



Stream Watch Project



44129 Sterling Highway
Soldotna, AK 99669
(907) 260-5449
www.kenaiwatershed.org

Project: Stream Watch

USFWS Cooperative Agreement Award Number: F16AC00877

Reporting Period: June 1, 2016 – December 31, 2018

Report Date: December 2018

Completed By: Alice Main, Kenai Watershed Forum

Project Purpose:

The KPFHP investment of \$23,150 provided a volunteer coordinator who facilitated volunteer driven riparian projects (\$29,178 in match) which increased riparian resiliency to fend off non-native invasive plant establishment (KPFHP identified threat), mitigate climate change (KPFHP identified threat) and fostered an educated and aware public for future development concerns (KPFHP identified threat).

The purpose of this agreement is to support the efforts of Stream Watch to conserve and restore riparian areas to maintain water temperatures, turbidity levels and fish habitat on the Kenai (Target #4), Kasilof (Target #4) and Russian Rivers (Target #7). Trained Stream Watch volunteers protected riparian areas through the installation and maintenance of 2+ miles of temporary fencing, removal of 2,400+ pounds of litter, completion of erosion control projects, and education of more than 2,800 river users about riparian health.

Goals & Objectives:

Stream Watch strives to maintain healthy riparian areas with vegetated riverbanks and cold-water temperatures by coordinating 100 trained volunteers to promote river protection to 4,000+ river enthusiasts and complete river restoration projects (install 2+ miles of plant protection fence, erosion control, remove riverside litter including fishing line) on the Kenai, Kasilof and Russian Rivers.

The goals & objectives for this project included:

- a. Complete volunteer recruitment, coordinate large-scale projects with program partners and obtain permits for projects
- b. Facilitate volunteer orientations, recruit volunteers, install riparian fencing along selected reaches of the Kenai River.
- c. Complete program wrap-up and winterization and remove fencing as appropriate.

Overview of Work Accomplished During Reporting Period:

See table below for specific actions and tasks completed during the reporting period.

Performance Goals/Tasks:	Anticipated Completion Date	Actions/tasks completed
a. Complete volunteer recruitment, coordinate large-scale projects with program partners and obtain permits for projects.	June 2016	Recruited 20 new and 42 returning volunteers. Coordinated several large-scale projects including 4 fence installation/removal events, and 10 large-scale cleanups with 6 program partners.
b. Facilitate volunteer orientations, recruit volunteers, install riparian fencing along selected reaches of the Kenai River.	August 2016	Facilitated two full-day volunteer orientations, recruited 62 seasonal volunteers, and installed 2+ miles of fencing along the Kenai River at the Kenai-Russian River Confluence and Moose Range Meadows
c. Complete program wrap-up and winterization. Remove fencing as appropriate.	September 2016	Completed program wrap-up, inventory, reports, and winterization. Removed fencing at necessary locations.

Other Pertinent Information relevant to project results:

For a more detailed summary of results, see attached Stream Watch 2016 Season Summary.



Growing Strong Roots Since 1994 **Stream Watch 2016 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.

2016 Stream Watch Program: Ambassador and Stewardship Combined Statistics

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total Volunteer Hours	1281.5	1492	1217	1497	1607	1022	816
Public Contacts	2870	4618	3195	4150	4041	3620	2358
Trash Collected (lbs.)	2413	1808	1446	2953 *	851	610	378
Fishing line Collected (lbs.)	75	148.4 2	97	-	-	-	-

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

Program Overview

The Stream Watch program is 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)
- US 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: Melissa Steritz (Kenai Watershed Forum- Lower River) and Tyler Gagat (Chugach National Forest- Upper River)

Program Intern: Madison Perlick (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, Soldotna High School SALT Program, Cook Inlet Academy, Elmira College (New York) and Kenai Peninsula Trout Unlimited Chapter, Youth Conservation Corps.

Stream Watch Outreach and Volunteer Recruitment

Outreach opportunities:

- *Kenai River Clean-up:* Program staff assisted with student clean-ups along the Kenai River. Audience: 100 adults.
- *Kenai Guide Academy:* Outreach presentation at two sessions to incoming Kenai River Guides for recruitment as well as ethical angling information. Audience: 50 adults.
- *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

- *Take a Kid Fishing Day*: The presentation for local and Anchorage Boys & Girls Club members included information on fish habitat and river protection. Audience: 60 children.
- *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

Website postings: [National Forest Foundation](#), Friends of National Forests, [VolunteerMatch](#), [Indeed](#), Facebook (various pages), [Alaska Women's Environmental Network](#) "What's Up" newsletter, Chugach [National Forest website](#), [Volunteer.Gov](#), [Department of Natural Resources--State Parks](#), and Craigslist.

Social Media: Statistics for the Stream Watch Facebook Page

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

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 30th, 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, KBBI Radio.

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

2016 Program Information

Ambassador Volunteer Season

- Upper River Program: June 1—September 12
- Lower River Program: June 6 – September 20

Ambassador Training/Orientation

- Cooper Landing School, June 4th, 31 volunteers in attendance (25 returning, 6 new)
- Ron Gilman River Center, June 25th, 24 volunteers in attendance (13 returning, 11 new)
- Kenai Watershed Forum, July 17th, 7 volunteers in attendance (4 Returning, 3 new)

Ambassador Demographic

- For 2016, 62 volunteers participated as trained Stream Watch Ambassadors. Of these sixty-two volunteers, 42 were returning and 20 were new volunteers.
- Volunteer diversity remained the same (age, residential location, interests)
 - o Approximately 3/5th of our volunteers are retired and living in Cooper Landing or Soldotna. The other 2/5th are mostly family groups from the Soldotna area.
 - o 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 (42 vs 30)
- More Families with kids joined the program this season. (Children were under 16 were allowed to participate with the parents and a coordinator present)

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.

2016 Stream Watch Ambassador Activities

	Bings Landing**	Centennial Park	Moose Range Meadows	Russian River Recreation Site	Kenai-Russian River Ferry	Total
Ambassador Hours	0**	128.75^	49.5 v	483.5^	52.8 v	714.55 v
Public Contacts	0**	469 v	196 v	1965v	240 v	2870 v

Trash Collected (lbs)	0**	67.76^	30.3 v	138.08^	32.24 v	268.48v
Fishing Line Recycled	0**	6.77^	13.36 v	39.503^	15.17 v	74.803 v

^: increase from 2015, =: same as 2015, v: decrease from 2015 **No Bings landing in 2016 due to construction**

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

Stewardship Work Days

The following 17 Stewardship Work Days were held during the 2016 season:

- **Russian River Fence Installation (A):** U.S. Forest Service Staff and youth from the McLaughlin Youth Center installed 1.5 miles of fencing and learned about stream bank protection (11 youth + 6 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 (9 Volunteers + 6 Ambassadors + 1 staff for 4 hours).
- **Moose Rage Meadows Fence Installation (C):** Youth Conservation Corps and Kenai Watershed Forum installed 0.5 miles of fencing and learned about best management practices (8 Volunteers + 3 staff for 7 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Season Preperation (D):** A Stewardship day at Kasilof Beach focused on good signage and fencing maintenance for the upcoming dip net season (1 Volunteer + 3 staff for 2 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (E):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof River (3 Volunteers + 2 staff for 3 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (F):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof River (3 Volunteers + 1 staff for 2 hours).
- **Middle Kenai River Float Cleanup (G):** Volunteers and Staff rafted the river stopping at sites to pick up trash and made public contacts on the middle Kenai River (3 Volunteers + 3 staff for 6 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (H):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof River (7 Volunteers + 2 staff for 2 hours).
- **Russian River & Upper Kenai River Trash Removal/Education Day (I):** Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT) partnered up with US Forest Service and Stream Watch for to educate youth on cultural resources and the historical and current use of native land, remove trash and fishing line from the river system and learn river ecology and sustainability. (14 youth/chaperones + 3 staff for 3 hours)
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (J):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof River North Shore (3 Volunteers + 2 staff for 2.5 hours).

- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (K):** Mclaughlin Youth Center and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof River North Shore (12 Youth + 3 staff for 6 hours).
- **Youth Education Day (L):** Soul river, a group from Oregon that gets veterans and inner city youth outside and fishing together, visited the Russian river to learn about Alaska's river ecology and salmon lifecycle (15 youth and chaperones + 3 staff for 2 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (M):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof River North Shore (7 Volunteers + 2 staff for 3 hours).
- **Kasilof Beach Cleanup (N):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at the mouth of the Kasilof River South Shore (17 Volunteers + 3 staff for 2 hours).
- **Moose Range Meadows Fence Removal (O):** Volunteers were invited to join U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff to remove temporary plant protection fencing from the riverbank along the Kenai River. (1 Volunteer + 16 staff for 3 hours).
- **Quartz Creek Cleanup (P):** Volunteers and Staff picked up trash and made public contacts at Quartz Creek (5 Volunteers + 3 staff for 2.5 hours).
- **Kenai River Cleanup (Q):** SW partnered with Alaska Wildland Adventures and Alaska Fly Fishers to assist in river clean-up efforts along the Upper Kenai River. (3 staff + 3 community members + 17 ambassadors for 5 hours.)

2016 Stewardship Project Breakdown

	Event/Date	Number of Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Number of Staff	Staff Hours	Trash/Line (lbs.)	Outcome
A	5/21/2016	11	66	6 USFS	6	0	1.5 Miles of fence installed @ RR
B	6/7/2016	15	54	1 USFS	4	0	.5 mile of fence install @ RR
C	6/15/2016	8	52	3 KWF	7	0	1.1 miles of fencing installed @ MRM
D	6/29/2016	1	2	3 KWF	2	40	put up signs @ N. Kasilof
E	7/8/2016	3	9	2 KWF	3	170	picked up trash, made 15 contacts
F	7/15/2016	7	14	2 KWF	2	100	picked up trash, made 30 contacts
G	7/18/2016	3	18	3 KWF	6	40	trash collection at several river sites
H	7/20/2016	3	6	1 KWF	2	40	trash collection, made 32 contacts

I	7/22/2016	14	42	2 KWF, 1 USFS	5	0	Education day with KIT @ RR
J	7/27/2016	3	7.5	1 KWF, 1 USFS	2.5	240	North Shore Kasilof cleaned
K	7/30/2016	12	72	3 KWF	6	300	both shores Kasilof cleaned
L	8/4/2016	15	30	1 USFWS, 2 USFS	2	0	Education Day with SOUL River @ RR
M	8/10/2016	7	21	1 KWF, 1USFS	3	380	N. Shore Kasilof cleaned
N	8/11/2016	17	58	3 KWF	2	420	S. Shore Kasilof cleaned
O	8/15/2016`	1	3	4 KWF, 2 USFS, 10 USFW	3	260	fence down at Moose Range M8/eadows
P	8/20/2016	5	12.5	2 USFS, 1 KWF	2.5	25	Quartz Creek Cleanup
Q	9/10/2016	20	100	2 USFS, 1 KWF	5	130	Kenai River Cleanup
	TOTALS	145	567	59	-	2145	
	Event/Date	Number of Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Number of Staff days	Staff Hours	Trash/Line (lbs)	Outcome

Note: As a comparison, there were 17 Stewardship Events with 585.5 volunteer hours and 1052.5 pounds of trash removed in 2015.

Staff River Days/In-Field Hours

	June	July	August	September	Total In-Season River days
Upper Coordinator	16 river days	14 river days	16 river days	11 river days	57 river days
Lower Coordinator	10 river days	13 river days	10 river days	1 river days	34 river days

Lower Intern	11 river days	15 river days	10 river days	0 river days	36 river days
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The Lower River Program had program staff coverage 98 days of the 2015 season.

The Upper River Program had program staff coverage 53 days of the 2015 season.

2017 Stream Watch Orientations

June 3rd, 2016, 10:00am-4:00pm

June 27th, 2016, 10:00am-4:00pm