

STREAM WATCH:



THE IMPACT VOLUNTEERS CAN HAVE ON HABITAT

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WHAT IS STREAM WATCH?

- A volunteer based program founded in 1994
- Focused on habitat protection, restoration, and peer-to-peer education with members of the public
- Volunteers frequent high use fishing sites around the Kenai Peninsula.





THE BEGININGS

- Founded by the Forest service and a handful of volunteers
- To address the significant damage seen on the Russian River
- Adopted by KWF in 2011
- Expanded beyond the Russian to cover the whole Kenai Peninsula



WHAT'S THE NEED?

Seasonal Visitors

The large influx of tourists and snow birds that visit each summer have potential to degrade the health of natural areas, leave litter behind, along with other impacts.

Sense of Stewardship

Stream Watch Volunteers work hard build a sense of stewardship, so the public feel connected to the environment.





What do Stream Watch Ambassadors do?

- Habitat Impact
- Education/Outreach
- Patrol of high use sites
- Line Collection and cleaning



HABITAT IMPACT

Habitat Fencing

Placed around high use sites to protect natural vegetation and guide users to river access points

Stream Watch Invasive Species

Task Force (SWISTF)

A subset of Stream Watch to target invasive species infestations around the peninsula

Larger Habitat Projects

Projects focused on stream bank restoration and protection. In 2023 we are focusing on a spruce tree cabling project upstream of the Soldotna Creek Mouth.



LITTER & LINE MANAGEMENT

During Patrols

Volunteers frequent high use sites and collect litter and debris.

Monofilament Collection Tubes

Collection tubes placed at high use sites to give the public an easy place to put used fishing line.

Line Cleaning

Volunteers remove hooks and weights from found fishing line that is separated and sent to be recycled into new products.





EDUCATION/OUTREACH

During Patrols

Volunteers frequent high use sites to interact with the public on an individual basis.

Educational Booths

Placed at special events to share specific messages that apply to that area and interact with a high number of people.

What we talk about...

- Importance of stream bank vegetation
- Ethical angling practices
- Site specific regulations
- Leave no trace practices
- Bear awareness
- different aspects of the program



WHAT IF YOU AREN'T AN AMBASSADOR?

Stream Watch also offers

Stewardship Days

- Single-day events geared towards larger group/projects
- Can include events like
 - Large clean-up events
 - Habitat fencing days
 - Pairing with high school adventure programs
 - Trail work





WHAT HAS STREAM WATCH ACCOMPLISHED?

2022 Season

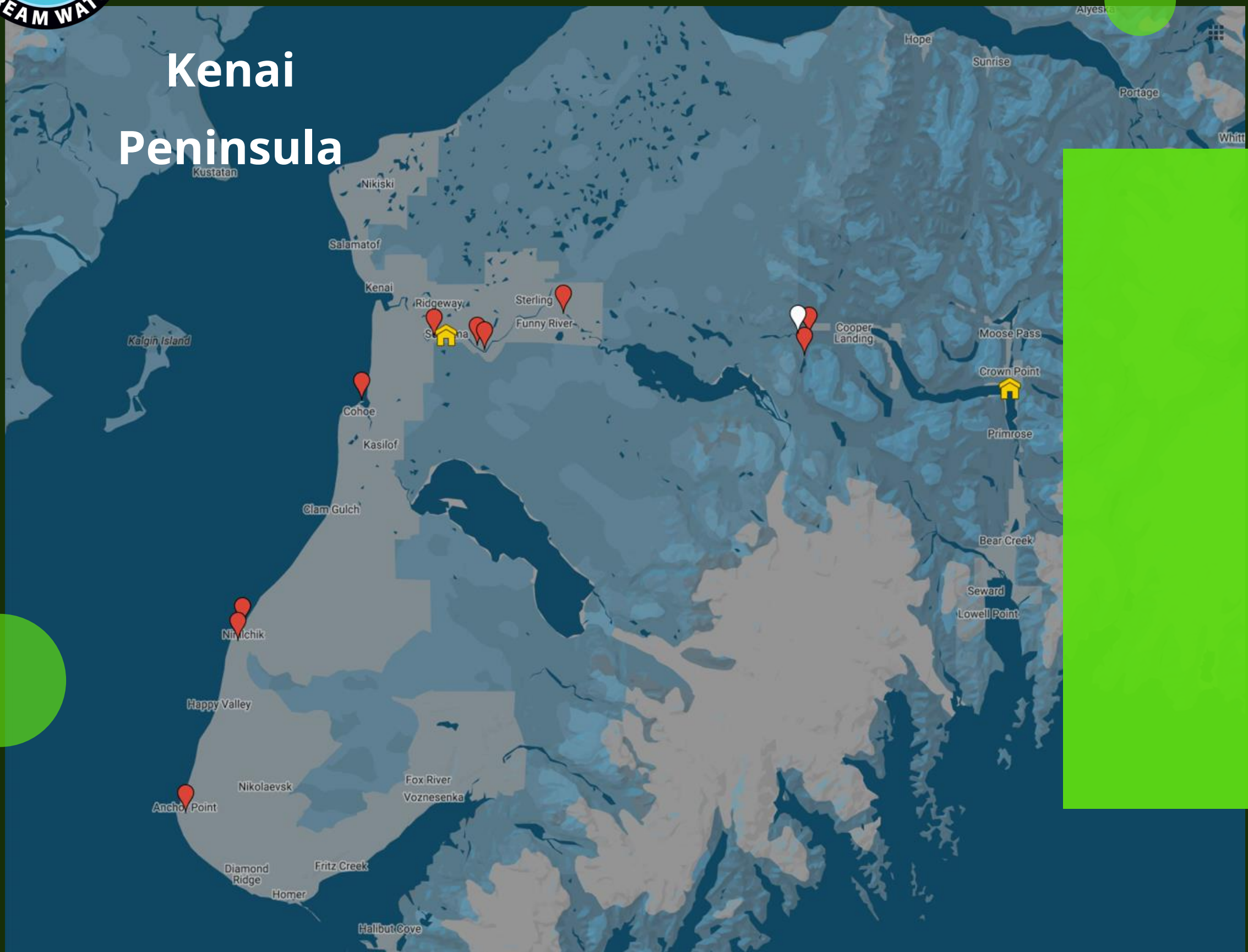
Volunteer Hours 1,894	Public Contacts 3,476	Data Trash 2,654 lbs.	Fishing Line 251 lbs.	Cigarette Butts 6,957
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All Time Data

Volunteer Hours 25,232.5	Public Contacts 71,647	Trash 39,032 lbs	Fishing Line (Since 2014) 1,140 lbs.	Cigarette Butts (Since 2017) 28,109
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Kenai Peninsula



WHERE DO WE WORK?



WHATS COMING UP?



Spruce Tree

Cabling/Revegetation

Soldotna area



Junior Stream

Watch

Throughout the
Kenai/Soldotna area



SWISFT

Opportunities

Throughout the
Kenai Peninsula



Ambassador

Opportunities

Russian River,
Soldotna, Online



THANK YOU

If you're interested in volunteering...

- Come see me after this session
- Fill out a volunteer form on kenaiwatershed.org
- Email streamwatch@kenaiwatershed.org