



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, updated March 21, 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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**Updates and Responses to EVOSTC questions (from email) March 21, 2025:**

**EVOSTC Questions: You are seeking State funds to bridge that gap? How much of a gap is there? What happens if you don't get State funding? As we all know, that can be hard to come by! Why were costs higher than expected?**

As of March 21, 2025, the Copper River Watershed Project submitted a \$2M capital appropriations CAPSIS request through Representative Stutes' office. We will not know if this State funding is awarded until the FY26 budget is approved by June 30th, 2025.

There was approximately a \$2.5M difference between the engineer estimate (from DOWL) and the funding that CRWP had intended for this Weir construction project. Some items included in this difference include construction oversight and a 15% contingency to account for fluctuations in material costs; these items were not accounted for in the initial project costs.

If the State of Alaska, or other funding sources are unavailable to bridge the funding gap, CRWP will need to delay the project until these funds can be secured. Other options currently being pursued include requesting that Alaska DOT&PF provide construction oversight, which is unlikely due to personnel capacity concerns, or federal partners, such as the USFWS, offer a special detail for construction oversight. Unfortunately, due to the current federal freezes, pursuing federal options is paused.

**EVOSTC question: I know we shared some emails back and forth a bit ago, but can you share with us the current status of federal funding? (is it unfrozen for this project?).**

Currently, the approximately \$3.5M, allocated to this project by the Federal Highway Administration (through our partner, The Eyak Corporation), is frozen and unavailable. Both CRWP and The Eyak Corporation have been in close communication with Senator Murkowski's and Senator Sullivan's offices. Additionally, CRWP facilitated comments through the State of Alaska STIP process in support of funding for the weir. Comments closed on 3/20/2025 and the following was submitted (copy of email, from CRWP Executive Director, Kate Morse). The email below demonstrates the work that CRWP is doing to release the funding and provides details on why the Federal Highway Funding is currently unavailable.



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**Kate Morse**

Thu, Mar 20,  
2:56 PM (20 hours  
ago)



Hi Partners:

Sorry for the last minute notice, but it was brought to my attention at the last minute that the Eyak Lake Weir project is listed in the DOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) amendment 2, **with public comments due today.**

In talking with DOT, they encouraged public comment to help put pressure on getting the Federal Highways Administration agreement with the The Eyak Corporation “un-frozen” which is currently the biggest hurdle to moving forward on the weir project. DOT will review these public comments and will then push forward the state priorities to Federal Highways. If you have a moment, please visit:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7765ad22843f49bbb8dd2179c2f7d3be>

select “search” from the top bar, or scroll down the page to “STIP Amendment 2 Search” and enter the project ID **34563** into the “project and program list”.

click on the “comment on this project” button.

Below are comments you’re welcome to edit/customize and submit via this portal.

Thanks in advance for your time to speak on behalf of the project—either as an Alaskan or a project partner! This is not the only way we are working to raise awareness for the issues we face,



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but seems like an opportunity worth trying if we can get DOT to help encourage release of these funds using their established relationship with Federal Highways.

Best,

Kate

DRAFT talking points:

On behalf of (our organization), I urge you to make Eyak Lake Weir replacement a top priority project. Failing to implement this project will have implications for regional fisheries and the community of Cordova. The existing structure that was installed by the State of Alaska in 1972 is failing, slowly lowering lake levels, and the department that oversaw its construction no longer exists, making maintenance and replacement of this structure complicated. Continued draining of the lake will impact the quantity of Sockeye Spawning beds and rearing habitat for 10 fish species, including Sockeye and Coho Salmon and Cutthroat Trout. Salmon provide an estimated \$2-3 million dollars for our commercial fishery (ADFG), attract visitors to Cordova for recreational fishing, and support subsistence harvest by Cordovans.

Additionally there are consequences for the community of Cordova. Specifically, the draining of lake will impact availability of the lake as a back-up drinking water source, which will impact residents and canneries when there are higher water demands during drier summer months. The changes to the lakeshore resulting from the draining of the lake will impact property lines and property values.

This project went to bid in Dec. 2024, after a Sept. 2024 exchange with Federal Highways confirmed what their allocation of funds would cover in the engineers estimate, specifically steel sheetpile and aggregate. However, the final grant agreement was never signed by Federal Highways when a sweep of Presidential Executive Orders resulted in grant funds across agencies stalling out. Currently we understand that any new agreements are delayed by additional review



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and evaluation. We urge the State of Alaska Department of Transportation to help make the review and signing of the Federal Highways agreement with The Eyak Corporation a top priority. The top two bidders on the project have agreed to extend their current bid prices through the end of May 2025, and after that point will likely not extend them due to the increase in steel costs resulting from new tariffs. We have leveraged an additional \$6 million in order to complete the final design, identify an owner of the project moving forward, and cover the majority of construction expenses. We are also pursuing additional contingency funds through multiple avenues. Stalling out of this project can put all this leveraged support in limbo and result in significant cost increases if we have to implement this project in the future.

Thanks for doing your part ensure this funding is made available and this project is completed on schedule. Successful completion of the Eyak Lake Weir project will officially remove this infrastructure from the responsibility of the State of Alaska as the City of Cordova has agreed to own the new structure upon completion. If this project fails to move forward, the State will still own it and ultimately retain responsibility for this failing structure.

**Kate Morse** | Executive Director

**Copper River Watershed Project**

**phone** (907)424-3334 | cell (907)253-4735

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**facebook** [www.facebook.com/copperriver](https://www.facebook.com/copperriver)





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**EVOSTC Questions: I know this goes beyond the reporting period, but have you since completed the RFP process and do you have a contractor on board?**

On March 6th, 2025, CRWP issued a Notice of Intent to Negotiate with the top-scoring proposer and requested bid extensions through June 30th 2025. The RFP process had 3 responses, with Granite as the highest-scoring proposal. Currently, CRWP is in the negotiation process with Granite. Both Granite and the second scoring proposal by BMGC LLC have agreed to extend their bids by 60 days through May 31, 2025. CRWP is looking at options for awarding a partial contract. Due to the new tariffs, steel prices are extremely volatile, and we anticipate cost increases of up to 50%.

**Is the plan to complete construction this summer, or do you think work will need to roll into EVOSTC FY26?**

The current plan is to construct in 2026, we will be requesting a No Cost Extension to roll into the next fiscal year. CRWP is currently investigating options for purchasing steel sheet pile, and has just begun negotiations with the bidders.

## **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 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 frozen construction funding. 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 and 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/>



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**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.

**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



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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 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 Haught/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





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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

**5. Budget:**

CRWP budget tab:

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	\$10,125.26	\$105,355.69
Travel		\$60.52	\$191.81	\$420.00	\$420.00	\$0.00	\$1,092.33	\$644.98	\$1,619.79
Contractual		\$98,140.15	\$266,343.40	\$3,984,274.33	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$4,349,007.88	\$17,642.06	\$588,651.93
Commodities		\$686.83	\$5,038.16	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$20,724.99	\$593.72	\$9,079.80
Equipment		\$0.00	\$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	\$3,456.47	\$49,019.98
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$128,084.00</b>	<b>\$308,523.57</b>	<b>\$4,342,536.89</b>	<b>\$185,410.06</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,964,554.53</b>	<b>\$32,462</b>	<b>\$753,727.19</b>
General Administration (9% of subtotal)			\$2,155	\$390,828	\$16,687	\$0	\$409,670	\$2,922	\$2,155.00
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$128,084</b>	<b>\$310,679</b>	<b>\$4,733,365</b>	<b>\$202,097</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,374,225</b>	<b>\$35,384</b>	<b>\$755,882.19</b>
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)		\$21,180	\$16,380	\$11,580			\$49,140		

INSTRUCTIONS: The above table provides a five-year overview (FY 22-26) of proposed funding and actual cumulative spending for **non-trustee agencies**. The formulas reference the cells in the budgets below and should automatically populate. Please make sure the totals given are correct. Other Resources (In-Kind Funds) will need to be entered manually. Enter the agency indirect rate in cell C9. 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: The actual cumulative amount listed in the General Administration line has been reported from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for administration of the grant with CRWP.

**Summary budget tab:**

Budget Category:		Actual FY 22	Actual FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel		\$15,091	\$27,058	\$319,678	\$198,003	\$63,550	\$623,380	\$10,125.26	\$105,355.69
Travel		\$61	\$192	\$2,423	\$5,550	\$2,003	\$10,228	\$644.98	\$1,619.79
Contractual		\$98,140	\$266,343	\$3,986,774	\$2,750	\$0	\$4,354,008	\$17,642.06	\$588,651.93
Commodities		\$687	\$5,339	\$66,564	\$15,031	\$0	\$87,621	\$593.72	\$12,396.80
Equipment		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Indirect Costs (30%)		\$14,106	\$9,892	\$94,214	\$42,787	\$0	\$161,000	\$3,456.47	\$49,019.98
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$128,084</b>	<b>\$308,825</b>	<b>\$4,469,654</b>	<b>\$264,121</b>	<b>\$65,553</b>	<b>\$5,236,237</b>	<b>\$32,462</b>	<b>\$757,044.19</b>
General Administration (9% of subtotal)		\$11,528	\$27,794	\$402,269	\$23,771	\$5,900	\$471,261	\$2,922	\$68,133.98
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$139,612</b>	<b>\$336,619</b>	<b>\$4,871,923</b>	<b>\$287,892</b>	<b>\$71,453</b>	<b>\$5,707,498</b>	<b>\$35,384</b>	<b>\$11,450,380</b>
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)		\$21,180	\$16,380	\$11,580	\$0	\$0	\$49,140		



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