



Growing Strong Roots Since 1994
Stream Watch Volunteer Program
2019 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.

2019 Stream Watch Program: Ambassador and Stewardship Combined Statistics

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Volunteer Hours	1557	1896	1504	1282	1492	1217	1497	1607	1022	816
Public Contacts	4031	2616	3962	2870	4618	3195	4150	4041	3620	2358
Trash (lbs.)	4258	6921	3110	2413	1808	1446	2953*	851	610	378
Fishing Line (lbs.)	127	124	81	75	148	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 (KWF) 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: John Davis (Chugach National Forest-Northern Peninsula), Alice Main (Kenai Watershed Forum-Western Peninsula), and Tatiana Tilley (Kenai Watershed Forum-Southern Peninsula)

Program Interns: Katia Galambos, Katharine Gilbert, and Rylin McGee (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, private donations and Kenai Watershed Forum.

Supporters of Stewardship Events

Defenders of Wildlife, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, McLaughlin Youth Center, Youth Conservation Corps, Boy Scouts and Apogee Adventures.

Stream Watch Outreach and Volunteer Recruitment

Outreach opportunities:

- *Voices of the Kenai:* Staff presented to attendees about the Stream Watch program and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 23
- *Movie in the Park:* Staff hosted an outreach booth to promote the Stream Watch program and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 5
- *Great Alaska Sportsmans Show:* Staff promoted the Stream Watch program and corresponding article in partnership with Fish Alaska Magazine. Contacts: 10, reach: 1000
- *Anchor Point Community Meeting:* Staff presented to attendees about the Stream Watch program and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 48
- *Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting:* Staff hosted an outreach booth to promote the Stream Watch program. Direct contacts: 10, reach: 30.
- *Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Science Symposium:* Staff presented to attendees about the Stream Watch program and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 50

- *Kenai River Guide Academy*: Staff presented to new guides, sharing information about the Stream Watch program and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 32
- *Kenai River Rotary*: Staff presented to rotarians about Stream Watch and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 9
- *Soldotna Senior Center*: Staff presented to attendees about the Stream Watch program and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 63
- *Kenai Fjord National Park Crew*: Staff presented to attendees about the Stream Watch program and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 30
- *Soldotna Chamber Luncheon*: Staff presented an award to a Caring for the Kenai student and shared information about Stream Watch and opportunities. Contacts: 70
- *Cooper Landing Community Club*: Staff presented to attendees about the Stream Watch program and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 15
- *Cooper Landing Senior Center*: Staff presented to attendees about the Stream Watch program and volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 17
- *AK State Park Host Training*: Staff presented to 2019 Camp Hosts about the Stream Watch program and upcoming volunteer training. Contacts: 23
- *Cooper Landing Regatta*: Staff interacted with attendees at an outreach booth promoting Stream Watch. Contacts: 14
- *Kenai River Festival*: Staff and volunteers worked alongside community volunteers to host the Kenai River Festival meanwhile promoting the Stream Watch Program via an outreach booth. Contacts: 4,000
- *Clam Gulch Set Net Outreach and Beach Cleanup*: Staff conducted outreach at the Clam Gulch Setnet fishery while picking trash off the beach and recording it on an Ocean Conservancy data sheet. Contacts: 6
- *David Wartinbee Stream Ecology Talk*: Volunteers and attendees learned about stream ecology and Stream Watch volunteer opportunities. Contacts: 4
- *Fish Week*: Staff interacted with visitors to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge at an outreach booth by cleaning and sorting line and promoting the Stream Watch program. Contacts: 48
- *Russian River Falls Interpretive Hike*: Staff and youth hiked to the Russian River Falls and learned about the history of the Russian River, the lifecycle of salmon, and youth opportunities in environmental stewardship. Contacts: 14
- *Russian River Weir Interpretive Hike*: Staff and volunteers hiked to the Russian River weir and learned about salmon runs and sampling. Contacts: 5
- *Salmonfest*: Staff interacted with festival attendees during the festival at an outreach booth and through parody performances to promote the Stream Watch program. Contacts: 300+ 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, Cooper Landing, Homer, Anchor Point, Soldotna and Kenai.

Radio messaging: KDLL 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 23
- Western Peninsula Program: June 1 – September 23
- Southern Peninsula Program: July 1 – September 23

Ambassador Training/Orientation

- Cooper Landing School, June 1st, 18 volunteers in attendance
- Ron Gilman River Center, June 22nd, 23 volunteers in attendance
- Homer Chamber of Commerce, June 29th, 1 volunteer in attendance
- Assorted small orientations for returning ambassadors, 6 volunteers

Ambassador Demographic

- For 2019, 48 volunteers participated as trained Stream Watch Ambassadors.
- Volunteer diversity changed this year, attracting 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 22 Stewardship Work Days were held during the 2019 season:

- **Coastal Code Cleanup (A):** Volunteers assisted KWF staff as part of Alaska Brewing Company's State-wide cleanup (1 staff + 35 volunteers)
- **Green UP Clean UP (B):** Participants assisted the Refuge in it's Green UP Clean UP event by cleaning Sportsman's Landing (2 staff + 1 volunteer)
- **Moose Range Meadows Fencing Part 1 (C):** Volunteers assisted KWF staff with installing posts for habitat fencing at Moose Range Meadows (2 staff + 5 volunteers)

- **Moose Range Meadows Fencing Part 2 (D):** Volunteers assisted KWF staff with installing habitat fencing at Moose Range Meadows (2 staff + 5 volunteers)
- **Spruce Tree Revetment at Soldotna Creek Park (E):** KWF staff, State Park Ranger Melissa Smith, and volunteers cabled spruce trees to the stream bank to prevent erosion (2 staff + 2 volunteers)
- **Regatta Cleanup Float (F):** Volunteers floated the Kenai River and picked up trash. (6 volunteers)
- **South Kasilof Beach Cleanup (G):** KWF staff and volunteers cleaned trash off the South Kasilof Beach (4 staff + 4 volunteers)
- **Morgan's Landing Fencing and Trail Maintenance (H):** KWF staff, State Park Ranger Melissa Smith, YCC crew, and volunteers completed Spring trail maintenance (2 staff + 9 volunteers)
- **YCC Cleanup on the Kasilof (I):** YCC crew assisted staff with cleaning up trash on both the North and South Kasilof Beach (3 staff + 6 volunteers)
- **Boardwalk Installation on the Kenai River at Funny River Campground (J):** KWF staff, State Park staff, and one volunteer installed boardwalk sections and fishing piers to prevent erosion (5 staff + 1 volunteer)
- **Trash-ercise Tuesdays (K, M, O, P, R, T):** KWF staff and volunteers cleaned the Kasilof Beach on a weekly basis during dipnetting season while exercising if they chose to do so
- **Mouth of the Anchor Cleanup (L):** KWF staff and volunteers cleaned trash off the beach at the mouth of the Anchor River (1 staff + 3 volunteers)
- **Reed Canary Grass Workshop (N):** KWF staff and volunteers learned about invasive Reed Canary Grass and clipped seed heads at the Russian River to prevent spreading (3 staff + 1 volunteer)
- **Anchor River Beach Cleanup (Q):** KWF staff and volunteers cleaned trash off the banks of the Anchor River and in the campground areas along the river (2 staff + 4 volunteers)
- **Breakdown of the Booth at the Mouth of the Kenai (S):** KWF staff and one volunteer deconstructed the information booth at the Kenai Beach dipnetting site (2 staff + 1 volunteer)
- **Birding and Beach Cleanup on the Kasilof (U):** KWF staff and volunteers learned about birding on the Kasilof from local birders and then cleaned trash off the North and South Kasilof Beach (3 staff + 2 volunteers)
- **Anchor Point Beach Cleanup and Interpretive Walk (V):** KWF staff and volunteers cleaned Anchor Point Beach and then learned about the weir on the Anchor River (2 staff + 5 volunteers)
- **Appreciation Party Cleanup (W):** KWF staff and volunteers cleaned up after the 25th Anniversary Event (2 staff + 2 volunteers)
- **Carter's Eagle Scout Project (X):** KWF staff and volunteers installed shelves in three caches (2 staff + 5 volunteers)
- **Moose Range Meadow's Fence Down (Y):** Volunteers and KWF staff remove green fencing
- **International Coastal Cleanup (Z):** KWF staff and volunteers cleaned Kasilof beach and collected marine debris data (2 staff + 5 volunteers)
- **Moose Range Meadows Fence Down (A2):** Volunteers and KWF Staff removed t-posts
- **Other (B2):** Volunteers cleaning line and making monotubes and trash buckets (3 volunteers)

2019 Stewardship Project Breakdown

	Date	# of Volunteers	Total Hours	Trash (lbs.)	Fishing Line (lbs.)	Cig. Butts	Contact s	Other Outcomes
A	4/20/2019	35	105	1740	0	514	0	
B	5/4/2019	1	3	15	0	334	0	
C	5/15/2019	5	17.5	0	0	0	0	MRM T posts installed along riverbank
D	5/18/2019	5	25	0	24.16	0	0	MRM fencing installed
E	5/21/2019	2	6.5	0	0	0	2	
F	5/25/2019	6	24	21	1.3	0	20	
G	5/29/2019	5	15	300	0	411	0	
H	6/18/2019	9	63	0	0	0	0	
I	6/25/2019	6	42	420	0	1312	10	
J	6/27/2019	1	3	0	0	0	0	Boardwalk installation
K	7/2/2019	1	3	15	0	83		
L	7/3/2019	3	3	20	0	340	20	
M	7/9/2019	1	2.5	17.5	0	543	8	
N	7/11/2019	1	5	0	0	0	0	Reed canary grass removed
O	7/16/2019	4	7.5	19.5	0	559	6	
P	7/23/2019	4	5	27.5	0	348	3	
Q	7/24/2019	4	8	25.5	2	214	3	
R	7/30/2019	5	12	111	0	1101	2	
S	8/1/2019	1	2.5	0	0	0	0	Kenai shed takedown
T	8/6/2019	4	9.5	235.9	0	555	0	
U	8/8/2019	2	9	461.5	0	123	18	
V	8/24/2019	5	14.5	80.5	0	0	0	
W	9/7/2019	2	5	0	0	0	0	Ap. Party Cleanup
X	9/18/2019	5	24	0	0	0	0	Shelving Construction
Y	9/19/2019	2	12	0	0	0	0	Fence takedown
Z	9/21/2019	3	33.5	0	0	0	0	Coastal Cleanup
A₂	9/23/2019	1	3	0	0	0	0	Fence takedown
B₂	9/25/2019	3	33.5	0	0	0	0	Cleaning line/mono tube
TOTALS		-	481	3783	28	6995	101	-