



Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Field Office

Streambank Habitat Restoration Workshops

When landowners with water-front property remove the native vegetation along the bank to improve their view and increase access to the water, they unwittingly reduce food sources, cover, and a supply of cool and clean water for young salmon living in the river. Unfortunately, they don't realize until after experiencing severe erosion from seasonal floods, that a healthy community of native plants in place on the bank also protects their home.



Hardening with riprap provides only a temporary erosion solution, and no benefits to salmon.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offer a solution that benefits both salmon and property owners. Since 2010, the agencies have partnered to provide Streambank Habitat Restoration Workshops annually at no cost to the participants. These workshops provide instruction on lake and stream habitat restoration techniques, and related information for rehabilitating riparian habitat and stabilizing stream banks and shorelines.



A day of classroom study includes presentations by engineers, hydrologists, biologists, and other experts in the field.

The audience for these workshops includes private landowners, agencies, non-profit organizations, consultants, contractors, students and others. The Landowner Workshops present basic salmon life history, juvenile rearing needs and simple streambank rehabilitation and revegetation techniques. The two-day workshop includes one day of lectures on construction materials, hydrology, plant materials and construction techniques. The second day involves the hands-on installation of a restoration project by workshop participants.

Workshop topics can include:

- Fisheries Biology
- Alaska Fish Passage Regulatory Framework
- Fish Passage Assessment
- Introduction to Methods of Design
- Introduction to Alaska hydrology and Geomorphology
- Stream Simulation Design
- Construction Considerations
- Introduction to Fish Passage Models



A day of fieldwork offers hands-on experience in restoration techniques. Periodically, follow-up field trips are offered that show beneficial changes over time.