

## **Mat-Su "Breaks Trail" in Restoration Projects**

Chuck Kaucic<sup>1</sup>

During the 2004-05 construction seasons, the Mat-Su Borough Public Works Department completed a number of projects that involved fish passage & stream restoration. When compared to the most recent projects being constructed by the USFS & USFWS in the Pacific Northwest region, it was noted that the Mat-Su restoration projects were equal to, if not a bit ahead....and surely less costly. The Mat-Su program projects were designed with the most recent technology & enhanced via participation by diverse partners & groups. Projects ranged from culvert replacements to stream crossing inventories to bridge structures. Natural, social, & physical impacts were considered in the development process. Local road service area tax funding was complemented with a variety of state & federal agency funds.

The program not only resulted in a significant benefit to water resources but culminated in a State of Alaska Municipal League award & national recognition from the USFWS through their 2005 Celebrating Habitat-Celebrating Partners award. Together with their partners, the Mat-Su is "breaking trail" for others on the Alaska restoration projects scene.

<sup>1</sup>Project Manager, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Public Works