

\*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: 24220602

Project Title: Kenai Peninsula Streambank Rehabilitation and Protection Project

Principal Investigator(s): Jessica Johnson, ADF&G

### **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: February 21, 2025

**Project Website:** N/A

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

**☒** Project progress is on schedule.

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☐ Budget reallocation request for this reporting period.

 $\square$  Personnel changes.

### 1. Summary of Work Performed:

In early November a couple of 2024 funded landowners reached out asking about reimbursement payments. Followed up with the Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District to see where payments were at and to ensure they got the last couple sent out in a timely manner.

After doing site visits in October, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) worked with some landowners and discussed changing a

Rev12.14.22



few things regarding their proposals. One particular property owner had a challenging project that both ADF&G Staff and USFWS staff spoke with internal staffing for some guidance along with a contractor and permitters. Due to the unique challenges and uncertainties, we ended up calling and letting the landowners know that this was not a project that we could help them with. We talk with them about pursuing standalone funding and perhaps getting an engineer to help design the restoration. Also, there was one project that the overall cost was just going to be far to much for our program help fund. In the end there were 16 proposals that we ended up ranking.

ADF&G staff and USFWS staff spent a couple of days evaluating and ranking projects. ADF&G and USFWS evaluated each proposal using a rating criteria to assess, score, and prioritize the projects. Each project was rated based upon:

Current Bank Conditions: Quality of Fish Habitat, Current Vegetation Conditions, Currently Using Best Management Practices, and Detrimental Structures Present.

Proposed Project Will: Protect Natural Vegetation, Protect Fish Habitat, Remove Harmful Structures, Provides Native Vegetation, Provides Fish Habitat, Educational Opportunity, Reasonable Project Solution, Project Success Potential, Reasonable Project Cost, Uses Multiple Techniques, and Benefits Adjacent Property.

Fit within the overall objectives: Remove structures that are detrimental to juvenile salmon, example bulkheads, gabions and rip rap; conserve and sustain healthy nearshore fish habitat and riparian vegetation; rehabilitate and enhance human impacted nearshore Pacific salmonid habitat and riparian vegetation; will provide Pacific salmonid habitat conservation and rehabilitation education in the form of specific instruction in bioengineering techniques and on-the-ground demonstrations, including landowners and professional engineers, contractors and landscapers. This will allow participants to undertake effective conservation and restoration projects using proven techniques.

Based on the funding availability ADF&G and USFWS can fund 9 projects this year. Using the decision metric we selected the top 9 projects. Some of these landowners were contacted in January and sent each landowner a next steps document. The next step document lays out a timeline of when things need to be done and what the responsibilities are of the landowners.

Each project will have a private landowner agreement (PLA) which the landowners will sign. The PLA will lay out what work is to be done, the importance of doing this work, what the responsibilities are for the landowner, ADF&G and USFWS, a budget breakdown, and finally some pre-project photos. By the end of January, a handful of PLAs had been drafted.

For the 2025 Streambank Rehabilitation Workshop ADF&G and USFWS have been working with a private landowner who applied for funding in summer of 2025. This is an ideal location

Rev12.14.22



for the workshop as there is room for parking and it is in a heavy boat traffic area so it will be very visible to anyone who is on the river.

#### 2. Abstract:

During this reporting period, staff used a weighted metric, which looks at current streambank conditions and how the proposed project will help protect and enhance fish habitat, to help determine which projects to fund. Based on the weighted metric and available funds, we will be able to fund 9 projects in 2025. Some of the 9 landowners have been and the next steps document has been sent to them. Also, for all of the projects private landowner agreements have been drafted. ADF&G and USFWS are coordinating with a private landowner to figure out the logistics of having the 2025 Streambank Workshop on their property.

Staff have been active on the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership which has helped connect partners with common interests work on projects. One such connection is with Trout Unlimited's new outreach coordinator for the Kenai Peninsula, on developing another area for a community riparian planting day this coming spring.

#### 3. Coordination and Collaboration:

ADF&G sits on the steering committee for the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership. This Partnership is a diverse group of representatives from non-governmental organizations, private industry, local government, state and federal agencies and Alaska Native Tribes. The mission is to protect, maintain, restore, and enhance fish habitat. Because of this Partnership the new Trout Unlimited (TU) person reached out to ADF&G about doing another planting day come this spring. As of right now there is one potential site, however, the land manager is new and as of yet neither one of us has had the opportunity to reach out to this person.

Finaly, a contractor that works closely with the program reached out asking if ADF&G could review a streambank restoration grant proposal that they are submitting with a local tribe. ADF&G was able to help them with wording and help them answer some of questions that grant was asking for.

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

EVOSTC notice that on the personnel line that we were off by \$1.20. On March 20, 2025, staff had an admin run an audit report on the whole grant. ADF&G staff went through line by line an

Rev12.14.22 3



saw that some of the personnel numbers that were previously reported were inaccurate. In order to rectify this, we updated the excel spreadsheet from 3.1.2024 through 3.1.2025 and will resubmit them. In order to keep this from happening again, staff will only be using the audit trail report that comes out as it shows the exact dates of when charges hit the grant. Also, staff has secondary spread sheet that will keep a running accumulative total down to the penny so that there are no more rounding errors.

## 5. Budget:

| Budget Category:   |   | Dropopod  | Proposed   | Proposed   | Proposed                                      | Proposed                                       | 5-YR TOTAL                                   | Quarterly                                       | ACTUAL   |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
|  |   | Proposed  |  |  |   |  | PROPOSED                                     |   | A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR |
|  |   | FY 22   | FY 23  | FY 24  | FY 25   | FY 26  | PRUPUSED                                     | Expenditures                                    | COMOLATIV  |
| Personnel  |   | \$0   | \$90,586   | \$0  | \$0   | \$0  | \$90,586                                     | \$6,540   | \$45,18  |
| ravel  |   | \$0   | \$23,580   | \$0  | \$0   | \$0  | \$23,580                                     | \$569   | \$2,72   |
| Contractual  |   | \$0   | \$242,850  | \$0  | \$0   | \$0  | \$242,850                                    | \$0   | \$121,52   |
| Commodities<br>Equipment   |   | \$0<br>\$0  | \$6,100<br>\$0   |  | \$0<br>\$0                                    | \$0<br>\$0                                     | \$6,100<br>\$0                               | \$0<br>\$0                                      | \$13   |
|  |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |   |  |
|  | SUBTOTAL  | \$0   | \$363,116  | \$0  | \$0   | \$0  | \$363,116                                    | \$7,109   | \$169,56   |
| General Administration (9  | % of subtotal)  | \$0   | \$32,680   | \$0  | \$0   | \$0  | \$32,680                                     | \$0   | N/A  |
| PRO  | OJECT TOTAL   | \$0   | \$395,796  | \$0  | \$0   | \$0  | \$395,796                                    | \$55,473  |  |
|  |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |   |  |
| Other Resources (In-Ki   | ind Funds)  | \$0   | \$209,840  | \$0  | \$0   | \$0  | \$209,840                                    |   |  |
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Rev12.14.22