



Growing Strong Roots Since 1994
Stream Watch Volunteer Program
2018 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, Anchor, Ninilchik, and Russian Rivers, as well as Deep Creek 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.

2018 Stream Watch Program: Ambassador and Stewardship Combined Statistics

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total Volunteer Hours	1896	1503.75	1281.5	1492	1217	1497	1607	1022	816
Public Contacts	2616	3962	2870	4618	3195	4150	4041	3620	2358
Trash Collected (lbs.)	6921	3110.043	2413	1808	1446	2953*	851	610	378
Fishing Line Collected (lbs.)	124	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: Tyler (Chugach National Forest-Northern Peninsula), Alice (Kenai Watershed Forum-Western Peninsula), and Billy & Alie (Kenai Watershed Forum-Southern Peninsula)

Program Interns: Terese Schmogyi, Tyler Barber, and John Lowin (Kenai Watershed Forum)

Funding/In-Kind Contributions

Funding sources and contributions were made possible by the following: Alaska Brewing Company, Alaska Conservation Foundation, Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership, Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, Alaska Department of Natural Resources—Alaska State Parks and Department of Mining, Land and Water, Alaska Recreation Management, City of Soldotna, Chugach National Forest, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Trout Unlimited (Kenai Peninsula Chapter), private donations and Kenai Watershed Forum.

Supporters of Stewardship Events

Alaska Wildland Adventures, Defenders of Wildlife, Trout Unlimited (Coasta Five Rivers Program and Kenai Peninsula Chapter), Kenaitze Indian Tribe, McLaughlin Youth Center, Youth Conservation Corps, Alaska Fly Fishers, Boy Scouts, Rustic Pathways, Anchor River Enterprises, and Deep Creek Tractor Launch.

Stream Watch Outreach and Volunteer Recruitment

Outreach opportunities:

- *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
- *Soldotna Progress Days Parade:* Staff and volunteers created a float and participated in the Progress Days Parade, interacting with spectators. Contacts: 100 people
- *Wednesday In the Park:* Staff ran an outreach booth and interacted with market goers. Contacts: 30
- *Salmon Fest:* Staff interacted with festival attendees during the festival at an outreach booth and through parody performances to promote the Stream Watch program. Audience: 250+ adults
- *Spay Clave:* Staff set up a outreach table and interacted with event participants. Audience: 75 adults

- *Trout Unlimited Wild Salmon Day*: Staff gave a short presentation of the program to participants. Audience: 10 adults

Website postings: Facebook (various pages), City of Soldotna Events Calendar, Chugach National Forest website, and Kenai Watershed Forum.

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

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 aired six educational messages throughout the months of June, July, and August sharing information on bear safety, ethical angling, leave no trace policy, and fishing regulations.

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

Program Information

Stream Watch Ambassador Program

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

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

Southern Peninsula Program: Anchor River, Deep Creek, and the Ninilchik River

Ambassador Volunteer Season

- Northern Peninsula Program: June 1—September 9
- Western Peninsula Program: June 1 – September 23

Ambassador Training/Orientation

- Cooper Landing School, June 2nd, 27 volunteers in attendance
- Alaska State Park Camp Hosts Ron Gilman River Center, June 4th, 14 volunteers in attendance
- Ron Gilman River Center, June 30th, 10 volunteers in attendance
- Anchor Point, July 14th, 4 volunteers in attendance
- Assorted small orientations for returning ambassadors, 14 volunteers

Ambassador Demographic

- For 2018, 69 volunteers participated as trained Stream Watch Ambassadors.
- Volunteer diversity changed this year, attracting a several younger volunteers
- Volunteer interests split about 50/50 with wanting to educate and wanting to help with maintenance and trash pickup

Stream Watch Stewardship Program

The following 23 Stewardship Work Days were held during the 2018 season:

- **Kenai Peninsula College NETS (A):** Students learned about the program and cleaned up trash at Soldotna Creek Park (1 staff + 5 volunteers)
- **Coastal Code Cleanup (B):** Volunteers assisted KWF staff as part of Alaska Brewing Company's State-wide cleanup (3 staff + 39 volunteers)
- **Kenai River Float (C):** Kenai Watershed Forum, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Staff, Alaska Wildland Adventure Staff, and volunteers floated three separate sections of the Kenai River cleaning up trash along the way. (3 staff + 22 volunteers for 5.5 hours)
- **Monotube Building with Boy Scouts (D):** Youth assisted Stream Watch in building 15+ mono line recycling holders as part of an Eagle Scout project (1 staff, 12 volunteers)
- **Stream bank restoration and fencing installation on the Kenai River at Funny River Campground (E):** Kenai Watershed Forum, State Park Ranger Melissa Smith, and volunteers cabled spruce trees to the stream bank and constructed fishing piers to prevent erosion (3 staff + 6 volunteers for 24 hours).
- **Wildwood Crew (F):** Volunteers assisted KWF Staff with installing fencing at Moose Range Meadows Fencing (3 staff + 6 volunteers)
- **McLaughlin Youth Detention Center Group (G):** Youth assisted staff install habitat fencing at Russian River (6 staff + 11 volunteers)
- **Fence Installation with Defenders of Wildlife (H):** USFS Staff and volunteers installed habitat protective fencing at Russian River (1 Staff + 13 volunteers)
- **Morgan's Landing Fencing (I):** Kenai Watershed Forum, YCC crew, and volunteers removed old defective fencing and replaced with new fencing (4 staff + 7 volunteers for 14 hours)
- **Anchor Point Beach Cleanup (J):** Kenai Watershed Forum and volunteers cleaned trash off the anchor point beach and removed glass and nails from fire pits (4 staff + 4 ambassadors + 12 volunteers for 6 hours)
- **Deep Creek Beach Cleanup (K):** Kenai Watershed Forum and volunteers cleaned trash off the Deep Creek Beach (4 staff + 1 ambassador + 4 volunteers for 6 hours)
- **Shed Construction for the Booth at the Mouth of the Kenai (L):** Kenai Watershed Forum and volunteers constructed a shed to house the materials for the information booth at the Kenai Beach dipnetting site (1 staff + 6 volunteers for 2 hours)
- **Trash-ercise Tuesdays (M):** Kenai Watershed Forum and volunteers cleaned the Kasilof Beach on a weekly basis during dipnetting season while exercising if they chose to do so (5 staff and 31 total volunteers for 10 hours)
- **Lattes & Litter (N):** Kenai Watershed Forum and volunteers cleaned the Kasilof beach with complementary coffee provided (1 staff + 3 volunteers for 2 hours)
- **YCC Cleanup on the Kasilof (O):** YCC crew assisted staff with cleaning up trash on both North and South beaches (2 staff + 5 volunteers)
- **Camp to Russian (P):** Kenai Watershed Forum Summer Camp went to the Russian to learn about restoration efforts and clean up trash (1 staff + 5 volunteers)
- **Kenai River Clean up Float (Q):** Kenai Watershed Forum, U.S. Forest Service Staff, State Parks Staff, and volunteers floated down the Kenai covering three different sections of the river cleaning up trash (4 staff + 22 volunteers)
- **Anchor River Clean Up (R):** Kenai Watershed Forum and Volunteers cleaned up the Anchor River Beach (2 staff, 4 ambassadors, and 5 volunteers for 6 hours)

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- **Deep Creek Clean Up (S):** Kenai Watershed Forum and volunteers cleaned up the Deep Creek Beach (2 staff and 1 volunteer for 6 hours)
- **Rock Jetty Removal (T):** Kenai Watershed Forum and Fish & Wildlife Staff removed a rock Jetty on the Kenai River (3 staff & 2 F&W staff)
- **Trout Unlimited 5 Rivers Group (U):** Students assisted USFS Staff with repairing habitat protective fencing and installing cleaning tables (1 staff + 4 volunteers)
- **Rustic Pathways (V):** Students assisted USFS staff with fence installation and learned about salmon stewardship (1 staff + 16 volunteers)
- **Carl's Cleanup (W):** Volunteers cleaned marine debris washed up on the beach from the mouth of the Kenai to the mouth of the Kasilof (3 staff + 4 volunteers)
- **Kenai River Cleanup (X):** Volunteers, AWA, and USFS Staff floated the Kenai River collecting 156 lbs of trash (13 volunteers, 3 staff)
- **MRM Fence Down 1 (Y):** One volunteer and one staff took down all plastic fencing material from both MRM sites (1 staff and 1 volunteer)
- **Girl Scout Cleanups (Z):** Girl scouts participated in a series of stewardship days to clean up western peninsula Stream Watch sites (2 volunteers, 1 staff, for 8 hours)

2018 Stewardship Project Breakdown

	Date	# of Volun teers	Total Hours	Trash (lbs.)	Fishing line (lbs.)	Cig. Butts	Contacts	Other Outcomes
A	4/16/2018	5	20	.69	0	0	0	
B	4/28/2018	38	156	600	0	800	0	
C	5/19/2018	22	121				0	
D	5/20/2018, 5/22/2018	13	39	0	0	0	0	Monofilament tubes constructed with new design
E	6/6/2018	6	36	0	4.62	0	0	Stream bank restoration: 300 feet of spruce trees cabled
F	7/7/2018, 7/8/2018	4	36	2.4	0	0	33	
G	5/19/2018	11	40	0	0	0	0	
H	6/8/2018	13	52	0	0	0	0	
I	6/19/2018, 6/20/2018	7	49	0	0	0	0	Fencing installed all along the fishing trail
J	7/21/2018	12		517	0	0		

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K	7/22/2017	4		283	0	0		
L	7/6/2017	6	0	0	0	0	0	Shed set up to house the dipnet informational booth
M	7/10/2018, 7/17/2018, 7/31/2018, 8/07/2018, 8/14/2018	31	62	840	0	870+	0	
N	7/21/2018	3	6	60	0	0	0	
O	7/25/2018	5	35	860	0	1458	0	
P	7/27/2018	5	15	5	0	0	0	
Q	8/11/2018	9	54	31.5	0	0	0	
R	8/18/2018	9	54	274	0	0	10	
S	8/19/2018	1	6	61	0	0	8	
T	5/23/2018	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rock jetty removed
U	7/7/2018 7/8/2018	4	36	2.4	0	0	33	Fence installed
V	7/31/2018	16	64	5	0	0	0	Fence repaired and education
W	8/26/2018	4	16	2850	0	0	0	
X	09/08/2018	13	75	156	0	0	9	
Y	09/12/2018	1	6	0	0	0	0	

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Z	09/16/2018 09/20/2018	2	8	4	0	0	4	
TOTALS			1039	6447	9.5	3485	71	

Note: As a comparison, there were 22 Stewardship Events with 826 volunteer hours and 2646 pounds of trash removed in 2017.