



**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:** 22220608

**Project Title:** Port Graham Habitat Enhancement

**Principal Investigator(s):**

Jon E. Shepherd - Port Graham Corporation (PGC)

Kyle Graham - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Nathan Lojewski - Chugachmiut

Patrick Norman - Native Village of Port Graham (PGVC)

**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:** June 1, September 1, December 1, or March 1

**Project Website:** NA

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.**

N/A all principal investigators remain actively involved in project planning and implementation.



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## 1. Summary of Work Performed:

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In quarter 3 the Port Graham Subsistence Access and Habitat Restoration team assessed and documented road degradation issues and stream crossing conditions via foot and air, began vegetation removal for site access, and began the design process for initial stream crossing construction.

After initial months of planning, project partners were able to implement field objectives. In August US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff hiked from the mountain pass to Rocky River to assess sites that are inaccessible by vehicle. USFWS staff documented road conditions, surveyed stream crossings, and assessed suitability of fish habitat. Meanwhile, Port Graham Corporation (PGC) staff began aerial assessments of road condition, mapping, data compiling and organization, and land clearing to improve project site access. PGC was able to improve access to approximately 20 miles of road that at the beginning of this project was entirely overgrown with no vehicle access (see Figures 1 and 2). This amount of progress exceeded expectations and was incredibly encouraging for successes of the project team to come.



*Figure 1: Road clearing progress from Native Village of Port Graham towards Rocky Bay in yellow!*



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*Figure 2: Left before vegetation clearing; Above: After vegetation removal!*

In September project partners welcomed surveyors, hydrologists, and engineers to the Native Village of Port Graham for a week of surveying and documenting site information needed for completing engineered designs for 6 stream crossings. These efforts will produce shovel-ready designs and cost estimates on 6 stream crossings with the intent of beginning construction in spring 2023.

In October, project partners collaborated with Chugachmiut to host the first community meeting about the road restoration project. The meeting was a success with the President of the Port Graham Village Council, Port Graham Corporation CEO, Council members, and members of the public were participatory attendees. Project partners presented a brief outline of project objectives and focused the majority of time on public feedback. The overall message received was the community is very excited to have restored access to traditional hunting, gathering, and fishing grounds.

The following outline and table outlines the plan and progress for Q2 – Q4 in greater detail.

**Scope of work Q 2- Q4:**

1. Communications
  - a. Develop an operational partnership
  - b. Continued communications with Port Graham
    - i. Discussions with staff from the Port Graham Village Tribal Council
    - ii. Public meetings as needed in Port Graham, Alaska



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2. Clear roads of vegetation and debris
3. Perform temporary road maintenance as needed to support clearing roads.
4. Document road condition and related maintenance issues.
5. Oversee the design of 5 stream crossings and develop a prioritization plan.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Deliverables (FY22) (Q2-Q4)</b>	<b>Progress (Q3)</b>	<b>Expected completion dates</b>
Coordinate partner planning meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly meeting minutes</li> <li>• Two community meetings</li> <li>• Operational partnership with USFWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Logistical meetings completed among surveyors, engineers, and hydrologists</li> <li>- Weekly meetings between USFWS and PGC completed and ongoing</li> <li>- October 13<sup>th</sup>, held the first community meeting in Port Graham</li> <li>- Mid-field season partner meeting</li> <li>- Presented project accomplishments to PGC Board of Directors receiving a standing ovation</li> <li>- Displayed aerial images and videos to shareholders at PGC open house</li> <li>- Data consolidation meetings held each month of Q3</li> </ul>	All project years, ongoing
Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logistical coordination between project partners</li> <li>• Hire project manager</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project managers hired in spring 2022</li> <li>- Open and frequent communication maintained between FWS and PGC project officers</li> <li>- Communication is fluid and ongoing</li> </ul>	All project years, ongoing
Road Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Images and maps of road system</li> <li>• Updated road condition report</li> <li>• Project prioritization plan</li> <li>• Site assessment reports on the currently inaccessible Windy and Rocky Bay roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PGC flew over the entirety of the road system capturing aerial imagery of road issues and construction priorities</li> <li>- USFWS did a foot survey of the road system to document road issues and stream crossing data</li> <li>- Wrote foot survey report and organized data</li> <li>- Data shared amongst all project partners, ongoing.</li> </ul>	Q4
Clear roads of vegetation and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to sites for construction years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equipment was rented and vegetation clearing and minor road restoration</li> </ul>	Complete to Scurvy Creek,



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debris – to Windy Bay		began from the pass towards Windy Bay - Clearing began September 1 <sup>st</sup> and completed once snow accumulation blocked access at the pass	ongoing
Perform temporary road maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access for Native Village of Port Graham community members and project staff and equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Three sites between the pass and Windy Bay received some fill and/or lumber to create temporary passage for equipment to clear road of vegetation</li> <li>- Three potential entry points for construction equipment have been identified via the Village of Port Graham, Windy Bay Landing and at Picnic Harbor. All three points of entry have been cleared of vegetation for boat, ATV, and/or helicopter access for construction years.</li> </ul>	Q4, All project years
Purchase equipment and supplies for project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase field supplies for laborers and project partners</li> <li>• Purchase safety equipment</li> <li>• Purchase camp supplies</li> <li>• Purchase road clearing supplies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Field supplies and equipment purchases and mobilization is ongoing</li> <li>- Landing for helicopter has been cleared at Rocky Bay Lodge allowing supply drop off</li> <li>- Bear deterrents delivered to field sites</li> <li>- Vegetation clearing increased safety immeasurably in the event of an emergency evacuation</li> <li>- Project partners now have experience and ideas for FY23 equipment and supply needs</li> </ul>	All project years as needed
Support USFWS in collection of habitat assessment and hydrologic data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction and restoration site prioritization list</li> <li>• Five fish passage culverts designed and ready for construction</li> <li>• Future funding proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial site selection and survey complete.</li> <li>- Site prioritization is expected to be completed in Q4 once data is consolidated and all partners and community members have provided input.</li> <li>- Design and engineering cost estimates are in progress with an expected completion of February 2023 for 6 sites.</li> </ul>	Q4, All project years, ongoing

**2. Abstract:**



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In quarter 3 the Port Graham Subsistence Access and Habitat Restoration team assessed and documented road degradation issues and stream crossing conditions via foot and air, began vegetation removal for site access, and began the design process for initial stream crossing construction.

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**3. Coordination and Collaboration:**

In the third quarter, the USFWS, PGC, the Traditional Native Village of Port Graham (NVPG), Chugachmiut continued to work together to achieve project goals and objectives. All project partners worked together to achieve field work objectives, select priority stream crossings, and develop plans for the fourth quarter. PGC and USFWS project managers meet on a weekly basis to discuss next steps, updates, share data, and set meetings with additional project partners. Additionally in Q3 the partnership hosted a community meeting to discuss project plans, answer questions, and welcome community feedback.

The partnership is intentionally and strategically collaborating with NVPG about the ongoing bridge construction replacing 3 bridges utilizing the Tribal Transportation program with the Federal Highways Program. The partnership is strategically selecting sites and dividing up project objectives to avoid duplication and promote strategic fiscal and logistical efficiency.

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**4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:**

No comments at this time.

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**5. Budget:**



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<b>Budget Category:</b>		Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5- YR TOTAL PROPOSED	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel		39,640	39,640	39,640	39,640	39,640	198,200	\$32,476
Travel		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,000	\$5,521
Contractual		1,791,722	1,333,007	1,333,007	874,291	579,876	5,911,903	\$728,642
Commodities		500	500	500	500	500	2,500	\$1,111
Equipment		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Indirect Costs	Rate =	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1,834,862</b>	<b>1,376,147</b>	<b>1,376,147</b>	<b>917,431</b>	<b>623,016</b>	<b>6,127,603</b>	<b>\$767,751</b>
General Administration (9% of subtotal)		165,138	123,853	123,853	82,569	56,071	551,484	\$0
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>		<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>679,087</b>	<b>6,679,087</b>	<b>\$767,751</b>
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)		450,000	1,767,376	1,767,376	0	0	3,984,752	

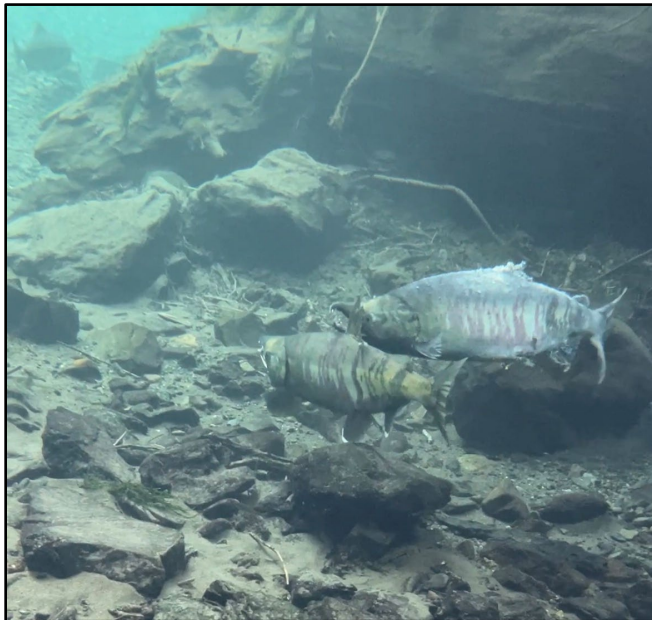
The USFWS utilizes the cooperative agreement process to develop annual budgets, scope of work, and accountability for project objectives and financial management. In Q3, contracting was completed allowing for PGC and FWS to get into the field, survey sites, prioritize next steps, and clear approximately 20 miles of roads!

The “contractual” column represents the current cooperative agreement between the USFWS and PGC (\$493,358) and the contract developed for survey and design (\$235,284) for road washouts and stream crossings. In Q4 project partners will develop year two scope of work and budget for the cooperative agreement process for work to begin seamlessly in spring 2023. The engineering contract is approximately 50% utilized at this time with the remaining funds expected to be used this winter creating design documents. Direct charges for travel exceeded 10% change. This was unanticipated and simply a miscommunication between accounting and the project managers. Some charges will be reallocated and be reflected in the Q4 report. We do not anticipate this problem to continue in the future.

The majority of expenditures in Q3 were personnel, travel, and contractual expenses. USFWS personnel conducted foot surveys, coordinated partner meetings, provided technical assistance on site selection and habitat assessment, and hosted a community meeting. PGC had a very successful and busy quarter hiring field employees, renting equipment, and completing field objectives. Contracted hydrologist and engineers completed site surveys and began drafting design documents and preparing construction cost estimates.



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Upper Left: USFWS staff Heather Hanson and Andrew Stevens navigate a collapsing bridge during the August foot survey.

Upper Right: A school of adult pink salmon rest in a deep pool in the Rocky River under a collapsed bridge.

Left: Chum salmon spawn surrounded by juvenile salmon, Rainbow Trout, and Dolly Varden under a collapsing bridge over a tributary to Rocky river during the USFWS foot survey of road conditions and subsistence fish habitat.





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Left: PGC project manager Bruce Buzby and Native Village of Port Graham Council Member Nick Meganak discuss project objectives and subsistence activities at the “onion field”.

Right: Hydrologist and engineers Kacy Grundhauser and Bill Spencer from HDR pose for a picture at the outlet of a stream being surveyed for culvert replacement in Windy Bay.





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PGC project manager Bruce Buzby and Native Village of Port Graham Council Member Nick Meganack discuss design options for the replacement of this fish passage obstruction.

Right: Nathan Lowjewski of Chugachmiut presents at the October 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 community meeting to President Pat Norman, Tribal Administrator Fran Norman, Board Chairman Walter Meganack, CEO Jon Shepherd and interested community members.

