



*Growing Strong Roots Since 1994*  
**Stream Watch Volunteer Program**  
**2017 Season Summary**

**Program Introduction**

Stream Watch is a national award-winning volunteer program promoting river stewardship on the Kenai Peninsula.

Founded in 1994, the Stream Watch program began in response to a small group of enthusiastic river users looking to share river protection information on the Russian and Kenai Rivers. The program has grown to sites on the Kenai, Kasilof and Russian Rivers where trained volunteers remove riverside litter, install plant protection fencing, complete fish habitat restoration projects in addition to sharing critical information on river stewardship, agency regulations and bear safety during the summer season (June-September).

Stream Watch volunteers can participate as an “Ambassador” by committing to at least 24 hours of time each season, or through participation in a “Stewardship Work Day” where individuals, groups or businesses help with a one-day, river protection project.

**2017 Stream Watch Program: Ambassador and Stewardship Combined Statistics**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Total Volunteer Hours	1503.75	1281.5	1492	1217	1497	1607	1022	816
Public Contacts	3962	2870	4618	3195	4150	4041	3620	2358
Trash Collected (lbs.)	3110.043	2413	1808	1446	2953*	851	610	378
Fishing line Collected (lbs.)	81.35	75	148.42	97	-	-	-	-

*\*Includes the weight of fishing line, fish passage barrier and litter.*

## **Program Overview**

The Stream Watch program is jointly administered by the Chugach National Forest in partnership with the Kenai Watershed Forum and operates cooperatively with the following land managing agencies:

- USDA Forest Service, Chugach National Forest (Russian River Recreation Site)
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, 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)
- City of Soldotna (Centennial Park)

**Volunteer Coordinators:** Alice Main (Kenai Watershed Forum- Lower River) and Tyler Gagat (Chugach National Forest- Upper River)

**Program Intern:** Langston Alexander (Kenai Watershed Forum)

## **Funding/In-Kind Contributions**

Funding sources and contributions were made possible by the following: Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, Alaska Conservation Foundation, Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership, Alaska Department of Natural Resources—Alaska State Parks and Department of Mining, Land and Water, Alaska Recreation Management, City of Soldotna, Chugach National Forest, ConocoPhillips, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Sportsman’s Warehouse, Trout Unlimited (Kenai Peninsula Chapter), private donations and Kenai Watershed Forum.

## **Supporters of Stewardship Events**

Alaska Wildland Adventures, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, McLaughlin Youth Center, Youth Conservation Corps, Soldotna Boys and Girls Club, Alaska Fly Fishers.

## **Stream Watch Outreach and Volunteer Recruitment**

### **Outreach opportunities:**

- *Alaska Wildland Adventure Employee Orientation:* An outreach area was on display to recruit volunteers while sharing program messages. Audience: 25 adults.
- *Alaska State Parks Campsite Host Volunteer Orientation:* An outreach area was on display to recruit volunteers while sharing program messages. Audience: 30 adults
- *Kenaitze Indian Tribe Fish Camp:* An outreach presentation by program staff on fishing regulations, leave no trace and salmon habitat. Audience: 14 youth and 3 adults.
- *Area Rotary Club Meetings:* Staff provided a presentation for recruitment and educational purposes. Audience: 50 adults
- *City of Soldotna Water Safety Day:* Staff hosted an outreach table to engage river users on river stewardship and ways to be involved in our program. Audience: 20 youth and 50 adults.
- *Kenai River Festival:* Staff and volunteers worked alongside community volunteers to host the Kenai River Festival meanwhile promoting the Stream Watch Program. Audience: 4,000

2017 Stream Watch Season Summary

- *Salmon Fest:* Staff interacted with festival attendees during the festival to promote the Stream Watch program. Audience: 50 adults

**Website postings:** [National Forest Foundation](#), Friends of National Forests, Facebook (various pages), City of Soldotna Events Calendar, Chugach [National Forest website](#), [Volunteer.Gov](#), [Department of Natural Resources--State Parks](#), Dan Sullivan press release ([view here](#))

**Newspaper Articles:** Kenai Peninsula Clarion ([view here](#))

**Social Media:** Statistics for the Stream Watch Facebook Page ([View Here](#))

Facebook Stats	Winter 13/14	Summer '14	Winter 14/15	Summer '15	Winter 15/16	Summer 2016	Winter 16/17	Summer 2017
<b>Total Page Likes EOS</b>	302	399	498	661	684	786	804	7/1636
<b>Avg./top Reach per day</b>	46 / 418	151 / 1958	40 / 426	574 / 35,740	76/1,343	374/4,126	91/573	3,711/130,512
<b>Avg./top shares per day</b>	<1 / 17	2 / 14	1 / 8	6 / 284	1/11	3/19	2/13	20/592
<b>Avg./top reactions per day</b>	2 / 29	5 / 49	1 / 21	13 / 623	3/81	7/94	1/13	69/2,133
<b>top Page Visits per day</b>	25	72	24	48	NA	NA	??/10	??/92

Reach: How many people's Facebook loaded and scrolled by the post.

Shares: Another Facebook using our post for their page

Reactions: Reaction are likes, or sad/angry/wow/laughing clicks on our post

Summer: May 1st - September 30<sup>th</sup>, Winter: October 1st - April 30th

**Stream Watch flyers** were posted in a variety of locations including public spaces in Anchorage, Seward, Girdwood, Cooper Landing, Homer, Soldotna and Kenai.

**Radio messaging:** KRSM Radio

**Interpretive sign:** Located at the Russian River Campground's Pink salmon parking lot year-round.

## **2017 Program Information**

### **Ambassador Volunteer Season**

- Upper River Program: June 1—September 9
- Lower River Program: June 1 – September 23

### **Ambassador Training/Orientation**

- Cooper Landing School, June 3rd, 29 volunteers in attendance (22 returning, 7 new)
- Ron Gilman River Center, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 13 volunteers in attendance (8 returning, 5 new)
- Assorted small orientations for returning ambassadors, 15 volunteers (13 returning, 2 new)

### **Ambassador Demographic**

- For 2017, 57 volunteers participated as trained Stream Watch Ambassadors. Of these Fifty-seven volunteers, 43 were returning and 14 were new volunteers.
- Volunteer diversity remained the same (age, residential location, interests)
- Nine of our new volunteers were state parks camp hosts
- Volunteer interests split about 50/50 with wanting to educate and wanting to help with maintenance and trash pickup
- Significantly more volunteers returned to the program this year than were recruited (43 vs 14)

## **Stream Watch Ambassador Sites**

**Upper River Program:** Russian River Recreation Site (Angler & Falls Trail), Kenai-Russian River Ferry.

**Lower River Program:** Bings Landing, Moose Range Meadows (East & West), Centennial Park, and the Kasilof River.

## 2017 Stream Watch Ambassador Activities

	<b>Bings Landing</b>	<b>Centennial Park</b>	<b>Moose Range Meadows</b>	<b>Russian River Recreation Site</b>	<b>Kenai-Russian River Ferry</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Ambassador Hours</b>	42.5 ↑	134.5 ↑	26 ↓	418 ↓	56 ↑	<b>677 ↓</b>
<b>Public Contacts</b>	125 ↑	272 ↓↑	200 ↑	2691 ↑	299 ↑	<b>3587 ↑</b>
<b>Trash Collected (lbs.)</b>	57.75 ↑	69.76 ↑	31.08 ↑	213.9 ↑	90.75 ↑	<b>463.3↑</b>
<b>Fishing Line Recycled</b>	8.29 ↑	7.6 ↑	4.95↓	37.1 ↓	18.38 ↑	<b>76.3 ↑</b>

↑: increase from 2016, =: same as 2016, ↓: decrease from 2016 \*No Bings landing in 2016 due to construction

*\*See Stewardship data below for large Kasilof Beach Clean-up efforts*

**Stewardship Work Days**

The following 22 Stewardship Work Days were held during the 2017 season:

- **Russian River Fence Installation (A):** U.S. Forest Service Staff and youth from the McLaughlin Youth Center installed 1 mile of fencing and learned about stream bank protection (9 youth + 2 staff for 6 hours).
- **Russian River Fence Installation (B):** U.S. Forest Service Staff and staff from Alaska Wildland Adventures installed 0.5 miles of fencing and learned about best management practices (7 Volunteers + 3 Ambassadors + 1 staff for 4 hours).
- **Early Season Float Cleanup (C):** U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Kenai Watershed forum brought together SW ambassadors and volunteers to do a season opener cleanup on the upper Kenai River. (17 Volunteers + 3 staff for 4 hours).
- **Moose Rage Meadows Fence Installation (D):** Kenai Watershed Forum + volunteers installed T-bar for fencing at both MRM sites (5 Volunteers + 5 staff for 5 hours).
- **Moose Rage Meadows Fence Installation (E):** Kenai Watershed Forum + Boy Scout Troop installed fencing and boardwalk at both MRM sites (12 Volunteers + 1 staff for 3 hours).

- **Moose Rage Meadows Fence Installation (F):** Kenai Watershed Forum + Youth Conservation Corps + SW volunteers installed fencing at both MRM sites (8 Volunteers + 2 staff for 5 hours).
- **Bings Landing Site Establishment & Cleanup (G):** A Stewardship day at Bings Landing focused on Re-establishing our stream watch site there after recent construction (7 Volunteer + 1 staff for 3 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (H):** Youth Conservation Corps + Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof river both North and South Beaches. And visited the Kasilof museum (9 Volunteers + 1 staff for 8 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (I):** Stream Watch Ambassadors and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the North mouth of the Kasilof river (3 Volunteers + 1 staff for 3.25 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (I):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof river (2 Volunteers + 2 staff for 4 hours).
- **Outreach and Education day (J):** Volunteers and Staff attended the Soldotna Progress Days Fair and made public contacts (6 Volunteers + 1 staff for 2.5 hours).
- **Moose Range Meadows Stewardship day (K):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and repaired fence at the moose range meadows sites (4 Volunteers + 1 staff for 2 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (L):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof river (12 Volunteers + 2 staff for 7 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (M):** Youth Conservation Corps + Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof river (7 Volunteers + 1 staff for 8.5 hours).
- **Fish Carcass removal from MRM (N):** Volunteers and Kenaitze Indian Tribe Staff Removed angler produced fish waste from the Moose range meadows site (1 Volunteers + 3 staff for 8 hours).
- **Fish Carcass removal from multiple sites (O):** Volunteers and staff removed angler produced fish waste from the Moose range meadows, centennial, and Morgan's landing sites (2 Volunteers + 1 staff for 8 hours).
- **Quartz Creek Cleanup (P):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at Quartz Creek (6 Volunteers + 2 staff for 2 hours).
- **Kenai River Cleanup (Q):** SW partnered with AWA and Alaska Fly Fishers to assist in river clean-up efforts along the Upper Kenai River. (1 staff + 1 community members + 15 ambassadors for 4 hours.)
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (R):** Soldotna boys and girls club and Staff picked up trash and learned about river systems on the north Kasilof beach (17 Volunteers + 2 staff for 2 hours).
- **MRM Fence Down (S):** Work Release Inmates from Wildwood Correctional Complex and staff from KWF and USF&WS took down fence at Moose Range Meadows and cleaned up trash at the Kasilof Beach Sites (7 Volunteers + 3 staff for 7 hours).
- **Beach Debris Cleanup (T):** Stream Watch volunteer cleaned out abandoned couch from the beach near Cannery road to prevent extreme high tides from taking it out to sea (1 staff + 1 Volunteer for 1 hours.)
- **End of Season Cleanup Float (U):** Community members floated from Isaak Newton to Keystone collecting derelict fishing gear and trash from public use fishing sites (5 Volunteers + 3 staff for 5.5 hours).
- **Russian River Fence Down (V):** Volunteers worked together to remove habitat fencing from Russian River (6 Volunteers + 3 staff for 4 hours).

## 2017 Stewardship Project Breakdown

	<b>Date</b>	<b># of Volun teers</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>Trash (lbs.)</b>	<b>Fishing line (lbs.)</b>	<b>Cigaret te Butts</b>	<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Fish Waste (lbs.)</b>	<b>Other outcome</b>
<b>A</b>	5/20/ 2017	11	66	0	0	0	0	0	1 mile of fence installed @ RR
<b>B</b>	6/8/2 017	10	40	0	0	0	0	0	1 mile fence installed @ RR
<b>C</b>	6/17/ 2017	17	68	60	0	0	0	0	
<b>D</b>	6/19/ 2017	5	50	0	0	0	0	0	All posts pounded for east and west MRM
<b>E</b>	6/22/ 2017	12	36	9	2	0	2	0	Boardwalk fencing installed @ MRM and Trash at Centennial
<b>F</b>	6/26/ 2017	8	40	0	0	0	0	0	Riverside fencing installed @ MRM and clean-up at Bings
<b>G</b>	6/26/ 2017	7	21	8	3	0	5	0	Bings Landing
<b>H</b>	6/27/ 2017	9	64	640	0	834	5	0	N. and S. Kasilof Beach Clean-up, Visit to Kasilof Museum
<b>J</b>	7/15/ 2017	3	9.75	60	0	330	58	0	Find fish drying station and free hotdogs from church group
<b>I</b>	7/21/ 2017	2	8	60	0	0	40	0	Kasilof Beach Clean- up
<b>J</b>	7/22/ 2017	6	15	0	0	0	142	0	Made 142 contacts at the Soldotna Progress Days fair at Centennial

2017 Stream Watch Season Summary

<b>K</b>	7/22/ 2017	4	8	0	0	0	75	0	Mended fence, at MRM
<b>L</b>	7/27/ 2017	7	59.5	420	0	305	15	0	S. Beach + 2 hrs of cleaning fishing line
<b>M</b>	8/3/2 017	12	75	400	0	771	5	0	N + S Beach
<b>N</b>	8/4/2 017	4	32	24.67	0	0	13	300	Carcasses from MRM, cleaned SW
<b>O</b>	8/11/ 2017	2	16	6.74	0	17	5	176	Carcasses: 71 @ MRM, 17 @ Centennial, cleaned ML, put up bins!
<b>P</b>	8/26/ 2017	6	12	13.2	0	0	0	0	Quartz Creek Cleanup - not much trash!
<b>Q</b>	9/9/2 017	16	64	36	0	0	0	0	Upper Upper Kenai River cleanup! 6 vols on a raft, 3 on fence takedown, 7 on road
<b>R</b>	9/13/ 2017	17	34	126	0	0	0	0	NK w/ Soldotna Boys and Girls Club
<b>S</b>	9/18/ 2017	7	49	420	0	0	0	0	MRM fence down and SK Beach cleanup
<b>T</b>	9/22/ 2017	1	1	320	0	0	0	0	Beach Debris Cleanup near Cannery Road
<b>U</b>	9/23/ 2017	5	27.5	43.15	0	0	0	0	Lower River Cleanup Float
<b>V</b>	9/24/ 2017	6	24	0	0	0	0	0	Russian River Fence down
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>178</b>	<b>826.75</b>	<b>2646.76</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>476</b>	

Note: As a comparison, there were 17 Stewardship Events with 567 volunteer hours and 2145 pounds of trash removed in 2016.



**Staff River Days/In-Field Hours**

	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Total In-Season River days</b>
<b>Upper Coordinator</b>	18 river days	15 river days	6 river days	8 river days	47 River Days
<b>Lower Coordinator</b>	10 river days	13 river days	10 river days	1 river days	34 river days
<b>Lower Intern</b>	11 river days	15 river days	10 river days	0 river days	36 river days

The Lower River Program had program staff coverage 98 days of the 2015 season.  
The Upper River Program had program staff coverage 47 days of the 2015 season.