



NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program



Youth Restoration Corps Alaska

[Russian River Restoration Project, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska](#)

The FishAmerica Foundation and NOAA are partnering with the Youth Restoration Corps (YRC) to restore habitat on 1,000 lineal feet of the Russian River in the Chugach National Forest and the Kenai River Sanctuary. The Russian River begins at the upper Russian Lake and drains into the Kenai River. The river supports natural runs of chinook, coho, sockeye, pink salmon, and native rainbow trout. Restoration includes revegetating the shoreline and repairing eroded areas. Shoreline vegetation provides habitat, stabilizes stream banks, and filters surface run-off.



Russian River bank.

The YRC is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to provide Alaska's youth with summer opportunities to work outdoors while learning about the watershed environment. The YRC works to restore riparian vegetation along anadromous streams. Since 1997, over 4,900 linear feet of streambank has been revegetated and repaired by over 70 youths. Twelve local youths from the Kenai/Soldotna area schools ages 16 to 19 will repair the damaged riparian area during this four-week program. YRC projects are labor-intensive, build community support, and provide education about local watershed importance.

[Little Susitna River Project, Anchorage, Alaska](#)

In addition to its Russian River project, NOAA and FishAmerica have partnered with the YRC to improve habitat quality on the Little Susitna River in Anchorage. The goal of the Little Susitna River project is to restore riparian habitat in order to improve in-stream conditions for anadromous fish. YRC works to accomplish this goal through restoration that will allow campsites used by anglers to remain open while also reducing angler impact. Project selection is through the management priorities of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Research studies have identified the Little Susitna River system's impact on the watershed as high priority.

Seven project locations have been identified which are also access locations for state- identified campsites managed by ADFG. Log terraces will be created and held in place with rebar and soil bags. Native plants will be used to restore soft-soiled riverbank. Erosion mat will also be used to cover exposed soils and provide for better germination of grass seed spread throughout the project sites. A related project will construct log surfaces to allow boaters to pull out without affecting existing and restored vegetation.

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