



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: June 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.**



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects
Quarterly Project Reporting Form

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:

Educational messaging over the previous three months was mainly seen in the form of public presentations. Informational signage was not placed at program sites due to program site closures during the winter months and no social media content was produced. The Stream Watch Coordinator, Brandon Drzazgowski, was able to present at various public meetings and community events over the previous three months. Presentations were given to U.S. Forest Service staff at a USFS Learning Lunch Partner Meeting, participants at the annual Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Membership Meeting, Soldotna locals at the Soldotna Rotary Club, and Alaska residents at the Alaska Trail Stewards conference.

Presentations focused on an overview and history of the program, the activities and outcomes of the 2024 season, volunteer feedback provided through annual surveys, program funders, partnerships to perform volunteer activities over the summer season, and future goals. By giving a complete overview of the program, viewers are able to see the impact on the Kenai Peninsula, ways they can get involved, and why the program is needed. Presentations helped to recruit new participants and update those curious about the program.

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

Stream Watch was able to begin planning for the upcoming 2025 season. Planning was performed for various events that will be held in the next reporting period or throughout the summer season. Planning occurred for the Day at the River. This is a joint event between Trout Unlimited and KWF to provide a community fishing gear swap along with environmental education booths to learn about local ecology.

Next, Stream watch met with representatives from the US Fish and Wildlife Service Loons, Line and Lead program to establish an educational day centered around loons, their nesting habitat, and health concerns presented by humans.

Community events like the annual Run for the River were also planned during the reporting period. This event helps to raise funds for river protection by offering 5k and 10mile community run options to the city of Soldotna.

Finally, Stream Watch met with Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm to partner for their Pathfinders program. This pairing will help to get kids ages 6-12 involved in stewardship. Kids will be able to get a mix of education and stewardship activities throughout the Russian River area.



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects
Quarterly Project Reporting Form

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.

Some progress was made on this objective, but it was not able to be completed. Many individuals applied to the position. KWF staff Katey Shedden and Brandon Drzazgowski hosted interviews with 4 separate candidates. Unfortunately, upon offering the technician position to each candidate individually, they each turned it down. After the top choices for the position had declined the offer, further interviews were hosted to identify other qualified options. Despite large amounts of effort, the hiring process was unproductive throughout the reporting period.

KWF staff is looking into other hiring options for the technician role. Staff is shifting focus to identify local candidates for the technician position. Local candidates will allow those hired to begin work sooner and help to cover responsibilities of the program as needed with less travel and training time required.

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

Meetings were held with the Forest Service to discuss in-person orientation. A timeline was created for the in-person event, a location was secured, and KWF's EM River Table was scheduled to be available for volunteers. A majority of the in-person orientation was planned during the reporting period. Staff will finalize and implement the orientation throughout the following reporting period. Information about the training was also provided to previous volunteers and members of the public to help recruit participants.

During meetings, USFS and KWF staff also discussed supply needs for the 2025 season. A list of supplies was created to give a better idea of expenses for the coming season. Beyond discussing supplies needed for the upcoming season, new uniforms, rain jackets, and field supplies were purchased for the program.

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 a previous reporting period, a grant for the National Forest Foundation was written and submitted to receive more funding for the Stream Watch program. Inside of the application, EVOSTC funding, in the form of personnel time and travel, was utilized as match to fulfill the Kenai Watershed Forum's funding requirements. During this reporting period, KWF was notified of the receipt of National Forest Foundation funding. NFF funding will be utilized to cover supply costs and travel expenses for the 2025 summer season.



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects
Quarterly Project Reporting Form

EVOSTC funding also has the potential to be used as matching funds for a cost sharing agreement with the US Forest Service. The USFS will periodically designate funding to KWF and the Stream Watch program. During the reporting period, meetings were held with the USFS to discuss what funds will be provided by KWF towards the Stream Watch program. Although the agreement isn't finalized, there is a high likelihood that EVOSTC funding will be allocated towards this agreement as match.

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 previous three months.

Problems/Unusual Developments:

The largest problem during the reporting period was the loss of Kenai Watershed Forum staff and the failure to hire the Stream Watch Technician position. In late February, KWF saw the departure of Bonnie Bernard, the Invasive Species Specialist. Additionally, the Membership/Development Director, Sara Aamodt, departed from KWF in mid-March. Personnel turnover was difficult for remaining staff because they had to absorb responsibilities left behind from departed staff. There was an adjustment period seen as remaining staff members took on additional responsibilities. Overall, this only resulted in small setbacks to KWF programs and was not a large issue.

Second, the failure to hire a Stream Watch Technician during the reporting period has caused possible problems over the course of the 2025 season. Without additional staff, the program will be unable to expand as imagined over the summer season. Majority of responsibilities and scheduling will fall to the Stream Watch Coordinator. This means that less time will be able to be spent on expanding opportunities and areas provided to volunteers. Beyond this, more time must be spent during the next reporting period to officially hire a technician for the upcoming summer. If a technician is not able to be obtained, this problem will grow.

Additional information:

There is little additional information over the course of the previous 3 months. Majority of time spent by staff was used to work on objectives listed above. The only piece of additional information that applies to the reporting period are small preparations for the upcoming summer season. This work involved organizing supply sheds, scheduling required maintenance on field vehicles, creating recruitment fliers for planned events, and editing informational volunteer documents. Although the majority of these tasks are not worth outlining in detail, they were essential to ensuring a seamless start to the volunteer season. Interviews were conducted for the Stream Watch Technician position, however, none of the preferred applicants accepted the offer.



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects
Quarterly Project Reporting Form

of employment. Two Kenai Watershed staff members left the organization during the reporting period, but their departure caused little issue for the program.

2. Abstract:

Stream Watch had a productive end to the winter season in preparation for the 2025 volunteer season. Word was spread about the program through presentations to a variety of groups including the local rotary club, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership. Planning occurred for community events and volunteer opportunities that will occur in future reporting periods. Meetings were held with program partners from the U.S. Forest Service to discuss supply needs for the upcoming season, plan the in-person volunteer orientation and provide organizational updates before the summer. Additional funding was received from the National Forest Foundation through the use of EVOSTC funds as leverage through the use of matching funds. There was little deviation from project goals aside from failure to hire a seasonal Stream Watch Technician. However, the program will continue looking for a technician to support the program in future reporting periods. Program coordinators also performed small organizational and housekeeping tasks in preparation for the following reporting period and the arrival of volunteers.

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 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.

Collaborations seen during the reporting period included scheduling of early season events, assessing volunteer paperwork needs, planning for in-person orientation, establishing a list of needed supplies for the 2025 season, and updating each other on programmatic changes over the winter season.

Contact:

Alexander McLain – Russian River Interagency Coordinator



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects
Quarterly Project Reporting Form

Email: alexander.mclain@usda.gov
Work Cell Number: 907-630-9111

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. Partners met to discuss content, timing, and facilitation for the single day events. Meetings were also held to review partner needs for the coming season, and assess staff available to both organizations for the upcoming season.

Contact:

Andres Bustamante – Park Ranger
Email: andres_bustamante@fws.gov
Office Number: 907-912-0678

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.



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects
Quarterly Project Reporting Form

5. Budget:

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	\$20,863	\$149,296
Travel	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$4,838	\$24,192	\$0	\$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	\$5,894	\$45,644
SUBTOTAL	\$100,315.10	\$93,639.69	\$93,639.69	\$86,964.27	\$80,289	\$454,848	\$26,757	\$207,218
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$9,028	\$8,428	\$8,428	\$7,827	\$7,226	\$40,936	\$2,408	\$18,650
PROJECT TOTAL	\$109,343	\$102,067	\$102,067	\$94,791	\$87,515	\$495,784	\$29,165	\$225,867
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: