



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Mayor's Office

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www.borough.kenai.ak.us

October 24, 2008

RE: Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership

Dear Potential Partners:

We would like to inform your organization about an exciting partnership developing on the Kenai Peninsula. An organizing committee is working to establish the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership (KPFHP<sup>1</sup>). This partnership is to work with the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) whose mission is: *to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.* Locally organized and driven, the Partnerships are the core work units of NFHAP. You can learn more about the program at their website <http://fishhabitat.org/>.

In 2007, a letter of interest for a Kenai Peninsula Partnership was submitted and accepted by the national board. The board approved our candidate application and we have been invited to seek full partnership. If you review the website above, you will notice that we are the senior candidate partner!

To seek further recognition we need to ensure the full range of organizations comprising the "community of interest" around which this partnership is formed includes non-traditional conservation partners, businesses, landowners, and local government. Additionally, we seek your input in developing a strategic plan to guide the efforts of the partnership. We are contacting your organization to invite your participation. Given the importance of fish to the Kenai Peninsula, *we hope that you will provide us with a point of contact* and help us in our effort to develop a Peninsula wide plan.

In the following months, we will be giving brief talks across the Kenai Peninsula providing information about this opportunity. If your designated point of contact would like us to schedule an informational visit, please let us know and we will try to accommodate as many requests as possible. It is our desire to have a draft of a strategic plan in place by the summer of 2009, which will allow us to apply to the National Fish Habitat Board for full candidate status by the winter of 2009-2010.

To provide us with a point of contact or to request a presentation or any questions, please contact:

Robert Ruffner (email: [robert@kenaiwatershed.org](mailto:robert@kenaiwatershed.org))  
Kenai Watershed Forum  
P.O. Box 2937  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
Direct Line (907) 260-5479

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David R. Carey".

David R. Carey, Mayor

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<sup>1</sup> Ad hoc Organizing Committee composed of representatives from the Kenai Watershed Forum, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kenai River Sportfishing Association, Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cook Inletkeeper, U.S. Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and The Nature Conservancy of Alaska.