



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: 22220610

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 1

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.

One personnel change was made with the project prior to project start. The Kenai Watershed Forum experienced staff turnover between application submission to project start date from Branden Borneman (Applicant) to Brandon Drzazgowski (Current PI). This happened before the current reporting period but must be noted.



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

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):

Habitat fencing was installed along the Russian River Angler Trail at the beginning of the summer season, before EVOSTC funding was available to the project. However, during the reporting period, habitat fencing was monitored, maintained, and removed during the month of August. Staff and volunteers would carry needed fence maintenance supplies while performing regular patrols along the Russian River Angler Trail during August. If staff or volunteers came across an area of fencing damaged by recreational or natural causes, they would promptly repair fencing by replacing sections of fence or mending holes with zip ties. Fixed fencing closed off access to sensitive riparian vegetation and helps direct visitors to established river access points. Fencing removal occurred during the week of August 12th and was performed by a mixture of project staff and Stream Watch volunteers. Supplies were stored along the Russian River Angler Trail in safe areas until reinstalment at the beginning of next season.

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:

The beginning of the reporting period fell at the end of the Kasilof River dipnet season. During the dipnet season, Stream Watch placed an educational dipnet booth at the beach entrance and provided information on fishery regulations, fish identification, and health concerns produced by the fishery and handed out needed materials like fin clippers and tide books. The booth also featured public notices and fishery information posted on its exterior when volunteers are unavailable to take a shift on a given day.

Informational lawn signs that highlight the importance of dune vegetation were also placed around the beach during the dipnet season. There is little restriction at Kasilof beach on where visitors are allowed to place camping supplies. This leads to trampling of natural dune grasses. Lawn signs inform the public on why dune grasses are essential to habitat and salmon health.

Various other informational signs were maintained during the reporting period. An example of informational signage placed or maintained through the reporting period are “Baby Salmon Live Here” signs that inform the public of fish populations and ecological health in areas they wouldn’t expect. Temporary informational signage attached to habitat fencing was also maintained during the reporting period to inform the public on the importance of stream bank vegetation, how it holds soils in place, gives juvenile salmon a place to hide from predators, and helps keep water temperatures cool.

Objective D – Restore riparian and instream habitat by removing habitat endangering debris:



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

Multiple, large, group clean-ups were held during the reporting period (noted under Objective I). Trained volunteers (ambassadors) also preformed regular patrols at high use fishing sites that included public outreach and collection of litter/debris from riparian areas. Located at the bottom of the “Summary of Work Preformed” section is a table noting the total amount of debris collected during the summer field season (May-September) calculated during the season wrap-up held in September.

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

During the reporting period, the project began a speaker series called “Fireside Chats”. This event series was held once a week on Wednesdays from 6-7pm and centered around guest speakers coming to share presentations pertaining to the environment or recreation in the local area. These presentations were free to attend and featured a variety of family friendly speakers/topics to ensure a diversity of viewers. The second portion of these event was also sectioned off to focus around community questions, conversation, and engagement. Community engagement helped the audience feel connected to the topics and gave them an avenue to explore the side of each topic that they found interesting. Fireside Chats continued beyond the reporting period but began October 19th and featured one more chat on October 26th before the reporting period ended.

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:

Half of the annual beach cleanups were held during this reporting period. Two of the four beach cleanups seen in this reporting period were part of Stream Watch’s “Trashercise Tuesday” series. Trashercise Tuesday is a series of beach clean ups held every Tuesday during the Kasilof River dipnet season from 5-7pm. Due to the scheduling of the Kasilof River dipnet season, two Trashercise Tuesdays were held during the reporting period, with one being held the last week of the dipnet season and one held the week after its closing. Upon completion of the final Trashercise Tuesday, nearly 1000lbs of trash had been collected from this series of events alone. Two beach clean-ups were also held at Kenai Beach. One of these clean-ups featured special recruiting of local volunteers and was focused around a large amount of plastic waste located about one mile north of the beach’s public access. This Stewardship event featured two staff and four volunteers. The second Kenai Beach clean-up was a stewardship day featuring a volunteer group from the local Marathon refinery. This clean-up was focused around the Kenai Beach entrance and surrounding area. With a total of 10 participants, two groups were formed to help maximize the amount of debris collected from the beach. Multiple pieces of large debris were removed during this clean-up including sections of chain-link fence and a dismantled wooden structure.

Deviation from Original Objectives:

There was no deviation from original objectives seen during the reporting period. Not all objectives were completed during the reporting period, however this was mostly due to the reporting period being located at a time of year where satisfying these goals/objectives would be



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

difficult. Planning and preparation measures have been taken towards fulfilling these goals upon the start of next summer season.

Problems/Unusual Developments:

Two notable problems/unusual developments occurred during this reporting period. The first unusual development that arose was the early closure of the Russian River Campground. Construction was scheduled to be performed on the entrance/exit road leading to the Russian River Campground around mid-August. With the road being the only access the Russian River Campground, early closure of this program area was seen on August 16th. Generally, Stream Watch volunteers are able to access and positively impact the Russian River/Russian River Campground until mid-September. Early closure led to lesser impact compared to previous years, and placed a barrier of participation on majority of volunteers located in Anchorage due to the high amounts of travel time required for Stream Watch sites farther south than the Russian. However, this early closure also showed some positive impacts through larger volunteer presence at southern sites by volunteers located farther south on the peninsula.

The second problem experienced during the reporting period was abnormally high-water levels experienced throughout August and early September. High water levels covered up majority of areas that would be regularly cleaned during this period. The largest impact was seen through the cancelation of floating cleanups scheduled for these months. High water levels and faster flow rates caused concerns for volunteer safety centered around raft control and exiting/entering the raft. Also, all popular gravel bars used for fishing, where cleanup would occur, were completely submerged. With safety and productivity concerns, all floating cleanups were canceled for the second half of the 2022 season.

Additional information:

Summer season wrap-up and volunteer appreciation were also held during the reporting period. The volunteer appreciation dinner is an event held to signify the end of each summer season. The event was hosted at the visitor center of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge for the completion of the 2022 season. At volunteer appreciation, volunteers are provided with dinner as they view a slideshow of photos taken throughout the season and listen to the final data collected from their season of hard work. Volunteers also receive an end of season “appreciation gift” and certificate of appreciation at the end of the event. If volunteers are unavailable to attend the appreciation dinner, their certificate and gift are set aside to be delivered at a later date.

Located below are two tables that outline work experienced within the reporting period. Table 1 shows the total impacts of the program throughout the summer season (May-September) calculated during season wrap up in mid-September. Table 2 indicates all single-day stewardship events held during the reporting period. Unlike Table 1, Table 2 specifically looks at events held during the reporting period, not the entire summer season



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

Table 1: Site Specific Data from the 2022 Stream Watch Data

Site	Travel Mileage	Hours	Number of Contacts	Pounds of Trash	Pounds of Line	Cigarette Butts
Anchor River	276	8	-	3.4	-	22
Bings Landing	173	32.5	40	20.21	1.52	307
Centennial Park	300	58	138	77.05	10.39	964
Deep Creek	30	106	17	145.08	2.1	604
Kasilof	1465	108	268	380.3	10.2	1661
Kenai Mouth	184	33	489	44.1	0	211
Moose Range Meadows	212	24	16	10.01	2.45	275
Ninilchik	476	17.5	9	13.6	0.335	159
Other	100	51	-	-	8	-
Orientations	-	342	-	-	-	-
Russian River Campground	6658	491.5	2082	147.73	184.68	311
Russian River Ferry	439	56.5	381	112.97	28.63	312
Stewardship Days	N/A	550.5	36	1699	5.5	2131
Invasive Species	164	15	-	-	-	-
Totals:	10477	1894	3476	2654	251	6957



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

Table 2: Stewardship Events help August-October)

8/1	8am-1pm	North Kenai Beach Clean Up	KWF	Kenai Beach	Stewardship Day
8/2	5pm-7pm	Trashercise Tuesday	KWF	Kasilof North Beach	Stewardship Day
8/3	9am-5pm	GLA Stewardship Day	KWF	Russian River/Russian River Ferry	Stewardship Day
8/4	9am-5pm	GLA Stewardship Day	KWF	Russian River/Russian River Ferry	Stewardship Day
8/6	9am-1pm	Apogee Adventure Visit	KWF	Russian River	Stewardship Day
8/9	5pm-7pm	Trashercise Tuesday	KWF	Kasilof North Beach	Stewardship Day
8/11	12pm-4pm	Bird Vetch Weed Pull	KWF	Kenai	Invasive Species Stewardship Day
8/12	10-3pm	Russian Fencing Removal	KWF/USFS	Russian River	Stewardship Day
8/13	10-3pm	Russian Fencing Removal	KWF/USFS	Russian River	Stewardship Day
8/14	10-3pm	Russian Fencing Removal	KWF/USFS	Russian River	Stewardship Day
8/18	12pm-4pm	Floating Clean Up Survey	KWF	Cooper Landing/Kenai/Soldotna	Stewardship Day
8/19	12pm-4pm	Tansy Weed Pull	KWF	Soldotna	Invasive Species Stewardship Day
9/1	1pm-5pm	Tansy Weed Pull	KWF	Soldotna	Invasive Species Stewardship Day
9/8	10-12pm	Marathon Beach Clean Up	KWF	Kenai Beach	Stewardship Day
9/10	5-8pm	Stream Watch Appreciation Dinner	KWF/USFS	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge	Appreciation



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

2. Abstract:

The Stream Watch program saw many accomplishments during the reporting period, including multiple events, large amounts of trash collected, and the wrap up of the 2022 summer season. Multiple objectives were hit through the facilitation of “Trashercise Tuesday” and other marine debris clean ups, installment of “Fireside Chat” speaker series, maintenance and removal of habitat fencing, and regular patrols and duties performed by trained volunteers (ambassadors) at popular fishing sites. Multiple invasive species weed pulls and high school ecotourism events were held throughout the reporting period as well. Abnormally high-water levels and the early closure of the Russian River Campground proved challenging for the program during August and September, causing the cancelation of floating cleanups and increased travel time for volunteers located in Anchorage. However, slight benefits of these unusual developments were also seen, like a larger impact by ambassadors at southern sites. The 2022 season wrap up and volunteer appreciation dinner were also held during the reporting period. This event held at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center allowed program staff to thank volunteers for the work performed during the summer of 2022 and update them on the total impact seen on the peninsula throughout the 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 management of 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 Forest Service Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator also has a major role in the organization and hosting of the appreciation dinner. The Forest Service helps play a pivotal role throughout the Stream Watch summer season and helps to manage a portion of the Stream Watch program area to ensure the largest impact possible on the Kenai Peninsula.

Contact:

Amber Kraxberger-Linson – Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator (Forest Service)

Email: Amber.Kraxberger-Linson@usda.gov

Office Number: 907-288-7751



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

US Fish and Wildlife Service:

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) aided with two major events held throughout the reporting period. To start, the USFWS allowed the Stream Watch program use of their visitor center as a venue for the Stream Watch appreciation dinner. Beyond offering use of the venue, staff at the visitor center assisted with the set-up and tear-down for the event and provided a firepit for volunteers to enjoy.

The second event that USFWS supported was the removal of habitat fencing at Moose Range Meadows public access fishing site. With fishing still active at the public access site, the program decided to leave fencing installed past the volunteer appreciation dinner. Volunteer sign-up for fencing removal was low due to the event being after the season end and high water levels. USFWS provided seasonal staff to assist with fencing removal. USFWS seasonal staff allowed for safe and efficient removal of fencing at Moose Range Meadows on September 14th.

Contact:

Jason Oles – Park Ranger (Planner)

Email: Jason_oles@fws.gov

Office Number: 907.260.2807

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

No recommendations or comments were submitted during the project application process or the first reporting period of the project. Thus, the project has no response to EVOSTC review. If recommendations or comments are submitted after this reporting period, they will be properly addressed in the next reporting cycle.



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

5. Budget:

Budget Category:	Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	\$71,430	\$66,225	\$66,225	\$61,020	\$55,815	\$320,715	\$8,426
Travel	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$24,192	\$347
Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Commodities	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$9,750	\$200
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Indirect Costs (28.25%)	\$22,097	\$20,626	\$20,626	\$19,156	\$17,685	\$100,191	\$1,810
SUBTOTAL	\$100,315	\$93,640	\$93,640	\$86,964	\$80,289	\$454,848	\$10,783
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$9,028	\$8,428	\$8,428	\$7,827	\$7,226	\$40,936	\$971
PROJECT TOTAL	\$109,343	\$102,067	\$102,067	\$94,791	\$87,515	\$495,784	\$11,754
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0