



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: 18180120

Project Title: Copper River Watershed Enhancement

Principal Investigator(s):

Erika Ammann, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Megan Marie, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 Anna Senecal, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Kim Clark, U.S. Forest Service

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: August 30, 2024

Project Website:

Internal for project partners: <https://copperriver.org/copper-river-evos-project-page/> Password: *contact CRWP*

Informational website: <https://copperriver.org/programs/fish-habitat-restoration/restoration/copper-river-watershed-enhancement/>

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

Project progress is on schedule.

Project progress is delayed

Budget reallocation request.



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Personnel changes. We have added a Partnership Administrator to our team, Amy Scudder (paratnership@copperriver.org) who will be taking over management of these grants. Kate Morse is moving into the role of Executive Director and will work with Amy to close out this grant by 2025.

1. Summary of Work Performed:

During this period, the following activities occurred:

Remaining crossings (Cop 9, Sher 1, Cab 2/1):

- A pre-construction meeting was held April 29th to connect BMGC (contractor) with partners and to discuss plans for the construction season.
- Construction started in early June and in-water work was wrapped up by July 20. A pre-final inspection took place on July 26 and the contractor finalized most things on the list. The final piece that will be wrapped up in the next quarter is the final road topping and grading.
- On-site construction inspector, Melissa Valentin, provided daily progress reports and photos via a USFWS app so partners could stay up to speed on project progress.
- Weekly construction meetings took place for partners to hear updates on project progress, discuss challenges, and confirm plans for the following week. USFWS made regular site visits to help support on-site construction inspector. CRWP staff also supported Melissa in implementation of on-site inspection tasks.

Hydrology updates:

- A team of USFWS hydrologists visited 6 sites to download and anchor 11 loggers.

Other updates:

- CRWP hosted two education outings to fish passage sites. In June we hosted the EVOSTC-funded Community Coastal Experience interns on an all-day outing focused on fish passage restoration. Participants visited multiple past, current and future fish passage restoration sites on the Copper River Delta, including Sher 1 to see construction in action, and Cop 33, where they assisted in checking minnow traps and worked with USFWS staff to learn how to collect survey data (photos below). In July, CRWP lead an educational field trip for students participating in University of Alaska Fairbanks T3 program. The Alaska high school students visited multiple fish passage sites, including Cab 2 to see construction in action, as well as Cop 1 to see a completed “fish friendly” stream simulation culvert.
- The Copper River EVOS Project Page (for partners) was updated during this quarter. All reports, comments, meeting notes, and hydrology data was shared with project partners through our website. All project materials can be viewed at: <https://copperriver.org/copper-river-evos-project-page/> . Password: *contact CRWP for passcode*.



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Photo 1(l): CCE participant assess juvenile fish populations at recently restored Cop 33; **Photo 2 (r):** CCE participants meet with on-site inspector at Sher 1 construction.



Photo 3(l): USFWS staff shared a hands-on survey techniques lesson with CCE participants; **Photo 4(r):** T3 participants visit Cab 2 to see habitat restoration in action.

2. Abstract:

A majority of construction was completed at Cop 9, Sher1, Cab 2 and Cab 1, with the road topping the only outstanding work to finalize in addition to the approval of as-builts. The removal of these final four barriers and the replacement of three new culverts wraps up the majority of the planned restoration work. CRWP will support the partnership in a final debrief of 2024 construction season and finalize plans for



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post-restoration monitoring and final adjustments to be implemented at previously restored sites to occur in 2025.

3. Coordination and Collaboration:

All progress on these projects requires extensive coordination with partners, including resource managers and landowners. See Table 1 for a list of active project partners. We invite partners to review project designs and invite them to discussions to work through comments and questions and make sure the project continues to meet objectives of all partners.

Table 1: Copper River EVOS partners and affiliations

Kevin Keith/ADFG	Kate Morse/CRWP	Brennan Cain/Eyak Corporation
Michael Mazzacavallo/ADFG	Kirsti Jurica/CRWP	Tiffany Beedle/Eyak Corporation
Megan Marie/ADFG	Amy Scudder/CRWP	Trent Liebich/USFWS
Jeff Stutzke/ADOT	Ashley Taylor/CRWP	Marguerite Tibbles/USFWS
Robbie Mattson/ADOT	Erika Ammann/NOAA	Anna Senecal/ USFWS
Matt Billings/ADOT	Steve Namitz/USFS	Franklin Dekker/USFWS
Dan Adamczak/ADOT	Ron Britton/ USFS	Christy Mog/USFS
Luke Boles/ADOT	Kim Clark/ USFS	
Kirsten Valentine/ USFWS		
Artem Ruppert/ADOT	Griff Berg/USFS	
Emily Mailman/NOAA	Jason Johnston/USFS	
	Josh Latham/USFS	



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4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

The tables in the budget section of this report reference the expenses for each crossing (actual for the sites we've implemented or are under contract to implement, estimated for the remaining crossings). We have leveraged EVOSTC funding with additional funding sources, including Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, Western Native Trout Initiative, and NOAA to complete restoration at all sites. A majority of EVOSTC funding that has been allocated to partners will be spent down by December 2024. A majority of remaining funding will be with USFS for post-restoration monitoring which is scheduled to occur through 2027. All funds have been allocated from EVOSTC, however ADFG and NOAA are working to re-allocate funding back to EVOS to award to CRWP (via agreement with USFWS). The original intent was for this to help cover 2024 construction costs, but the timing of this re-allocation was not in time to meet the construction timeline, and we will use this remaining funding to re-visit sites in 2025 and refine restoration completed in previous field seasons with EVOSTC support. This will include adding some additional seeding and preferably vegetative mat to places where seeds have had a hard time re-establishing, and trouble-shooting beaver activity at recently restored sites to help maintain fish passage and protect the new infrastructure.

5. Budget:

This project was awarded prior to the new reporting system, and after conversations with EVOSTC staff, we are continuing with the following budget reporting format.



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Table 2: EVOS culvert status

-	Stream Name	ADFG Number	CRWP Culvert ID	EVOSTC Total Request	Current Estimated Total costs	Ownership	Solution	Status	Upstream Miles
2020	Lower Copper River	20100508	COP 43	\$ 616,842	\$ 790,499	DOT	Replace	Constructed/Monitoring	2.4
		20100510	COP 44	\$ 616,847	\$ 790,504	DOT	Replace	Constructed/Monitoring	
		20100511	COP 45	\$ 187,846	\$ 790,503	DOT	Replace	Constructed/Monitoring	
2021	18 Mile System	20100486	COP 20	\$ 714,342	\$ 708,324	DOT	Replace	Constructed/Monitoring	2.32
		20100488	COP 22	\$ 1,006,842	\$ 993,248	DOT	Replace	Constructed/Monitoring	5.64
		20100491	COP 25	\$ 714,344	\$ 1,108,688	DOT	Replace	Constructed/Monitoring	2.38
	Sheridan River Tributary	20101902	SHER 2	\$ 58,842	\$ 187,039	USFS/Eyak	Remove	Constructed/Monitoring	0.7
2023	Black Hole Creek	20100499	COP 33	\$ 1,006,845	\$ 1,239,223	DOT	Replace	Completed Aug 2023	3.2
	Sheridan River Tributary	20100467	COP 1	\$ 1,006,842	\$ 1,045,954	DOT Airport Leasing	Replace	Completed Aug 2023	1.5
Remaining	Sheridan River Tributary	20100475	COP 9	\$ 616,843	\$ 798,641	DOT/Eyak	Replace	construction 2024	1.64
		20101903	SHER 1	\$ 331,842	\$ 741,755	USFS/Eyak	Remove and relocate crossing under CRH	construction 2024	
	Elsner River Tributary	20101904	CAB 1	\$ 56,342	\$ 160,654	DOT Airport Leasing/Eyak	Remove	construction 2024	0.3
		20101905	CAB 2	\$ 544,344	\$ 416,539	DOT Airport Leasing/Eyak	Replace	construction 2024	
Total Direct Cost				\$ 7,478,963	\$ 9,771,571				21.74
9% GA				\$ 673,107	\$ 879,441				
Total Cost				\$ 8,152,070	\$ 10,651,012				
MATCH		20100482	COP 16			DOT	Replace	complete	



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Table 3: Major expenses by category (estimated. Agency totals are not exact).

Copper River EVOS Watershed Enhancement Expense Summary	
Item or Activity	Estimated cost
Engineering and Design contracts	
Geotechnical @ all sites & design @ 25 mile: Cop 43, 44, 45	\$ 318,248.00
Design @ 18 mile: Cop 20, 22, 25	\$ 177,682.50
Design for Cop 1 & 33	\$ 234,836.00
Design for Cab 2, Cop 9, Sher 1	\$ 234,828.00
Total Estimated Design and Other Contracts	\$ 965,594.50
Construction Costs	
Construction Inspection 2024	\$ 44,121.19
Construction @ Cab 1/2 and Sher 1/Cop 9	\$ 174,700.00
utility re-locate (2024)	\$ 16,798.41
Compaction testing (2023)	\$ 36,900.00
Construction @ Cop 1, 33 (EVOSTC portion)	\$ 836,798.00
purchase culvert (downpayment only)	\$ 61,233.00
Sher 2 Low Water Ford	\$ 83,000.00
Construction @ 25 mile: Cop 43, 44, 45	\$ 1,744,839.00
Construction @ 18 mile: Cop 20, 22, 25	\$ 2,178,145.96
Construction inspection	\$ 230,527.65
Compaction testing (2020)	\$ 18,988.50
Total Estimated Construction Costs	\$ 5,426,051.71
Project Management	
CRWP	\$ 515,375.24
USFWS	\$ 140,051.07
USFS	\$ 24,000.00
ADFG	\$ 34,650.00
NOAA	\$ 26,307.00
ADOT	\$ 68,310.45
Audit Costs (2020 & 2021, 2023)	\$ 58,961.39
Total Estimated Project Management Costs	\$ 867,655.15
Total estimated costs	\$ 7,259,301.36
Award	\$ 7,478,963.00
Funds remaining	\$ 219,661.64
<i>allocated for USFS monitoring</i>	<i>\$ 160,410.00</i>
<i>Remaining for 2025 additional veg work</i>	<i>\$ 59,251.64</i>