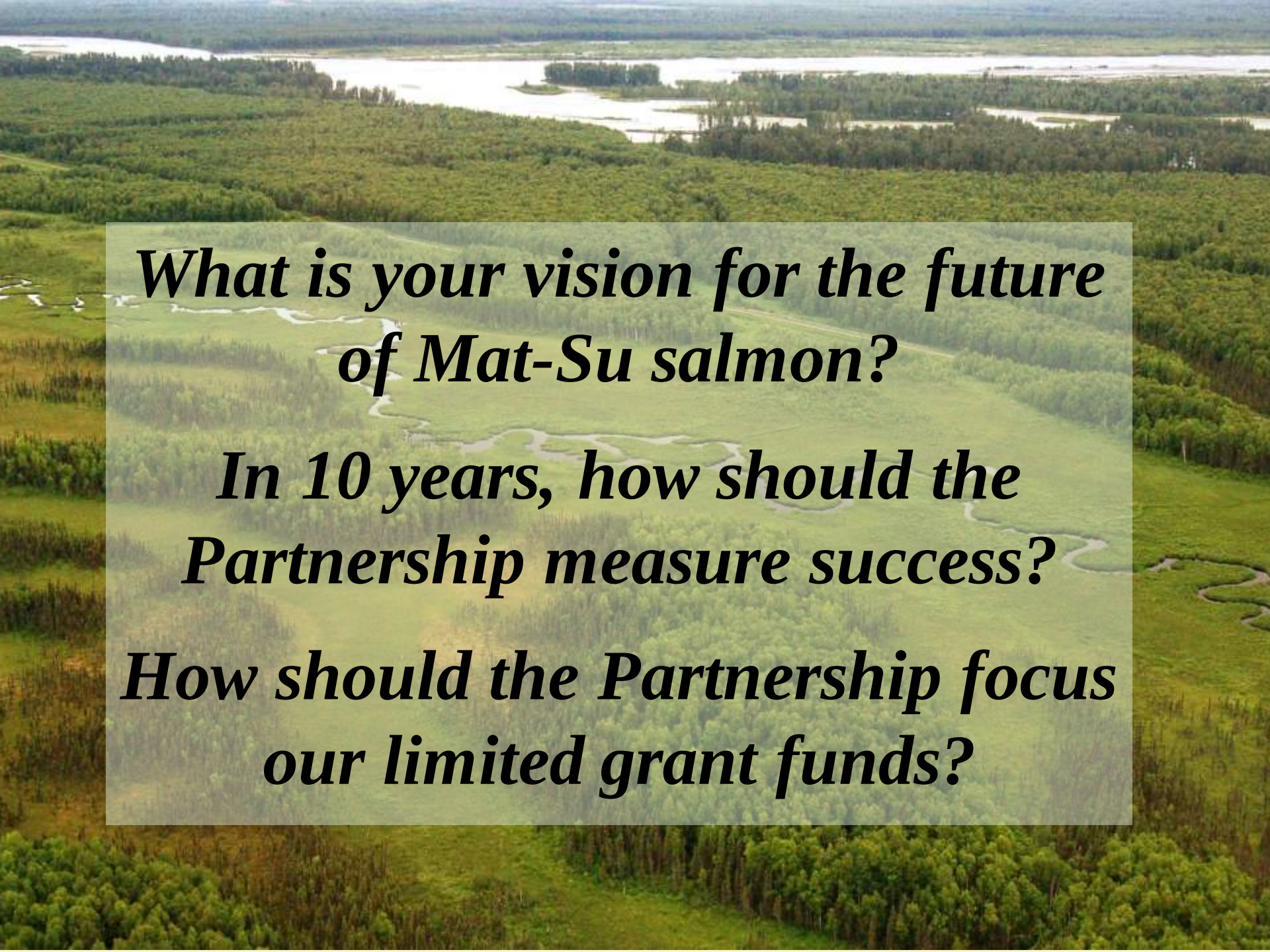
# Large-scale Resource Development


- Provide information to public about potential affects on salmon habitat
- Aid all stakeholders in permitting processes with data, tools, expertise
- Identify and fill data gaps for large projects

Mat-Su salmon PARTNERSHIP

# Motorized Off-road Recreation

- Qualify the impacts to salmon and salmon habitat from OHV use
- Mitigate or modify OHV use to support salmon stream health


What is your vision for the future of Mat-Su salmon?
In 10 years, how should the Partnership measure success?
How should the Partnership focus our limited grant funds?

# Thanks!

**www.MatSuSalmon.org**

corinne_smith@tnc.org