

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. FWC 22-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION RECOMMENDING MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO CLASSIFY KEY BOROUGH-OWNED PARCELS ON THE SHORE OF DESHKA RIVER AS WATERSHED LANDS TO PROTECT SALMON POPULATIONS.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) has reviewed the outcomes of a recent study on the temperature of water entering the Deshka River from adjacent groundwater seeps; and

WHEREAS, this new information shows that certain parcels supporting the cold water inputs to the Deshka River are essential for maintaining healthy salmon runs on the river; and

WHEREAS, the FWC believes it is important that the MSB takes every available action to safeguard healthy salmon runs in local water bodies; and

WHEREAS, economic studies in our region in 2007 and 2017 show the significant positive economic impact returning salmon have on the economy of the MSB, that included \$56 million in direct spending benefits to the MSB in 2017 alone, and there are additional economic benefits from healthy wildlife and fish populations, both of which require adequate and quality habitat locally; and

WHEREAS, the MSB can classify these parcels as watershed lands in recognition of the water quality function they provide that

protects salmon habitat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the FWC recommends the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly direct Borough Administration to bring forward legislation classifying key Borough-owned parcels on the shore of the Deshka River as "Watershed" Lands

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission this 19th day of May, 2022.



Mike Wood, Chair

ATTEST:



TED EISCHEID, Staff

(SEAL)