

Cooper Creek: A success story of habitat restoration and clean energy



Top: Stetson Creek Diversion

Bottom: Cooper Creek, Courtesy: U.S. Forest Service

For decades, the Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project has provided clean, reliable energy to homes across Southcentral Alaska. As part of its federal relicensing of the project in 2015, Chugach had an opportunity to do more to bring life back to a stream that needed some help.

Historically, water diversion to the hydro project reduced flow and cooled temperatures in Cooper Creek, limiting fish habitat. To fix this, Chugach implemented the Stetson Creek Diversion, rerouting cold water from Stetson Creek into Cooper Lake and releasing warmer lake water into Cooper Creek. This improved flow and created better conditions for fish.

It's making a difference. Coho salmon, one of several key species, has grown from around 1,100 in 2004 to nearly 4,000 in 2024.

Cooper Creek is a vital tributary of the Kenai River, one of Alaska's most important fisheries. It supports salmon and trout during critical life stages like spawning and rearing. Restoring the creek helps sustain the health of the entire river system. To support long-term recovery, Chugach has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies to monitor water temperature, fish populations, sediment, and stream health.

This project shows what's possible when we work together to take care of the land and habitat, while providing reliable, affordable, renewable power to Alaskans.

Cents of Community program to launch in October

In October, Chugach members will be automatically enrolled in the Cents of Community program. The program, which supports contributions to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations in the Chugach service territory, was approved by Chugach members in the 2023 election. Monthly bills will be rounded up to the nearest dollar, averaging about \$6 per year.

Members who elect not to participate can unenroll through a dedicated helpline: (907) 762-4129. Members will need their Chugach account number to

change their status in the program and can do so any time before or after it is launched. Once established, a Board of Trustees, made up of Chugach members, will review applications and distribute the funds. Cents of Community is an opportunity to support local organizations, helping build a stronger sense of community among our members. {191352435}



Energy Watch on Chugach website

As summer heads into fall, we are already thinking about the weather that fall and winter can bring. While we don't anticipate any challenges to providing power to our members, we want to make sure you are aware of the steps you can take to conserve energy should it be necessary.

We have posted the Energy Watch chart on the Outage page of our website (www.chugachelectric.com/outages) to make sure members are aware of the green/yellow/red system and how it works. We will keep it updated at all times so you will know if there are any concerns.

Should it be necessary to take any conservation measures, Chugach will use a variety of tools

GREEN	STABLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use energy wisely; be conservation minded Your utilities can provide tips on saving energy
YELLOW	CAUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set thermostat to 65 degrees in living areas, and 40 in the garage Lower water heater setting to "warm" or "vacation" Minimize usage of natural gas range Postpone doing laundry and dishes Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics
RED	ALERT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set thermostat at 60 degrees in living areas (55 if away) Turn water heater gas valve to "pilot" Do not use natural gas fireplaces, decorative heaters or gas grills Consolidate household activities into as few rooms as possible

to communicate with our members including our website, social media, traditional media, and emails for members who have one on file. Awareness is key to preparedness. That's what the Energy Watch chart is all about. {124814}

In the community: Chugach sponsors Live After Five event in downtown Anchorage

In July, Chugach sponsored a Live After Five event hosted by the Anchorage Downtown Partnership. Hundreds turned out for the sunny concert by Hope Social Club in Anchorage's Town Square. We're proud to be part of this event that contributes to a vibrant and thriving downtown.



CHUGACH EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

From Engineering to Operations to Member Services, all of Chugach's roughly 450 employees live and work in Alaska.

Each month we introduce you to one of our employees who works every day to provide safe, reliable power to our members.



Name: Aaron Love
Position: SPP Plant Manager
Time at Chugach: 16 years

Aaron says his proudest accomplishment at work was when he managed the steam turbine major overhaul at Southcentral Power Project.



Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning.



Clean the lint filter after every load. If you use dryer sheets, check the filter for residue buildup and remove it with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean and use a vacuum to remove lint that's fallen inside.



The Outlet

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5601 Electron Drive • P.O. Box 196300
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6300
(907) 563-7494 or Toll free (800) 478-7494
www.chugachelectric.com

Member number hide-n-seek

Find your member number in {brackets} in the Outlet and get a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Call Chugach at 907-563-7366 to claim your prize.