

# **Final Performance Report for USFWS Agreement F21AC02950-00 (Stream Watch)**

Date: 9/28/2023

Report submitted by: Brandon Drzazgowski, Coordinator, Stream Watch

Reporting Period: June 24, 2021 to May 31, 2023

Project Title: Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Coordination and Projects (Stream Watch)

## **Project Accomplishments by Objective:**

### **Recruiting, training, and coordination 100+ Volunteers**

- The Stream Watch program recruited, trained, and coordinated 120 volunteers to partake in the program (58 in the 2021 season & 62 in the 2022 season).
- Volunteers were trained through an online format in 2021 to accommodate for lasting impacts from COVID-19. However, in-person orientations saw a return in the 2022 season and the program allowed volunteers the choice of either in-person or online training options.
- Stream Watch expanded its influence to younger generations through pairing with youth-based organizations like Global Leadership Adventures and Apogee Adventures. These pairings allowed for stewardship days centered around service and education. Stewardship days with youth programs allowed for tangible results through the removal of litter and invasive species and intangible results through the education of youth on the salmon lifecycle, how to properly care for riparian area, and the importance of healthy habitat for all species (4 days with GLA & 3 days with Apogee Adventures).

### **Installing and maintaining 2+ mille of habitat fencing to protect fragile streambanks**

- Stream Watch volunteers and staff installed and maintained roughly 3.75 miles of habitat fencing to protect fragile streambank. Fencing was installed at multiple project locations including the Russian River Angler Trail, the Russian River Ferry, and both the East and West portions of the Moose Range Meadows fishing site.

### **Providing peer-to-peer education to 3000+ visitors to promote conscientious river visitation, stewardship practices, and general habitat-friendly etiquette**

- Volunteers and staff connected with 9,235 river visitors to promote stewardship practices, ethical angling, and habitat friendly etiquette through peer-to-peer education methods. (5,759 individuals in 2021 and 3,476 individuals in 2022)

### **Construction riverbank revetments as needed to impede erosion and general fish habitat**

- A project was performed in August 2021 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to install staircases at the Ninilchik Scenic View to lessen erosion seen by river users and allow for harmed fish habitat to regenerate.

- In May of 2023, Stream Watch Staff and volunteers performed a cabled spruce tree revetment project along the Kenai River. Spruce trees were cabled into the bank to slow water speed, collect sediment in branches, generate fish habitat, and impede erosion caused by foot traffic along riverbank.

#### **Removing fish passage barrier's as need to restore fish habitat access**

- Stream Watch offered fish passage barrier removal help to project partners over the course of the grant. However, no fish passage barrier removal was required at any project locations over the course of 2021 and 2022.

#### **Removing 2,000+ pounds of liter from the riparian habitat including 100+ pounds of fishing line**

- Over the course of the grant agreement, a total of 5,579lbs of litter were removed from riparian habitat by program volunteers and staff (2,925 lbs. of litter in 2021 and 2,654 lbs. of litter in 2022).
- A total of 392 lbs. of fishing line were removed from riparian habitat (138lbs. in 2021 and 254lbs. in 2022).

#### **Other notable activities**

- Brandon Drzazgowski was hired as the current Stream Watch Coordinator in May of 2022.
- Stream Watch Expanded influence farther south on the Kenai Peninsula through recruitment of more volunteers local to that area, the addition of the Kasilof Dipnet Booth, and 15 stewardship days dedicated to the Southern Peninsula.
- Appreciation events were held at the end of each year to thank volunteers for donating their time to the program and update them on the total impact of the program for each season.