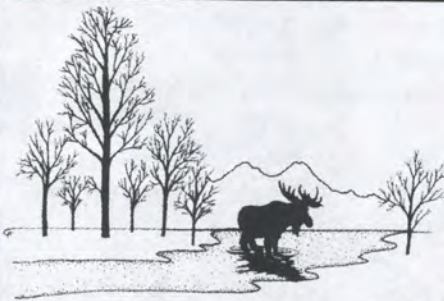


LANDMARKS

SPRING 2005 NEWSLETTER OF KACHEMAK HERITAGE LAND TRUST

Preserving, for Public Benefit, Land on the Kenai Peninsula with Significant Natural, Recreational, or Cultural Values by Working with Willing Landowners



FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROTECTED

John and Margret Pate patented their homestead on the Anchor River just north of Blackwater Bend in 1959, "proving up" during the years before the highway was paved connecting Homer to Anchorage. While John often worked away from home, Margret started Pate Insurance Agency and in those days we can only imagine how difficult her commute to town with her children was each day. Mrs. Pate tells us that she and her children, Mike and Patty, did the homesteading. While the Pate family eventually settled closer to town, the land continued to be enjoyed by John and Margret, their kids and their grandkids. Last February, Mrs. Pate generously donated a portion of the purchase price of this 64-acre parcel of land, enabling KHLT to purchase this magnificent parcel for conservation at a bargain sale rate. Using funds from a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we were able to purchase this important acreage, allowing Mrs. Pate some financial compensation along with peace of mind and the satisfaction that she has indeed protected some wonderful habitat and has also left a very real legacy to future generations. We offer our sincere thanks to Mrs. Pate for her generosity!

This acquisition is part of Kachemak Heritage Land Trust's broader Anchor River Floodplain protection project, an effort to work with willing private landowners to preserve significant parcels for their habitat, recreation and open space values. Over the past several years, KHLT has created maps of priority lands and provided landowners identified as owning significant properties with information about the tools Kachemak Heritage Land Trust can make available for conservation.

The Anchor River is a world-class king salmon and steelhead river, diverse in its habitat and relatively unblemished in its natural condition. By owning this half-mile stretch of river, we can protect its impressive habitat values and ensure that the public's access to the river is assured. The majority of the property is on the USFWS National Wetland Inventory and is also classified as riparian wetland ecosystem by the Kenai Watershed Forum. Finally, the entire property is classified as priority moose habitat by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A management plan will be created for this property and it will be monitored at least annually by our conservation director probably with a fishing rod in hand! We welcome you to visit this property as well.