

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

**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:**

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

**Submission Date:** March 1

Project Website: <a href="https://www.kenaiwatershed.org/stream-watch/">https://www.kenaiwatershed.org/stream-watch/</a>

Please check <u>all</u> the boxes that apply to the current reporting period.

$\boxtimes$	Project	progress	is	on schedule.
	Project	progress	is	delayed

During the reporting period, a no-cost fund extension was requested for the program to transfer the remaining funds from the FY22 to FY23. The extension was approved and remaining funds

were allocated to the 2023 season.

**図** Budget reallocation request.

☐ Personnel change	S.
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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 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:

In January, the Stream Watch social media accounts (including Facebook and Instagram) began to post "volunteer highlights". Volunteer highlights are weekly posts that focus on individual volunteers, how long they have been a part of the program, why they joined the program, and significant memories they have during their time volunteering. These posts originated for two main reasons, to highlight the impact that individuals can have on riparian habitat and educate the public on various efforts/events Stream Watch preforms to help grow the culture of stewardship on the peninsula. Through individual recognition, potential volunteers are shown that joining the program would mean getting to experience the outdoors through a new lens, and that their efforts would be appreciated on a more personal level.

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 completed a speaker series called "Fireside Chats" that began in the previous reporting period. This event series was held once a week on Wednesdays from 6-7pm, and centered around guest speakers sharing presentations pertaining to recreation or the environment 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 half of each presentation was 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 began before the reporting period, but featured speakers on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, and November 30<sup>th</sup> with topics including fossils found on the peninsula, dogsledding, native culture/archeological sites, and green infrastructure planning.

Objective G – Continue original efforts to expand Stream Watch to the southern Kenai Peninsula by hiring a seasonal southern coordinator position in order to expand partnerships, increase critical outreach, build institutional capacity, provide high quality engagement for volunteers, and reduce personnel turnover:

During December and January, multiple meetings were held between the Kenai Watershed Forum Stream Watch Coordinator and Education Specialist to establish a Junior Stream Watch



Technician position. This technician position would be shared between the new Junior Stream Watch Program and the established Stream Watch program, in an attempt to expand both programs as needed. The technician's time with the Stream Watch program will be focused around southern peninsula expansion and events. The technician's time with Junior Stream Watch will be utilized to establish the program in its first year and expand aspects of Stream Watch to a younger generation. After the position was defined, the job was posted on job boards, social media, and the organizations website. The application period for the position closed after the current reporting period, so it was not officially filled within the reporting period. However, steps have been taken towards hiring a position focused on southern peninsula expansion.

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

Additional staff time has been contributed to begin looking at updating online training on the website. Due to this being separate from other website work, time has been allocated to preform research on how to edit online training content. In-person training was also discussed at a meeting with the Forest Service Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator. During the discussion, the possibility of having multiple trainings in varying locations was brought up. The content to be shared at orientation was also discussed. Some contents is valuable regardless of orientation/volunteer location, but some content is site specific and would not be worth sharing with all orientation groups. This information started getting divided into its respective categories, and will be finalized when the Forest Service Volunteer coordinator returns from seasonal leave. Also, funding has been allocated towards having the new Stream Watch logo embroidered onto new Stream Watch uniforms. This will allow for volunteers to look established and professional while patrolling high use areas around the peninsula and interacting with the public. Also, lists of needed supplies for the 2023 season has also begun to be compiled. Inventory will be taken on current supplies before the list is fully purchased.

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:

During the reporting period, an application for Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership (KPFHP) 2024 funding was initiated. Within this application, EVOSTC funding was leveraged through proposed match to acquire additional investments. In-kind contributions of the Stream Watch Coordinator's time allocated towards the program backed by funding provided through EVOSTC was one section of proposed match. The application due date is after the current reporting period and will be submitted in mid-February.



#### Deviation from Original Objectives:

Some deviation from original objectives was seen during this reporting period. The largest deviation was seen on 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 Alaska Native Community." Some talks were had with the Ninilchik traditional Council in late October/early November about collaborating on some Stream Watch efforts, however, little follow-up was completed on these talks. Because there has been little contact since fall, a member from the Alaska Native community has not been added to the Stream Watch steering committee. Greater collaboration with southern peninsula communities/agencies is expected upon hiring the Junior Stream Watch Technician position focused around southern site expansion. Also, Stream Watch is hoping to host an in-person orientation within the Ninilchik community at the beginning of the 2023 summer season. Contact will be made with the Ninilchik Traditional Council and the Ninilchik Senior Center to acquire a venue for the training and more potential volunteers. If this is possible, it will help to bring the program back towards objective J. Other than this deviation, the program has stayed on track with original objectives.

### Problems/Unusual Developments:

Few problems or unusual developments occurred during the reporting period. The largest unusual development that occurred during the reporting period was the request for a no-cost extension of FY22 funds to be allocated towards FY23. Due to majority of supplies already being purchased for the 2022 season upon receival of funding and the hiring of a position to assist with southern peninsula expansion being delayed until the 2023 season, not all of the funds allocated towards FY22 were used. This required funds to be extended to the 2023 season to be used for supply needs, extra personnel hired for southern site expansion, and support of possible new events.

Another unusual development that occurred over the reporting period was the transition of a program partner, GLA (Global Leadership Adventures) to a new youth ecotourism program called the Teen Travel Network (TTN). This didn't disrupt work flow greatly as the programs are facilitated by the same parent organization, Terra Education. The transition mostly required meeting new staff that handles TTN programs and switching relationships to work closely with them opposed to staff that has helped to coordinate programs with GLA in the past.

#### Additional information:

Due to the slow nature of the winter season, little additional information is noteworthy for the reporting period. At the end of the reporting period, the Stream Watch Coordinator took part in a Wilderness First Aid class. The class focused around how to deal with minor and major injuries in an outdoor setting, how to gather information in stressful scenarios, and how to assess injured persons before professional help arrives. This Wilderness First Aid class has potential to be very



valuable given the nature of the Stream Watch Coordinator position working with volunteers in outdoor settings where medical response could be delayed.

Another piece of notable information from the reporting period is the update of the 2022 Season Stream Watch Volunteer manual to apply to the 2023 season. Majority of information inside the document stays consistent from season to season, but it is important to read through the volunteer manual and assess what information stays relevant compared to what needs to be changed. Mostly minor changes were seen within the document, like updating Stream Watch cache codes that were changed during the 2022 season, relevant COVID-19 procedures, and expanding on the responsibilities available to ambassador volunteers for the coming season.

#### 2. Abstract:

The Stream Watch program had a productive reporting period despite the slower winter season. thanks to the completion of the Fireside Chats, expanding the program's social media presence, beginning the hiring process for a position to assist with southern site expansion, and exploring additional funding for the program. Multiple connections were made with new personnel within established program partners due to staff turnover or a shift of departments inside partner organizations that the Stream Watch program will coordinate with. Through new connections, ideas were shared that could lead to creative expansion of both Stream Watch events and online presence. Few problems arose during the reporting period, but those that did included a request for a no-cost extension of FY22 funding to be allocated towards FY23 and the transition of Terra Education's main learning program paired with Stream Watch from GLA to TTN. Despite accomplishing most objectives projected to be handled within the reporting period, some deviation from original objectives occurred. These deviations include the lack of connections made with organizations located on the southern portion of the peninsula and not being able to add a person from an Alaska Native community to the Stream Watch Steering Committee.

#### 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. There was turnover in the Forest Service Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator position at the end of the 2022 season, resulting in Amanda Goss becoming the new Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator at the Forest Service. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, a meeting was held between Brandon Drzazgowski and Amanda Goss. The meeting was meant to orient Amanda to the relationship between the Kenai Watershed Forum and the Forest Service, give Amanda access to shared documents, explore new possibilities for orientation, and share ideas on what both parties wanted the 2023 season to look before Amanda took her seasonal leave.

### Contact:

Amanda Goss – Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator (Forest Service)

Email: amanda.goss@usda.gov Office Number: 907-288-7747

#### 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, meetings were held between the Stream Watch Coordinator and Andi Schweers, the assistant Director of Apogee Adventures. These meetings were held to establish 2023 dates where collaboration between Stream Watch and youth trips would occur. The meetings were also used to establish what forms of service each group would assist with, what educational messaging would be shared with the groups, and what project sites each session would take place.

### Contact:

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

Phone Number: 207-725-7025



#### Terra Education (Teen Travel Network):

Terra Education is a similar organization to Apogee Adventures that it offers global and domestic trips to high school students allowing them to explore different parts of the world. Terra Education originally paired with the Stream Watch Program in the summer of 2021 through their Global Leadership Adventures (GLA) program. The first summer, GLA had multiple groups pair with the Stream Watch program for single day periods. As the partnership expanded, it was planned that each group of students would spend two days with the Stream Watch program. In the summer of 2022, this came to fruition and proved beneficial. During the reporting period, three meetings were held to discuss how the partnership would look in the summer of 2023. During the first meeting, Terra Education noted that GLA would no longer pair with the Stream Watch program seeing that their new Teen Travel Network (TTN) program would be handling all Alaska trips. However, pairing with TTN would look basically the same as pairing with GLA in the past. The TTN team and Stream Watch mostly shared ideas, talked about what worked well between Stream Watch and GLA, and talked about potential dates for 2023. TTN would help support the Stream Watch Program with regular duties like patrolling high use areas, preforming clean-ups, expose the program to a younger age group, and educate them on the salmon lifecycle/local ecology. Pairing with Terra education is a great way to handle larger projects where volunteers of an older age group might have difficulty, and expand the programs educational reach by working with a new demographic that could help boost the program's social media presence.

Contact:

Madison Moore – Regional Director of Programs

Email: madison@experiencegla.com

Phone Number: 858-997-0155



### 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.

### 5. Budget:

Rev3.25.22



### Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects

### **Quarterly Project Reporting Form**

	gory:		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	5-YR TOTAL	ACTU	AL
			FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	PROPOSED	CUMULA	ATIVE
Personnel			\$71,430	\$66,225	\$66,225	\$61,020	\$55,815	\$320,715	\$2	6,293
Travel			\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$24,192		\$504
Contractual			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Commodities			\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$9,750	9	1,127
Equipment			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Indirect Costs	(28.25%)		\$22,097	\$20,626	\$20,626	\$19,156	\$17,685	\$100,191	\$	7,889
		SUBTOTAL	\$100,315	\$93,640	\$93,640	\$86,964	\$80,289	\$454,848	\$3	5,814
General Admi	nistration (9%	of subtotal)	\$9,028	\$8,428	\$8,428	\$7,827	\$7,226	\$40,936	\$	3,223
		PROJECT TOTAL	\$109,343	\$102,067	\$102,067	\$94,791	\$87,515	\$495,784	\$3	9,037
Other Resou	rees (In-Kine	(Funds)				40	**	***		
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