



Stream Watch Volunteer Program

How Volunteers Help Protect Fish Habitats on the Kenai Peninsula

Stream Watch Background:

To help ensure
natural resources
are not
jeopardized, the
Chugach National
Forest created the
Stream Watch
Program in 1994.



Purpose:

Volunteers assist
partner agencies
in being the
hands, eyes, and
ears on the
ground each
season.



Outreach Regarding Fish Habitat

Stream Watch
receives a
significant
amount of its
funding from
the Kenai
Peninsula Fish
Habitat
Partnership.

Funding from KPFHP allows volunteer
Ambassadors to be trained and educated.

Over 62 Ambassadors each year provide high-
quality outreach regarding habitat protection.



Peer-to-Peer Education

What We TEACH

1. The importance of ethical angling
2. Connections between riparian plants, bank stability, and healthy fish habitats
3. Leave No Trace
4. Bear awareness & how to keep wildlife wild



Stream Watch
Volunteers
Teach
Ethical Angling

Volunteers remind river visitors
the importance of respecting
regulations and wildlife.



STREAM WATCH VOLUNTEERS



**EDUCATE ANGLERS ON HOW
TO PROTECT OUR FISHERIES**

Trails/Boardwalks and Fenced Areas

Volunteers explain why they must be respected...

Intact riparian plants prevent bank erosion.

We teach people why the fences are in place and why it is crucial to respect those sensitive riparian areas.

In a non-threatening manner, volunteers ask anglers to stay on the designated trails and boardwalks.



Hands-On Projects

What We DO

1. Fence installation (3+ miles every summer)
2. Over a dozen major river clean ups every summer
3. Erosion control revetment projects
4. Monofilament recycling



Fence Installation

Each summer, we install 3-5 miles of fencing on the Kenai and Russian Rivers to protect riparian plants.



Habitat Protection

Successful restoration of riparian plants

Russian River

Top photo taken in 1994

Bottom photo taken in 2013

Make a Difference: Choose Your Steps Wisely!

Before



The Russian River circa 1994: Due to high angler traffic along sensitive riverbank areas, critical plants were trampled to death. Riverside plants stabilize the soil preventing erosion which greatly affects fish.

After



The Russian River circa 2013: The installation of light penetrating boardwalks and the use of designated trails has allowed plants to come back to protect the river.

Spruce Tree Revetment on the Kenai

Stream Watch
volunteers installed
Spruce trees into
150' of riverbank
along the Kenai.

This created slow
currents for fish,
providing shelter.

“We are mimicking nature. Plants are very important along the river corridor, both standing plants — whose roots hold the soil in place — and downed plants and trees.”

-Former Stream Watch Coordinator, Lisa Beranek



Monofilament Recycling Program

75 lbs. of
monofilament line
recycled in 2016

Recycled line used to
create artificial
juvenile fish habitats
for lakes and
reservoirs

Prevents wildlife entanglement



River Clean Ups

Volunteers
complete at least
a dozen major
river clean ups
ever summer on
the Kenai,
Russian, and
Kasilof Rivers

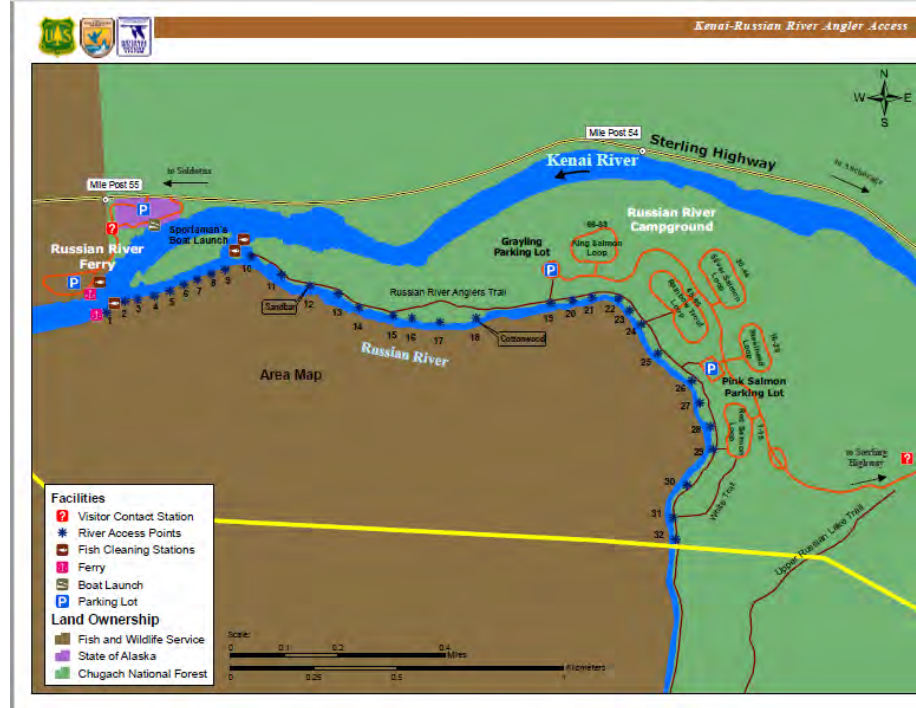
During the summer of 2016, clean up efforts focused on protecting the public use fisheries at the mouth of the Kasilof River. 2,413 lbs. of trash were collected.



Stream Watch Sites:

Stream Watch cooperates with the following land management agencies:

- Chugach National Forest (Russian River Recreation Site),
- Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Kenai-Russian River Ferry, Moose Range Meadows),
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska State Parks (Bings Landing)
- Division of Mining Land and Water (Kasilof River), and
- the City of Soldotna (Centennial Park).



23 Years of Stream Watch!

2014 marked the Stream
Watch's 20th Year
Anniversary.

The Stream Watch
Program is an excellent
example of collaborative
partnership efforts such as
habitat restoration,
interpretative education,
and fish and wildlife
conservation.



Protecting Fish Habitats through Hands-On Projects and Education

