



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects
Quarterly Project Reporting Form

**Detailed instructions for each section below are given in Section II. Quarterly Project Reports in the Reporting Policy on the website, <https://evostc.state.ak.us/policies-procedures/reporting-procedures/>*

Project Number: 23220610

Project Title: Kenai Peninsula Stream Watch

Principal Investigator(s): Brandon Drzazgowski (Stream Watch Coordinator at The Kenai Watershed Forum)

Reporting Periods and Due Dates:

<i>Reporting Period</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
February, March, April	June 1
May, June, July	September 1
August, September, October	December 1
November, December, January	March 1

Submission Date: December 1st, 2023

Project Website: <https://www.kenaiwatershed.org/stream-watch/>

Please check all the boxes that apply to the current reporting period.

- Project progress is on schedule.**
 - Project progress is delayed**
 - Budget reallocation request.**
 - Personnel changes.**
-



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1. Summary of Work Performed:

Objectives/Project Success:

Listed below are objectives that were met or partially met during the reporting period, including a short description of the methods used to accomplish said objective.

Objective B – Annually protect riparian habitat by seasonally installing, maintaining, and removing habitat protective fencing (3-4 miles, increasing as needs can be addressed with growing capacity):

Fencing was installed, and maintained during the previous reporting period. During this reporting period, fencing continued to be maintained and was removed. Due to the early closure of the Russian River Campground, fencing along the Russian River had to be removed in early August. Staff and volunteers clipped zip ties, rolled up temporary fencing, and removed fencing supports from riparian areas. Materials were stored at locations along the Russian River Angler Trail where they will reside until reinstallation at the beginning of the 2024 season.

Fencing was also maintained and removed at the Moose Range Meadows fishing site in Soldotna. Regular maintenance occurred throughout the month of August and the beginning of September. On September 11th, volunteers, staff, and partners from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge gathered at Moose Range Meadows to remove fencing and posts. However, this was shortly after a flood event caused by the breaking of the Snow River glacial dam. Majority of fencing was removed on the 11th, but some support posts could not be removed due to unsafe conditions. Stream Watch Coordinator, Brandon Drzazgowski, returned to Moose Range Meadows in early October, after water had fallen to a safe level, in order to remove remaining posts.

Objective C – Protect riparian habitat and create a culture of stewardship among members of the public by providing consistent educational messaging to river users at project sites, in social and print media, and through on-site signage:

During the reporting period, signs at project sites noting the importance of riparian vegetation, dune health, ethical angling, and regulatory information provided by partners were maintained or replaced depending on the amount of damage they received. Little new signage was produced during this time, due to the busy season nearing its end.

Multiple social media posts were produced for the Stream Watch Facebook and Instagram accounts. Post content ranged from highlighting seasonal staff that worked with the program, to special projects Stream Watch performed over the 2023 season, to highlighting important stewardship practices. A total of 15 posts were either produced by Stream Watch or shared from partner accounts to help spread educational messaging supported by the program.

Educational messaging was also provided at various outreach events put on by the program. The most notable events during the reporting period were the Group Line Cleaning Event and the Tern Lake Floating Clean-Up. The Group Line Cleaning Event was held on August 29th at the Russian River Ferry. Staff and volunteers set up a pop-up tent where they clipped hooks and



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weights off of used fishing line while engaging with the public. Multiple members of the public showed interest in the booth, wanted to learn about damage caused by discarded fishing line, and inquired about the program. However, because the event was held late in the season, low visitor numbers were seen at the ferry. This event would be beneficial to facilitate earlier in the season, when sockeye fishing is at its peak, to help gain more contacts with the public.

Educational messaging was also presented at the Tern Lake Floating Clean-up. This event was facilitated in conjunction with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) Sportfishing Division and featured an educational talk and litter clean-up. The educational talk highlighted water studies performed by ADFG, the water gauge at Tern Lake, and the effect of water reservation on local systems. After information was presented to the group, participants got into watercrafts, floated around Tern Lake, and collected litter to help protect salmon spawning habitat.

Objective D – Restore riparian and instream habitat by removing habitat endangering debris (at least 4,000 pounds annually) and fish passage barriers as needs arise:

Regular volunteer efforts continued into the reporting period and ended mid-September. With a combination of single-day stewardship events and regular volunteer patrols, a total of 4,487 pounds of trash were removed from riparian habitat throughout the Kenai Peninsula.

No fish passage barrier removal was needed during the reporting period. However, partners were reminded to reach out if needs arise in future seasons at the annual Stream Watch steering committee meeting.

Objective F – Engage with diverse communities on the Kenai Peninsula through special events to be as inclusive as possible in the program:

Multiple events involving the public were facilitated during the reporting period. The first was the group line cleaning day at the Russian River Ferry. This was a combination of an educational booth and litter management event. Volunteers and staff clipped weights and hooks off of fishing line while engaging with the public about educational messaging presented by the program.

Extra scissors were brought in an effort to recruit members of the public to help with stewardship activities. The event was well received by volunteers and members of the public, but would be beneficial to move to a busier time during the Stream Watch season.

The Tern Lake Floating Clean-up was also held during the reporting period. The event was limited to 12 participants due to safety concerns, but was available to anyone that wanted to join. Coordinators reached out to the community and were able to borrow extra watercrafts, so participation was not limited to those that owned their own vessel.

The Trashercise Tuesday series also continued into the reporting period. All members of the public were invited to join Stream Watch volunteers and staff at Kasilof Beach on Tuesdays from 5pm-7pm during the beginning of August to help remove litter from sensitive marine ecosystems. Participants interacted with recreationalists while removing litter from the beach in attempts to recruit them for clean-up efforts. Three members of the public joined Trashercise Tuesday efforts after speaking with volunteers on the beach.



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Objective I – Enhance Stream Watch programming along the Cook Inlet coastline through 8 annual marine debris surveys and cleanups to further bolster efforts to restore resources and services, prevent marine pollution, and protect important estuarine and coastal habitat:

Two marine debris clean-ups were seen during the reporting period. Both of these clean-ups were held on Kasilof Beach as part of the Trashercise Tuesday series. The first clean-up event of the reporting period featured 9 volunteers and resulted in 201 lbs. of debris being removed from marine ecosystems. The second marine clean-up had 6 volunteer participants and led to 413.5 lbs. of debris being removed from marine ecosystems. The addition of these two marine debris clean-ups to those from previous reporting periods, allowed the program to reach its objective of 8 annual marine debris clean-ups/surveys along the Cook Inlet.

Objective J - Strengthen relationships with communities and agencies served on the southern peninsula including Ninilchik Village and enroll at least one new member in the Steering Committee from an Alaskan Native Community:

During the reporting period, a grant application was submitted to perform trail work in Ninilchik. As part of the submission, a local governing body needed to provide support for the project. Stream Watch staff connected with members of the Ninilchik Traditional Council (NTC) to gain a letter of support for the project and strengthen relationships between the two organizations. The executive director of the NTC, Ivan Encelewski, was able and willing to support the proposed trail work. During this interaction, Ivan was asked about the best people within the NTC to contact about pairing with Stream Watch for future events. Ivan was able to provide two names that he felt would lead to a positive pairing between the two organizations.

A conversation was also held with Alana Shaw from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe on the possibility of a stewardship day in conjunction with the Stream Watch Program. Alana and Stream Watch Staff felt a marine debris removal event on south Kenai Beach would fit well between the two organizations. This location was picked due to its ties with the Kenaitze community that could breed higher involvement. There is potential for these plans to change over the winter season, but both parties are excited to pair for an event for the 2024 summer season. More conversations will be had during spring months to iron out the details of the stewardship day.

Objective K – Support current program activities by contributing additional staff time and funding for supplies and volunteer training:

During the reporting period, conversations were held between the US Forest Service and the Kenai Watershed Forum on how to improve volunteer training for future seasons. The topic of multiple in-person orientations was well received by partners. Beyond a second in-person orientation, partners also discussed the content provided through volunteer training and how it could be updated to more accurately reflect the current status of Kenai Peninsula waterways and the needs of Stream Watch partners. This topic was also presented at the Stream Watch steering committee meeting, so all partners were able to provide input on the type of content they felt would be needed to properly orient volunteers to their project sites.



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Objective L – Leverage EVOSTC funding to obtain additional investments in program expansion and to further develop Stream Watch to maximize the beneficial impacts to natural resources and services:

An application to the Recreational Trails Program administered by the Alaska State Parks system was submitted in late October. The project would utilize Stream Watch staff and volunteers to remove current wooden infrastructure at the Ninilchik Scenic Overlook and replace it with elevated light-penetrating walkways. This will help reduce the impact seen by tourism, increase recreational safety, and allow natural vegetation to grow along the trail. Inside the application, Stream Watch Coordinator time was utilized as match. The coordinator's time, funded through EVOSTC, will be used as in-kind match towards the project and would allocate time for volunteer collection/coordination, on-site work, and maintenance as needed.

Deviation from Original Objectives:

There was no deviation from goals during the current reporting period. Stream Watch was able to function normally, and address multiple objectives over the last three months. Although communication has been slow with Alaskan native communities around the Kenai Peninsula, steps are still being taken to fulfill this objective. More involvement has been seen from members of the Alaskan native community, and this shows potential for gaining a steering committee member from this community.

Problems/Unusual Developments:

The largest problem seen during the reporting period was the early closure of the Russian River Campground. Due to road construction on the only access road into the Russian River Campground, the program's most popular site was required to restrict public access after August 15th. With a large number of volunteers located in Anchorage, volunteer hours for the end of the season were lower than would have been experienced without the road closure. To solve this problem, volunteers were encouraged to perform stewardship efforts at the Russian River Ferry or lower on the peninsula. Special events were created in the Cooper Landing area to provide more avenues for volunteers. Despite a need for volunteers at the Russian River Ferry and added events, some volunteers opted to end their season with the closure of the Russian.

The other unusual development seen during the reporting period was the departure of Dan Funk. Dan was hired to provide support to both the Stream Watch program and the education program housed at KWF. Dan was expected to stay longer than seasonal interns and continue employment with KWF until late September/early October. However, Dan notified staff he had taken a position at another organization and departed from KWF on August 4th. Dan was expected to spend the majority of his time with the Stream Watch program during August and September, and his departure caused some scheduling and staffing issues for coordinators. With adjustment of scheduling and support from other staff to help mitigate the situation, all planned events functioned smoothly.



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Additional information:

The end of the Stream Watch summer season was seen during the reporting period. Stream Watch was able to facilitate the Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Cooper Landing Community Center. This event invites all trained volunteers and partners to look back on the summer season, celebrate, and distribute Stream Watch appreciation gifts. This event was held on September 10th and signified the official end of the Stream Watch summer season. The timing of the appreciation event allowed for both seasonal and residential volunteers to attend. Volunteers that stay on the Kenai Peninsula year-round are encouraged to perform regular patrols and attend Stewardship events through the end of the month.

Listed below are the end of season volunteer totals from over the summer (May-September):

Site	Travel Mileage	Hours	Number of Contacts	Pounds of Trash	Pounds of Line	Cigarette Butts
Northern Peninsula						
Russian River Campground	10893	768.7	6210	157.9	21.61	701
Russian River Ferry	2270	210.6	1451	347.9	52.35	658
Central Peninsula						
Bings Landing	399	70	106	126.6	12.54	703
Centennial Park	463	78	179	79.8	25.67	552
Moose Range Meadows	194	29	36	59.7	9.20	218
Kasilof	2437.5	163.75	504	740.3	2.20	1590
Kenai Mouth	294	67.5	540	8	0	0
Southern Peninsula						
Deep Creek	20	7	0	853	2.00	0
Anchor River	235	18	26	10.5	1.30	26
Ninilchik	198	13	28	3	0.30	8
Other	184	127	27	52.2	3.40	141
Orientations	-	330	-	-	-	-
Stewardship Days	3355.5	531.5	10	2047.8	0.25	409
Totals:	20943	2414	9117	4487	131	5006



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2. Abstract:

The reporting period was very productive for Stream Watch, and marked the end of the program's 29th season. The program was able to facilitate various events over the course of the last 3 months, including marine debris clean-ups, educational booths, and floating clean-ups that helped to engage the public and spread educational messaging provided by Stream Watch. A grant application was submitted and leveraged EVOSTC funds as match while helping to strengthen relations with Alaskan Native communities. To wrap up the season, habitat fencing was removed and stored at project sites, a volunteer appreciation event was held, and partners met for a steering committee meeting to assess the program for future seasons. Higher activity was also seen on the Stream Watch Facebook and Instagram accounts to help provide followers with programmatic updates and educational messaging. Few complications were seen over the course of the reporting period aside from the early closure of the Russian River Campground that caused some volunteers to end their season early. Overall, Stream Watch was able to stay on track with proposed objectives and provide support to project partners during the end of the busy summer season.

3. Coordination and Collaboration:

Listed below are project partners that the Stream Watch program paired with during the reporting period, their involvement with the program, and the proper contact listed.

US Forest Service:

The Forest Service (USFS) is the Kenai Watershed Forum's main partner for the facilitation of the Stream Watch program. The Forest Service helps run the program jointly with the Kenai Watershed Forum during the busy summer season, by managing the project area inside the Russian River Confluence area (including the Russian River Campground and the Russian River Ferry) with the use of the USFS's Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator. This project partner helps to schedule volunteers at the Russian River Confluence area, assists with the maintenance and removal of habitat fencing along the Russian River, and recording data collected from volunteers inside the confluence area.

The USFS helped to put on the volunteer appreciation event during the reporting period through securing the venue, helping with set-up and facilitation, assisting with the picture slideshow, and acquiring appreciation gifts. The USFS also helped to facilitate various stewardship days throughout the reporting period such as the Apogee Adventures stewardship group, habitat fence maintenance at Russian River locations, the group line cleaning day, and the Moose Range Meadows Cache maintenance day. The USFS Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda Goss, also helped formulate new ideas for future Stream Watch training, and has given input on edits to the Stream Watch volunteer manual before starting her off season with the Forest Service.

Contact:

Amanda Goss – Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator (Forest Service)

Email: amanda.goss@usda.gov

Office Number: 907.288.7747



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Apogee Adventures:

Apogee Adventures is an organization based out of Maine that focuses around youth-based education, exploration, and service by offering multiple programs inside and outside of the United States. These programs allow youth 11-18 to explore new areas of the world. Stream Watch began pairing with Apogee Adventures in the summer of 2022, and has continued that relationship to the summer of 2023. By pairing with Apogee adventures, Stream Watch is able to engage with a younger age group, provide them with education on the local area, and engage them in service that helps support Stream Watch efforts by cleaning high use areas or removing invasive species populations found in the area.

During the reporting period, one stewardship day was held with Apogee Adventures. The stewardship day consisted of a patrol of the Russian River angler's trail to remove litter left from visitors, invasive species management, and an educational talk with the group. Educational messaging included information on program history, the salmon life cycle, and the importance of critical habitat. Invasive species work was focused around seedhead clipping of reed canary grass. participants from Apogee Adventures hiked to a known infestation with clippers and bags to reduce the spread of reed canary grass. Although the plant can still spread through rhizomes, work performed will reduce the spread of the infestation drastically.

Contact:

Andi Schweers – Assistant Director
Email: andi@apogeeadventures.com
Phone Number: 207.725.7025

US Fish and Wildlife Service:

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) helped to support the program throughout the reporting period. The first way that USFWS supported was the removal of habitat fencing at the Moose Range Meadows (MRM) public access fishing site. With the popular fishing season coming to an end, the program decided to remove habitat fencing on September 11th. USFWS provided seasonal staff to assist and allowed for safe and efficient removal of fencing at MRM.

The USFWS also supported the program through communications about their high-use sights. Stream Watch staff and volunteers frequent USFWS land, such as Moose Range Meadows and the Russian River Ferry, to perform regular patrol and stewardship day events. USFWS Staff communicate with Stream Watch coordinators on which areas have high activity, large amounts of trash, and other stewardship needs to help accurately schedule volunteers and events to have the highest impacts possible. USFWS also allows Stream Watch staff and volunteers free access to sites that require fees in order for them to regularly patrol these areas and perform litter collection/community outreach.

Contact:

Matt Conner – Visitor Services Manager
Email: Matt_Conner@fws.gov
Office Number: 907.260.2834



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Alaska Department of Natural Resources:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) supports the Stream Watch program through two of its divisions. The first, Division of Mining, Land, and Water, mainly supports the program through agreeing to house a Stream Watch supply cache at their Kasilof River Special Use Area site. The Division of Mining, Land, and Water agreed to permanently house a cache at their location, allowing the program to expand its area of presence and support volunteers that prefer to patrol in the Kasilof community.

The Alaska DNR State Parks division has also supported the program. State Parks, like the division of Mining, Land, and Water, agreed to let Stream Watch create a cache at their Kasilof River boat launch location. State Parks allowed Stream Watch access to a shed that was not being utilized at this location to house regular patrol supplies such as trash pickers, data sheets, and safety supplies. State Parks also allows Stream Watch staff and volunteers free access to day use areas, so stewardship activities can be performed with ease.

Contact:

Division of Mining, Land, and Water:

John Forbes – Natural Resource Specialist 3

Email: john.forbes@alaska.gov

Office Number: 907.269.5032

State Parks:

Jason Stewart – Natural Resource Technician 2

Email: Jason.stewart@alaska.gov

Phone Number: 907.262.5581

City of Soldotna:

The City of Soldotna helps to support the Stream Watch Program through free access to city owned sites. The City of Soldotna allows staff and volunteers free access to high use fishing sites such as Swiftwater Park and Centennial Park to perform litter cleanups, place monofilament fishing line collection tubes, and share educational messaging with the public.

The City of Soldotna also allows Stream Watch to house a supply cache at their Centennial Park location. The presence of this cache allows volunteers to easily access all things needed to properly perform stewardship activities at one of the most popular camping and fishing locations on the Kenai Peninsula

Contact:

Joel Todd – Director of Parks & Recreation

Email: jtodd@soldotna.org

Office Number: 907.714.1211



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Alaska department of Fish and Game:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) mainly supports the program through providing up to date information to be presented at the dip net information booth. Contacts will update Stream Watch coordinators on emergency orders and other vital information they feel is necessary for the public to know. This information is they conveyed to volunteers who help to share it with the public.

ADFG also helped to facilitate the Tern Lake Floating Cleanup in September. Leah Ellis from the Sportfishing Division was able to join Stream Watch Staff and volunteers and provide information of ADFG's water studies/stream reservation program. Leah also helped to coordinate volunteers on-site to keep the event as safe, educational, and fun as possible.

Contact:

Leah Ellis – Habitat Biologist

Email: leah.ellis@alaska.gov

Office Number: (907) 267-2404

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

No recommendations or comments were submitted during the previous process reporting period of the project. If recommendations or comments are submitted after this reporting period, they will be properly addressed in the next reporting cycle.



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5. Budget:

Budget Category:	Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	\$71,430	\$66,225	\$66,225	\$61,020	\$55,815	\$320,715	\$10,954	\$58,184
Travel	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$24,192	\$214	\$2,842
Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Commodities	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$9,750	\$0	\$2,740
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Indirect Costs (28.25%)	\$22,097	\$20,626	\$20,626	\$19,156	\$17,685	\$100,191	\$3,155	\$18,014
SUBTOTAL	\$100,315	\$93,640	\$93,640	\$86,964	\$80,289	\$454,848	\$14,323	\$81,780
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$9,028	\$8,428	\$8,428	\$7,827	\$7,226	\$40,936	\$1,289	\$7,360
PROJECT TOTAL	\$109,343	\$102,067	\$102,067	\$94,791	\$87,515	\$495,784	\$15,612	\$89,140
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

INSTRUCTIONS: This summary page provides a five-year overview (FY 22-26) of proposed funding and actual cumulative spending which includes the **non-trustee agency** and **trustee agency worksheets**. **This Summary Page should automatically populate as the formulas reference the cells in the non-trustee agency and trustee agency worksheets. Please make sure the totals given are correct.** The column titled 'Actual Cumulative' will be updated each fiscal year and included in the annual report (include information on the total amount actually spent for all completed years of the project). On the Project Annual Report Form, if any line item exceeds a 10% deviation from the originally-proposed amount; provide detail regarding the reason for the deviation.

COMMENTS: