**Stariski Creek Meadows**

Field-Based Learning Location

**Location:** Anchor Point, Alaska

Lat Long: 59.897439, -151.716396 KPB PARCEL ID: 15914045

T 3S R 14W SEC 20 SEWARD MERIDIAN HM 0970062 STARISKI MEADOWS LOT 20

**Physical Site Description:** Fen-type freshwater wetland with a headwaters stream. No restrooms or facilities of any kind. Mosquitoes and flies were abundant in June/July 2019; bug dope and baggy, full-coverage clothing recommended.

**Optimal Dates:** May to September, or whenever snow is not present

**Potential number of participants:** optimal amount is 30 or less

**Land Ownership:**

*Meadow Property:* Owned by Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT)

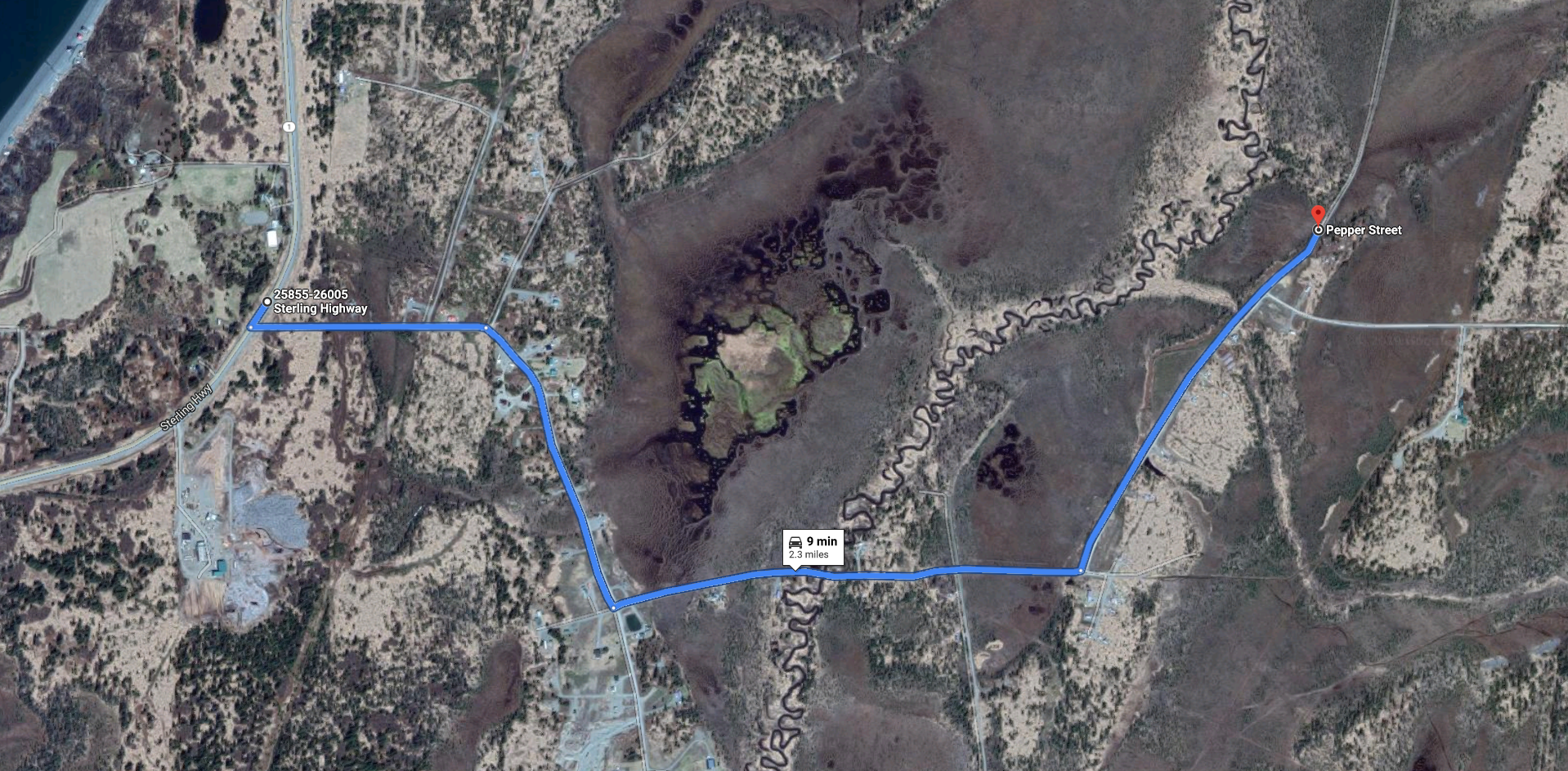
Contact: Marie McCarty (Executive Director), [Marie@KachemakLandTrust.org](mailto:Marie@KachemakLandTrust.org)

Joel Cooper (Stewardship Director), [Joel@KachemakLandTrust.org](mailto:Joel@KachemakLandTrust.org)

*Creek Property:* Owned by Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT)

\*\*If using the bridge and creek- allowed on the side closest to the main road.

**Travel Logistics:**

Turn on Resch Ave from Sterling Highway North of Anchor Point, AK. Travel is on a dirt road and crosses a single-car bridge. Right on Cloyds Rd, Left on Sergeant Ave, Left on Pepper St

**Suggested Meeting Point(s):** Off the road at the KHLT sign

There is no parking lot but a small turnout that could accommodate three 12-15 passenger vans. Joel Cooper (KHLT) received permission from a neighboring landowner to park on his property during the Smithsonian Board Visit (July 2019); could be an option if more space is needed. If utilizing the bridge and creek for an activity, there is a small turnout that can accommodate three vehicles.

**Site Vulnerabilities:** there is no established trail at this site, and KHLT would like to keep it that way; therefore, participants should spread out as they walk to evenly distribute the impact of their footsteps and prevent the creation of a trail. DO NOT WALK IN SINGLE FILE.

**Physical Exertion Requirements:** walking on uneven ground including calf-high vegetation and springy moss (expect your feet to sink into the ground). Calf-height boots are sufficient during dry weather. Participants should be comfortable lifting their legs into a 90-degree angle.



Still of drone footage captured by Jacob Argueta: Wetland access, bridge and creek access not pictured

**Potential Engagement Activities:** plant identification, soil coring, invertebrate identification, salmon capture/identification (creek)

\*\*NOTE: Cannot electro fish at this site: seins before the Smithsonian Board Visit did not capture any fish

**History of Place:** See Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Marie McCarty

Talk to KHLT about what they monitor on their properties

**Past Projects:** Smithsonian Board Visit (July 25, 2019) with 20 participants and 9 staff

Instructors: Dennis Whigham, Mark Rains, Coowe Walker

For more details see Coowe Walker or Syverine Bentz (contact information below)

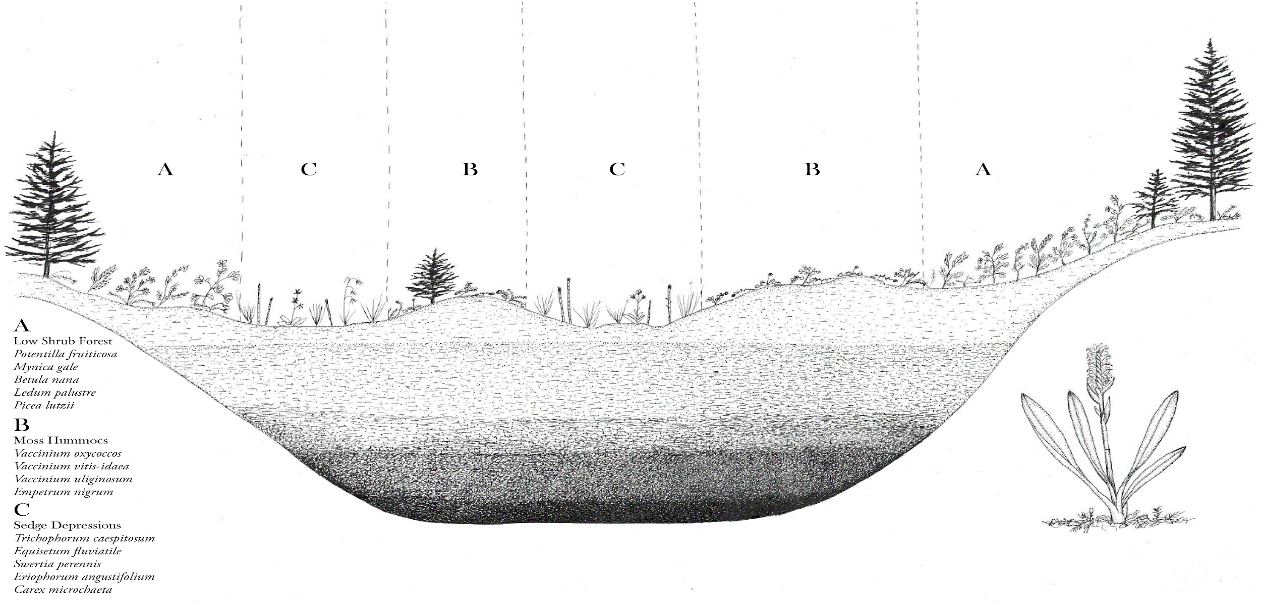
**NERR Priority Areas Addressed:**

* Ecological functions that support ecosystem services in headwater streams
* Salmon systems are connected from headwaters to estuaries through key landscape support elements, including peat wetlands and groundwater functions
* There are a variety of opportunities for community engagement and decision-making based on stakeholder perspectives

**Key Topic Areas & Messages:**

* Peatland Plant Communities
  + Community diversity
  + Climate change effects (shifting plant communities due to drying)
  + Plant traditional used
  + Orchid/fungi relationships
* Peatland Wetland Functions
  + Salmon support: nutrients, baseflow, temperature control)
  + Geologic setting & fen history
  + Groundwater studies, lag times
  + Blue Carbon
  + Stakeholder blue carbon and groundwater site-based trainings
* Freshwater phase of Salmon Life History (at the creek)
  + Landscape support of streams and baby salmon
  + Conservation efforts
  + Macroinvertebrates as prey
  + Nutrient limited landscape and importance of Alder
  + Fish Need Land Too field trips
  + Before/after condition of mitigation property

**Common Species:** See species list in cross section below



Cross section with plant community distribution and species list (art by Conrad Field)

**Resources:**

Blue Carbon field trip videos from 2018:

<https://vimeo.com/282414784>

Process Agenda for Smithsonian Board Visit (see Coowe Walker or Syverine Bentz)