



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: 24220612

Project Title: Eyak Lake Weir Restoration

Principal Investigator(s): Kate Morse, CRWP; Steve Namitz, USFS; Jeff Stutzke, DOT

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: February 28, 2025

Project Website:

<https://copperriver.org/programs/fish-habitat-restoration/restoration/eyak-lake/eyak-lake-weir/>
and

<https://copperriver.org/eyak-lake-weir-project-page/> Password: available upon request

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

☒ **Project progress is on schedule.**

☒ **Project progress is delayed**

☐ **Budget reallocation request. (no cost extension requested)**



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1. Summary of Work Performed:

From November 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025, the Copper River Watershed Project made progress in convening partners and community members and increasing outreach and education around the Eyak Lake Weir Restoration project. During this quarter, the RFP for Eyak Lake Weir was developed and published, and a total of 3 bid proposals were submitted. A total of 11 meetings specific to the Eyak Lake Weir occurred.

While the project remained on schedule during this quarter, in late January, CRWP learned that the federal funding freezes impacting the Federal Highway Administration have impacted the weir replacement and could cause delays due to construction funding being frozen. We have been working closely with our project partner, The Eyak Corporation, and the State of Alaska's federal delegation to highlight the impacts of these funding freezes and the delays it could cause. CRWP began planning to request a State of Alaska capital appropriation through Representative Louise Stutes' office to secure state funding to bridge the gap between the engineer's estimate and the bid costs. The CRWP drafted a letter to the State that was additionally signed on by the City of Cordova. The Eyak Corporation. This initiative was started before any announcement of federal funding freezes, and evolved during the last few days of January as we, and our partners, were navigating the changes.

While this article came out on 2/14/2025 – it is extremely relevant to the project and we wanted to share it at this time:

<https://thecordovatimes.com/2025/02/14/copper-river-watersheds-eyak-lake-weir-federal-funding-freeze/>

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

Outreach and education about this project have continued through the standard CRWP communication channels: e-newsletters, emails, and social media platforms. This quarter, the majority of work focuses on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the weir replacement. The entire Eyak Lake Weir working group received an email notification of the RFP announcement, and CRWP published it on their website, ThePlansRoom.com, and on the AGC (Associated General Contractors of Alaska) platforms. A total of 94 prospective proposers, including many out-of-state contractors, reviewed the RFP. Additionally, the CRWP Partnership Administrator directly emailed a list of 27 Alaska-based contractors, many of whom had questions about the project, its location, the history of the Eyak Lake Weir, and the broader understanding of the project's "why." The CRWP Partnership Administrator spent over 40 hours educating and orienting these contacts to the project and the weir's history using previously created content on the CRWP website, sharing videos of prior presentations, and answering questions about the area's history and the significance of Eyak Lake for salmon stocks. CRWP staff designed digital resources and a postcard that would be mailed to private landowners along Eyak Lake shoreline, informing them of the weir project.



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PROJECT DESIGN (RFP PROCESS)

The project 100% project design meeting was held on 10/31/2024 (the last day of Q3), with follow-up, conversation, questions, and publishing of the final design, meeting notes, and updating the permit schedule continuing through November and December 2024. Copper River Watershed Project drafted and published the full RFP for the weir on December 2nd, 2024, and held a pre-bid conference with 7 proposers in attendance on December 16th, 2024. CRWP staff published 2 addenda to the RFP, including a comprehensive response to questions received from proposers during the pre-bid meeting and through written submissions. The RFP and all associated addenda are available for viewing at:

<https://copperriver.org/programs/fish-habitat-restoration/eyak-lake/eyak-lake-weir/>

During January 2025 staff time and matching time from Federal and non-federal partners with the USFWS, USFS, City of Cordova, and The Eyak Corporation was spent building the evaluation criteria and preparing for bid reviews. An evaluation committee was finalized and scheduled to meet on 2/6/2025 to review and score the full proposals. CRWP staff initially expected 5 proposals for the project based on prior communications; however, 2 proposers did not submit bids and expressed time and capacity constraints as the reasons why they were unable to bid. Three (3) complete proposals were received by the proposal deadline of 1/29/2025.

2. ABSTRACT

The Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) advanced outreach and education efforts for the Eyak Lake Weir replacement project, primarily focusing on the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Outreach was conducted through e-newsletters, emails, and social media, with the RFP announcement reaching 94 potential proposers via CRWP's website, ThePlansRoom.com, and AGC Alaska platforms. Of these, 27 Alaska-based contractors requested additional project details, prompting the CRWP Partnership Administrator to provide over 40 hours of education and stakeholder engagement. The 100% project design moved forward with follow-up revisions and permit updates continuing through the end of the 2024 year. CRWP published the RFP on December 2, 2024, and hosted a pre-bid conference on December 16, 2024. Two addenda were issued to address bidder inquiries. In January 2025, CRWP partnered with federal and local entities to establish bid evaluation criteria, culminating in an evaluation committee set to review proposals on February 6, 2025. Despite an initial expectation of five proposals, only three were submitted by the January 29, 2025, deadline due to time and capacity constraints.

3. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

Between November 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025, the Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) engaged in extensive coordination and collaboration with various entities to advance the Eyak Lake Weir replacement project. Key partners included federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), local government bodies like the City of Cordova, and The Eyak Corporation, and The Native Village of Eyak. These collaborations focused on developing evaluation criteria and preparing for bid reviews, culminating in the formation of an evaluation committee scheduled to assess proposals on



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February 6, 2025. During the month of January 2025, the Copper River Watershed received early notice that the funding allocated for the project by the Federal Highway Administration (through The Eyak Corporation) was frozen due to federal administrative orders. CRWP is requesting capital appropriations from the State of Alaska for further funding for weir replacement.

Table of Eyak Lake Partners:

Table 1. Eyak Lake Weir Restoration Project Partners			
Brittany Blain/ADFG	Ben Wagner/DNR	Robert Mattson/DOT	Christy Mog/USFS
Jay Baumer/ADFG	Cliff Larson/DNR	Ryan Anderson/DOT	Kim Clark/USFS
Jeremy Botz/ADFG	Kim Bustillos/DNR	Mitch Paine/FEMA	Robes Parrish/USFS
Stormy Haight/ADFG	Tom Barrett/DNR	Erika Ammann/NOAA	Steve Namitz/USFS
Kevin Keith/ADFG	AJ Wait/DNR	Johnse Ostman/NOAA	Tim Marshall/USFS
Megan Marie/ADFG	Joni Sweetman/DNR	Angela Butler/NVE	Angela Coleman/USFS
Michael Mazzacavallo/ADFG	Daniel Adamczak/DOT	Matt Piche/NVE	Marguerite Tibbles/USFWS
Doug Bonham/ Field Data Technologies	David Fischer/DOT	Aaron Prussian/ Trout Unlimited	Anna Senecal/USFWS
Kevin Johnson/City of Cordova	Douglas Kolwaite/DOT	Pete Rand/PWSSC	Nate Clifton/USFWS
Sam Greenwood/City of Cordova	Jeff Stutzke/DOT	Rob Campbell/PWSSC	Franklin Dekker/USFWS
Alexis Cooper/CRWP	Judy Chapman/DOT	Brennan Cain/TEC	Heather Hanson/USFWS
Kate Morse/CRWP	Luke Boles/DOT	Tiffany Beedle/TEC	Jacob Adams/USFWS
Kirsti Jurica/CRWP	Matt Billings/DOT	Madeline Lee/CRRC	Jeremy Karchut/USFWS
Ashley Taylor/CRWP	Robert Mattson/DOT	John Maygard/CTC	Jess Straub/USFWS
Amy Scudder/CRWP	Sarah Katherine/ CTC	Adrian Smith/CTC	Devan Fitzpatrick/USFWS

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

None received

FY22-FY23 Biennial Review

Science Panel	Executive Director	PAC
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Not applicable	No concerns	No concerns
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Executive Director Comments

Date: October 2024

This project is somewhat delayed, but project staff have been communicative about the reasons and submitted necessary information to extend the funds to FY26. The PIs are easy to work with, communicative, and appear to efficiently implement project goals. Quarterly reports are generally submitted on time, and any expected delay and the reason for that delay is communicated to staff by the PI. Reports are well-organized and comprehensive. If any edits are needed, PI responds promptly. Funding for this project is managed by NOAA, USFS, and USFWS. Staff do not have concerns at this time.

PAC Comments

Date: October 2024

Whissel asked about the lifespan of the design and if the modeling was based on current flow data and future forecasting. Morse stated the engineer planned for 50-100 years. The hydrology evaluation is beyond a 100-year flood event. They collected a year of data and looked at historic records and climate models. The existing structure is very exposed and not protected, whereas the new design includes two pieces of sheet pile filled with concrete and encased in boulders and riprap. The new structure should age well, but another significant earthquake would have the most impact, given the low to no maintenance goal of the design. The highest waters are not influenced by the weir anymore due to backwatering by the river itself. Therefore, high water does not put more pressure on the weir site. Instead, mid-water ranges have the most impact on subsequent lake levels and velocities at the weir, which is meant to maintain lake height in the spawning gravel at low flows.

The project originally requested a larger funding amount and then decreased it because they thought the design would be more affordable. However, the 20% design led them to pursue more expensive materials for the rocky ramp. They are now within \$1 million of their current engineer estimate with the Council and Federal Highway Administration support. They are working with partners and actively seeking additional funding to close the remaining construction gap.

Bauer thanked Morse for their work on this complicated project and for working with Council staff when issues arose. Whissel introduced a motion to proceed with no concerns. Stephens seconded, and there was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

No PI response required/provided

5. Budget:



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Budget Category:		Actual FY 22	Actual FY 23	Updated Proposed FY 24	Updated Proposed FY 25	Updated Proposed FY 26	Updated 5- YR TOTAL PROPOSED	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel		\$15,090.74	\$27,057.76	\$256,128.13	\$134,453.13	\$0.00	\$432,729.75	9,053.55	\$78,635.48
Travel		\$60.52	\$191.81	\$420.00	\$420.00	\$0.00	\$1,092.33	\$0.00	\$637.61
Contractual		\$98,140.15	\$266,343.40	\$3,984,274.33	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$4,349,007.88	18,297.00	\$516,102.24
Commodities		\$686.83	\$5,038.16	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$20,724.99	164.19	\$7,373.54
Equipment		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Indirect Costs	Rate = 30%	\$14,105.76	\$9,892.44	\$94,214.44	\$42,786.94	\$0.00	\$160,999.58	2,145.27	\$35,840.41
SUBTOTAL		\$128,084.00	\$308,523.57	\$4,342,536.89	\$185,410.06	\$0.00	\$4,964,554.53	\$29,660	\$638,589.28
General Administration (9% of subtotal)			\$2,155	\$390,828	\$16,687	\$0	\$409,670	\$2,669	\$2,155.00
PROJECT TOTAL		\$128,084	\$310,679	\$4,733,365	\$202,097	\$0	\$5,374,225	\$32,329	\$640,744.28
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)		\$21,180	\$16,380	\$11,580			\$49,140	\$8,240	



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