



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Anvil City Science Academy Schoolyard Habitat

Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Field Office

The Anvil City Science Academy (ACSA) is a charter school that has been part of the Nome Public School System for the past ten years. The school currently has 44 students in grades 5 through 8. The Anvil City Science Academy focuses on place-based, hands-on study of local environments to connect children with nature.

The Anvil City Science Academy manages 20 acres of uplands and wetlands and is bordered for 1 mile by Anvil Creek. ACSA grounds provide a natural laboratory for students. Several years ago, a trail system was created to connect the school to the nearby slough. Over the years, some of the natural or “green” infrastructure has fallen into disrepair. The Fairbanks Field Office Habitat Branch teamed up with the school spring, 2008, to begin rehabilitating these local wetlands as part of a Schoolyard Habitat Program.

This Schoolyard Habitat Program has a dual purpose of restoring



Transplanting native willows and other emergent vegetation to the banks of Anvil Creek will improve it as spawning and rearing habitat for salmon.



Student stewardship projects include monitoring stream velocity and discharge, dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature.

wildlife habitat while connecting ACSA students to natural systems that surround the school. All students, teachers and parents will be involved in the design and implementation of the habitat restoration project. This project will have several components, including:

- Collection, rearing and replanting of salmon eggs.
- Restoration of salmon spawning beds.
- Recycling Christmas trees to provide cover for young salmon in dredge ponds also used as secondary spawning grounds.
- Removal of algae covering Moonlight Springs Pond.
- Partnering with the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation to leverage funds for restoration of Anvil Creek and Moonlight Springs.
- Transplanting native willows and other emergent vegetation to the banks of Anvil Creek.

•Teaching stewardship of natural areas surrounding the school to all students.

The web site for the project follows- <http://www.nomeschools.com/~acsa/2008.2009/Salmon%20Habitat%20Restoration/SalmonHabitatRestoration.htm>



The Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation helps ACSA students collect and incubate salmon eggs which will be replanted into the rehabilitated wetlands.

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1 800/344 WILD

For more information, contact:
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Mitch Osborne
101 12th. Ave., Room 110
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907/456/0209

Visit the Fisheries & Habitat home page:
http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fieldoffice/fairbanks/habitat_restoration.htm