



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: 25220610

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: March 1st, 2025

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.**



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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:

Throughout the reporting period, Stream Watch continued to post educational messaging on social media platforms including Instagram and Facebook. Social media posts highlighted volunteer events, information on local ecology, and educational messaging shared by volunteers at project sites. In total, 11 posts were presented on both Facebook and Instagram to help widen the audience that educational messaging is provided to.

Due to abnormally warm weather, monofilament collection tubes were left up at project sites that can still be accessed by the public. Warm weather has allowed continued enjoyment of recreational sites that don't close seasonally. Monofilament collection tubes also provide information on line recycling and the harm fishing line can have on wildlife populations. Leaving monofilament collection tubes installed at some locations allows for further line collection and education of the public.

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

Few events were held throughout the reporting period due to the slow nature of winter months. However, staff began to plan events for the upcoming 2025 season. The Stream Watch Coordinator met with a representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service to begin collaboration with their Loons, Line, and Lead program. Loons, Line, and Lead and Stream Watch have many areas of overlap, including the collection of fishing line and lead, and outreach with the public. These similarities led partners to reach out to coordinate a joint stewardship day. On November 20th, staff met at the KWF office to discuss possible volunteer opportunities for the 2025 season. Staff plans to meet again in future reporting periods to iron out details of the event, however, the programs are currently planning to host a hybrid educational/clean-up event to help spread awareness of loons on the Kenai Peninsula and remove litter from critical habitat.

Stream Watch staff also helped to host the Kenai Watershed Forum Holiday Open House. This annual event invites all KWF volunteers, partners, members, and the general public to celebrate partnerships and their support for the organization. During the event, KWF supplies food, drinks, and a bonfire to participants while providing a space to connect with the community. The KWF Holiday Open House was held on December 5th and had a large attendance. Staff was able to



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connect with participants about work they performed throughout the year, and what they were looking forward to for next season.

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.

Steps were taken towards hiring another seasonal technician to help with the expansion of the Stream Watch program. The Stream Watch Coordinator and Education Specialist at the Kenai Watershed Forum held a meeting to discuss and update the job description for the Junior Stream Watch Technician role. The Junior Stream Watch Technician is expected to split time between the Junior Stream Watch program to help engage highschool age students and the Stream Watch program to help with the expansion of adult involvement throughout the Kenai Peninsula. Staff also discussed an appropriate timeline to facilitate hiring for the position. This will occur in a future reporting period.

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

At the start of the reporting period, Stream Watch staff performed an inventory of supplies available to the program after the conclusion of the 2024 volunteer season. The inventory coupled with a 2025 work plan created by staff allowed for an accurate assessment of needed supplies for future activities. The work plan also helped to outline goals of the program moving forward, areas that volunteers may require more training, and an estimated budget needed for the program.

Staff time was also designated towards volunteer training through work performed on the volunteer manual. The manual is provided to participants after training to help them review information and succeed during volunteer shifts. The volunteer manual outlines project protocol, program sites, partner contacts, and other information to help with stewardship activities. On November 19th, the Stream Watch Coordinator met with a returning ambassador volunteer to discuss the manual from a volunteer's perspective. The ambassador, Dan Connetta, shared notes on information that may be confusing to new volunteers and possible edits to make the manual more clear. Stream Watch always welcomes input from those involved in the program and has worked to edit the manual in a way that makes it less confusing to new volunteers.



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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, Stream Watch worked on grant applications for the National Forest Foundation and the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership in attempts to fund a seasonal intern, travel, and supplies required by the program. Inside of both applications, EVOSTC funding for supplies, travel, and personnel was leveraged to meet the matching requirements. Both applications are due after the current reporting period and will be turned in at a later date. If received, the National Forest Foundation and Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership grants will help to grow volunteer coordination, provide more funds for supplies, and will help to fund new Stream Watch supply caches.

Deviation from Original Objectives:

No deviations from original objectives were seen during the reporting period. Stream Watch was able to perform on schedule and have an impact in the appropriate areas over the beginning of the winter season.

Problems/Unusual Developments:

There were hardly any large problems during the reporting period. The Stream Watch Coordinator flew out of state to visit family from mid-December to mid-January and worked remote for a portion of the time. However, this is a regular occurrence around the holiday season and didn't cause any issues with the project timeline.

Beyond this, the only other unusual development was the departure of the Invasive Species Specialist from the Kenai Watershed Forum in late January. This will have minimal effects on the Stream Watch program aside from the facilitation of invasive species removal days.

Generally, the Invasive Species Specialist and Stream Watch Coordinator would partner to identify invasive species populations on the Kenai Peninsula that could be removed by volunteer groups. Without the KWF Invasive Species Specialist, KWF staff will need to lean on program partners to identify invasive species populations and coordinate events to mitigate their damage.



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Additional information:

The main pieces of additional information are pairings with the KWF education program and additional training focused around volunteer safety. In November, the Stream Watch Coordinator joined KWF's Education Specialist for a classroom visit at Nikiski Elementary. KWF staff met with students to educate them on how rivers change over time. The Stream Watch Coordinator was able to present some information shared by the program but mainly attended to support the Education Specialist with the set-up and tear-down of education materials.

KWF staff also received a refresher on their CPR and First Aid training. The Stream Watch Coordinator was able to renew certification to improve volunteer safety. During emergency situations, KWF staff are now equipped with the proper information to assist volunteers or members of the public as needed.

2. Abstract:

November, December, and January marked the beginning of the winter season for the Stream Watch program. Inventory on stewardship and educational supplies was conducted to assess purchasing needs before the 2025 summer season. Staff also produced a 2025 work plan to set goals and procedures for the future of Stream Watch and met with volunteers to edit information housed in the volunteer manual. KWF staff hosted their annual Holiday Open House to thank supporters and began to plan events for the summer season like a collaboration with the USFWS Loons, Line, and Lead program. The hiring process for a seasonal Junior Stream Watch Technician began in the form of editing the previous job description, and identifying locations to advertise the position. Social Media posting continued throughout the reporting period to help educate those that aren't currently recreating on the Kenai Peninsula. Work was performed on two grant applications, utilizing EVOSTC funding as match. Grant proposals will be submitted in the following reporting period. There were little problems/unusual developments during the last three months besides the departure of KWF's Invasive Species Specialist and time taken off by the Stream Watch Coordinator.

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.

United States Forest Service:

The United States 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 managing the project area inside the Russian River Confluence area (including the Russian River Campground and the Russian River Ferry). USFS's Stream Watch Volunteer Coordinator helps to schedule and



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oversee regular volunteer activities for upper Kenai River locations and will also assist in facilitation of stewardship day performed in these areas. 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 records data collected from volunteers inside the confluence area.

Little collaboration was seen during the reporting period aside from a letter of support provided to the Stream watch coordinator to use as leverage for grant applications being submitted in future reporting periods.

Contact:

Alexander McLain – Russian River Interagency Coordinator

Email: alexander.mclain@usda.gov

Work Cell Number: 907.288.7710

US Fish and Wildlife Service:

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) helps to support Stream Watch through allowing volunteer access to program sites, providing guidance on program facilitation, and pairing for single-day stewardship events. During the reporting period, Stream Watch mainly worked with the USFWS to begin planning for a single day stewardship event in partnership with their Loons, Line, and Lead program. Partners met to discuss content, timing, and facilitation for the single day event.

Contact:

Matt Conner – Visitor Services Manager

Email: Matt_Conner@fws.gov

Office Number: 907.260.2834

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

No recommendations or comments were submitted during the previous reporting period of the project or during the biennial review of EVOSTC projects. If recommendations or comments are submitted after this reporting period, they will be properly addressed in the next reporting cycle.

FY22-FY23 Biennial Review

Science Panel	Executive Director	PAC
Not applicable	No concerns	No concerns



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Executive Director Comments

Date: October 2024

This project is progressing as planned. The PI is easy to work with, communicative, and efficiently implements project goals. Quarterly reports were submitted on time, but if there is any expected delay the reason for that delay is communicated to staff by the PI. Reports are well-organized and comprehensive, and staff often remark that they are impressed and pleased with the efficient use of EVOSTC funding, considering the amount and quality of work being completed. Funding for this project is co-managed by ADF&G and the EVOSTC Office. Invoices and supporting documents are submitted timely. Invoice format is user friendly. Both PI and its Fiscal Manager are very responsive to budget and/or invoice questions. Staff do not have concerns at this time.

PAC Comments

Date: October 2024

Whissel asked what does 1,400 pounds of loose fishing line look like? Drzazgowski stated it is about one season's worth and noted an art installation using the fishing line. Whissel introduced a motion to proceed with no concerns. Borer seconded, and there was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

No PI response required/provided

5. Budget:



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Budget Category:	Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	\$71,430	\$66,225	\$66,225	\$61,020	\$55,815	\$320,715	\$11,996	\$128,433
Travel	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$24,192	\$29	\$9,120
Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Commodities	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$9,750	\$0	\$3,157
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indirect Costs (28.25%)	\$22,097	\$20,626	\$20,626	\$19,156	\$17,685	\$100,191	\$3,397	\$39,751
SUBTOTAL	\$100,315.10	\$93,639.69	\$93,639.69	\$86,964.27	\$80,289	\$454,848	\$15,421	\$180,461
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$9,028	\$8,428	\$8,428	\$7,827	\$7,226	\$40,936	\$1,388	\$16,241
PROJECT TOTAL	\$109,343	\$102,067	\$102,067	\$94,791	\$87,515	\$495,784	\$16,809	\$196,702
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

INSTRUCTIONS: This summary page provides a five-year overview (FY 22-26) of proposed funding and actual cumulative spending which includes the non-trustee agency and trustee agency worksheets. **This Summary Page should automatically populate as the formulas reference the cells in the non-trustee agency and trustee agency worksheets. Please make sure the totals given are correct.** The column titled 'Actual Cumulative' will be updated each fiscal year and included in the annual report (include information on the total amount actually spent for all completed years of the project). On the Project Annual Report Form, if any line item exceeds a 10% deviation from the originally-proposed amount; provide detail regarding the reason for the deviation.

COMMENTS:

FY22-26

Project Number: 25220610
Project Title: Kenai Peninsula Stream Watch
PM(s): Bornemann (Kenai Watershed Forum)

SUMMARY TABLE