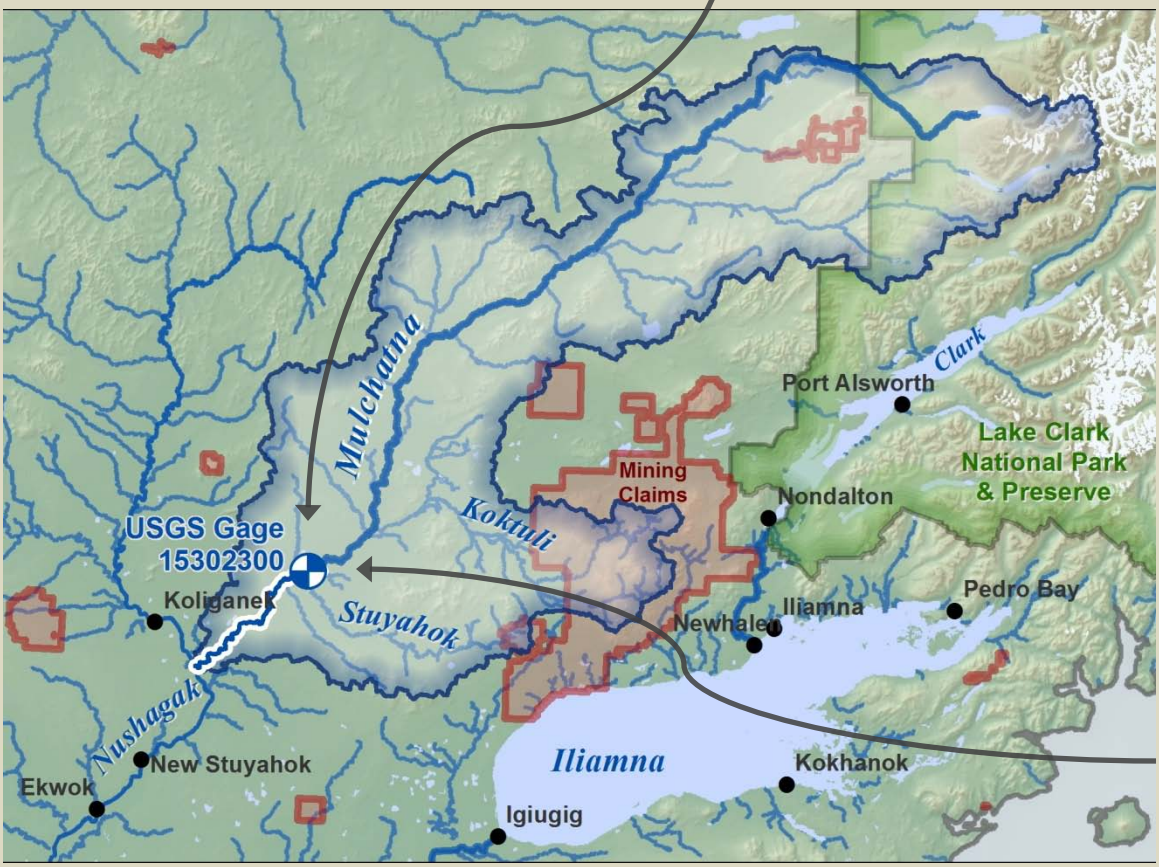
MULCHATNA RIVER
Instream Flow Report

The Mulchatna River combines with the Nushagak to form one of Southwest Alaska's great river systems serving as a primary transportation route for both fish and the people of the region. The Mulchatna flows over 200 miles before combining with the Nushagak River and continuing another 112 miles to Nushagak Bay, an extension of Bristol Bay.


Arctic Grayling




USGS Gaging Station with solar powered satellite transmitter for real time data collection and transfer.

This reservation covers two reaches which collectively stretch 30 miles upstream from the Nushagak confluence to a point about three miles upriver from the the Stuyahok confluence. Much of the river's 4300 square mile watershed is general state land, with only 14% under permanent conservation management within the Lake Clark National Park. This instream flow reservation is a legal means to protect fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation.

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership

STATUS: In progress

The Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership submitted the instream flow reservation application in June 2009 with substantial support from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. The Nature Conservancy continues to provide financial support to the US Geological Survey (USGS) to maintain the gaging station and collect flow data.

STATUS

The Instream Flow Reservation application is partially complete and has been accepted at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) while additional years of water flow data are collected. This application's initial status date is June 15th, 2009 and DNR lists the current status as Application Received: LAS 27309. Due to its status date, this application has priority over subsequently filed water use claims on the Mulchatna River.

FISH

The Mulchatna River supports significant spawning populations of chum, coho, king, pink and sockeye salmon. The Nushagak/Mulchatna system historically hosts Alaska's fourth largest king salmon run as well as one the world's largest sockeye runs. Additionally, the river's tributaries contain numerous resident fish species including arctic char, grayling, round whitefish, lamprey, rainbow trout, and sculpin. Collectively these fish populations supply subsistence, commercial, and sport fishing communities.

DETAILS

The application uses data from USGS gage 15302300 which has been functioning since June 2009. This station is about 1 river mile upstream from the confluence with the Stuyahok River. This work has been funded by The Nature Conservancy and its conservation partners.

USGS Station 15302300

Measuring flow on a headwater stream

Data	Application	Funded	Adjudicated	Priority
Ongoing, 2 years of data collected, 3 more years needed (as of June 2011)	Initial application accepted by AK Dept. of Natural Resources	Yes, gage is funded by The Nature Conservancy	No, awaiting ADNR action upon final submittal ("perfection date")	This reservation has priority over subsequent water rights applications.

The Nature Conservancy
715 L Street Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 276-3133
nature.org/alaska
email: alaska@tnc.org