

A Healthy Habitat

starts with the wetlands.

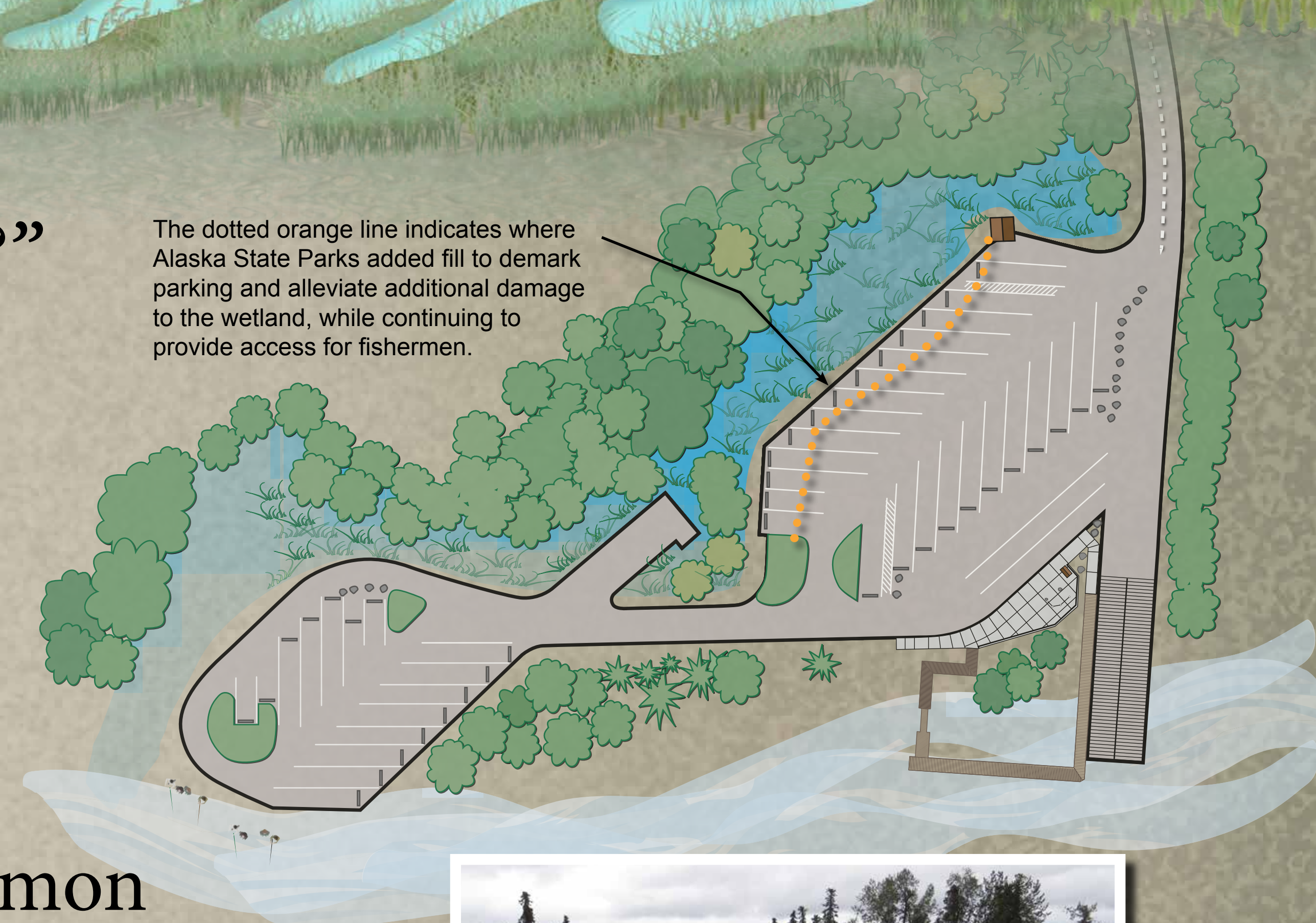


Before improvements, people parked cars and trailers on the wetlands. The lot now has designated parking, allowing sensitive habitat to be protected.

“Hey, why can’t I park on the wetland?”

You’re probably here because you want to launch your boat, park, and catch fish. But, parking on the wetland can damage the very resource that lured you here—the fish. This wetland filters and cleans the water, helping keep the Kenai River clear for salmon in all stages of their lives.

The dotted orange line indicates where Alaska State Parks added fill to demark parking and alleviate additional damage to the wetland, while continuing to provide access for fishermen.



Riverbank Stabilization

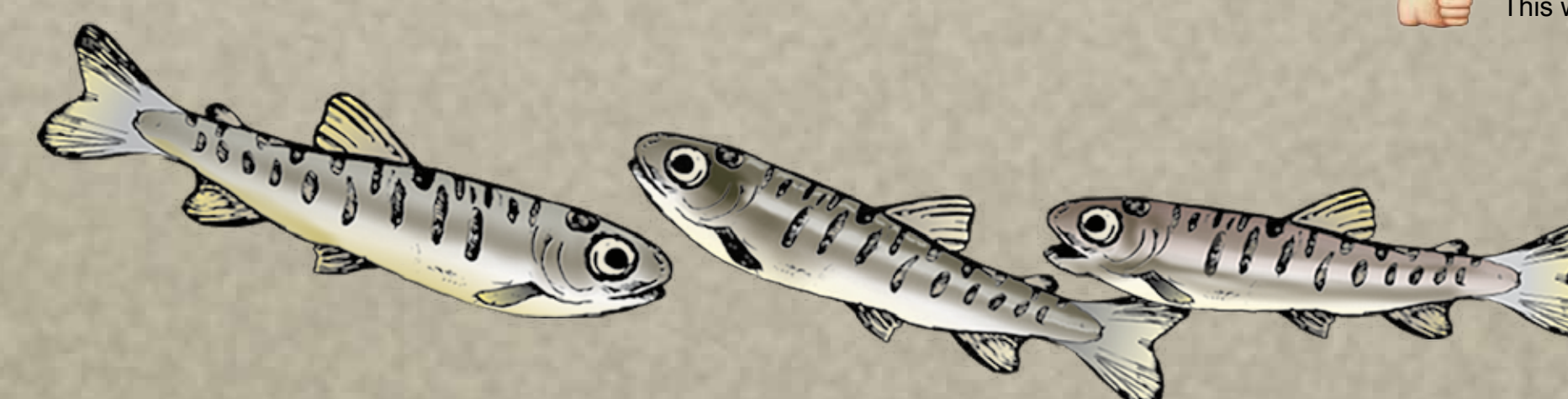
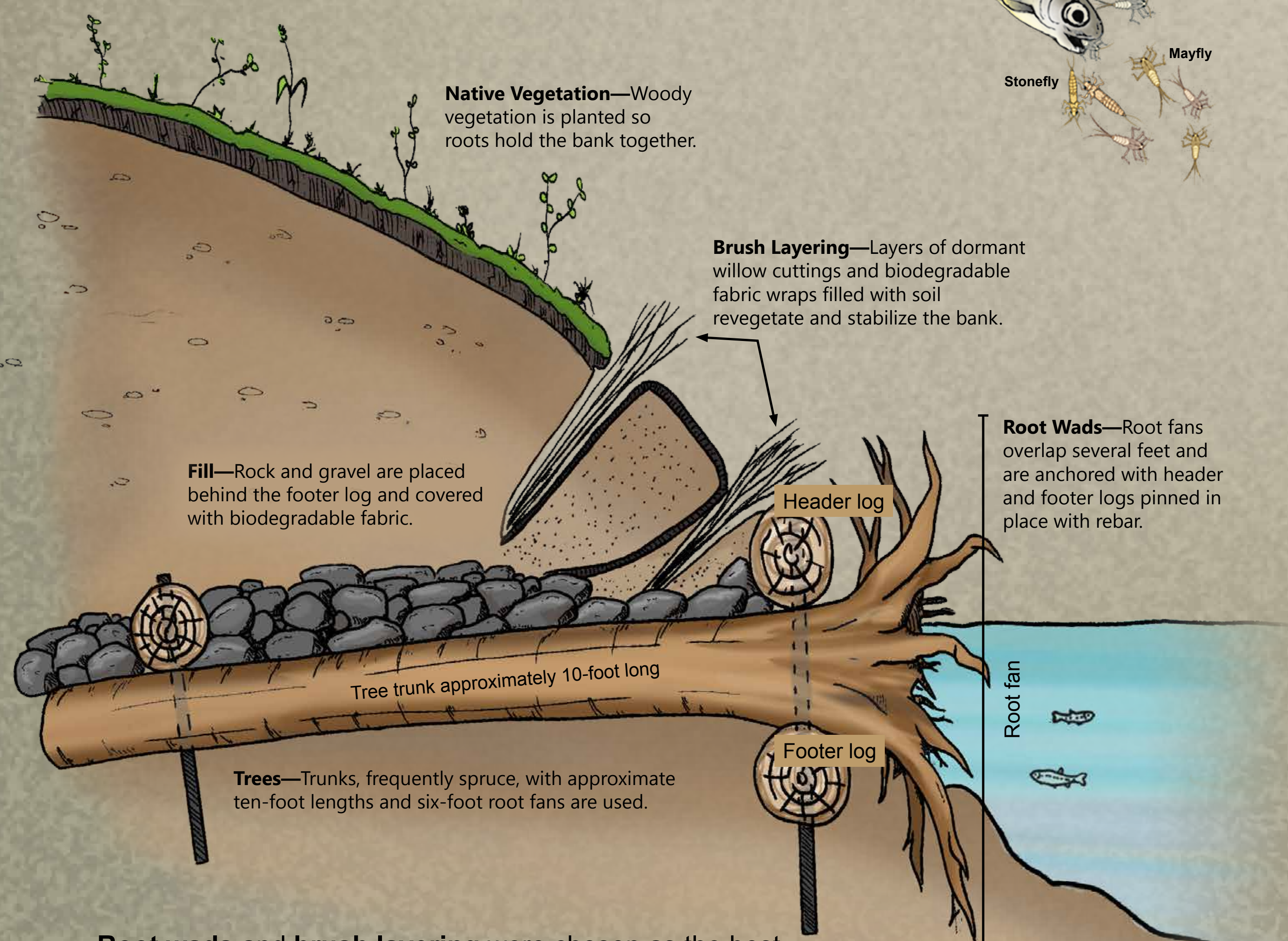


For the Love of Salmon

In addition to the improved parking and staging area, root wads and brush layering were used to protect, rehabilitate, and restore severely damaged riverbanks. A well-vegetated bank provides the necessary food and cover for salmon fry. Now the bank can rejuvenate itself, resist erosion, and become more productive—naturally.



These anglers are fishing in the water, rather than on the bank. This will further protect the stabilized bank and the fish-rearing habitat.



Wetlands and Riverbanks = Fish

Salmon call this river home, but other animals, such as Bald Eagles and Barrow’s Goldeneye, also benefit from the changes made here. Protections for this lowland wetland and riparian habitat were funded by a state and federal partnership, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, to allow for acquisition and restoration by Alaska State Parks.

Root wads and **brush layering** were chosen as the best techniques to stabilize the riverbank at this tidally influenced site.

Root wads collect sediment and protect the riverbank, allowing the **brush layering** to revegetate the bank and provide excellent fish habitat.

No Habitat = No Fish

This panel was funded by a state and federal partnership, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC), and created by Alaska State Parks.

