

Kenai Watershed Forum wishes you a Happy Holidays!

Dear KWF Friends,

I would like to take this time to thank caring supporters like you who enable Kenai Watershed Forum to build on the progress we have made and continue focusing on our mission of **“working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula”**.

From habitat restoration projects across the Kenai Peninsula through our Stream Watch and Invasive Species programs to the Adopt-A-Stream education program to important salmon habitat research, you don't have to look far to see the impact your support makes.

To help advance watershed education, restoration, and research on the Kenai Peninsula, **I ask you to please consider making a year-end gift**. There's still time in 2023 to make a special tax-deductible gift to help provide the resources we need.

Thank you again for all that you do and all the best for the upcoming new year!

Sincerely,

Trenten T Dodson
Executive Director
Kenai Watershed Forum



It is humbling to reflect on all that Kenai Watershed Forum shared with me in 2023. It can be difficult to put into words, so I'll do what I do as a researcher, and instead put it into numbers! I'll name a few numbers in my program alone. Over thirty volunteers contributed more than three hundred hours of their time to map seventeen miles of local salmon streams. We maintained over twenty temperature logger sites in local streams, providing data for researchers both today and in the future. We stabilized three hundred feet of eroded river bank on the Kenai River. We collected water samples from twenty-two sites throughout the Kenai River. We presented our research at two statewide conferences, and one fireside chat on a warm fall night outdoors at Kenai River Brewing!

More important than any number, we strengthened relationships with our partners throughout the Kenai Peninsula. Whether it's hearing your phone calls, poring over maps with you in a meeting room, or seeing you out in the field, the relationships we build as a community organization are the foundation of our work. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you out on the river!



Ben Meyer
Environmental Scientist



Brandon Drzazgowski
Stream Watch Coordinator

As someone who grew up outdoors, I spend most of my time fishing, hunting, hiking, or recreating on the Kenai Peninsula. My love for the outdoors inspires my work to keep these natural resources healthy, so others can have the same experience. When I am on the river or in the mountains, I am always amazed at how everything is connected in some way or another. Through the Stream Watch program, I am able to help the public experience these connections and further a sense of stewardship in the community. I feel there is no better way to protect what makes the Kenai Peninsula so special than to inspire others to do the same. Working for KWF is the perfect way to support the things that I am truly passionate about.

The Kenai Peninsula has been my favorite place in the world for my whole life, and for the past year and a half, I have been lucky enough to call it home. Working at the Kenai Watershed Forum has allowed me to explore the Peninsula in a new way and with a new understanding. Whether it's working with other scientists, hosting a KWF outreach event, or meeting with partners and supporters, I have learned so much about this place that I love and the community I have become a part of.

As I look back on the year, I am grateful for everyone that I have had the opportunity to meet and work with so far. The support from partners and community members makes working at KWF so incredibly rewarding. I look forward to building more relationships in the future and continuing to strengthen the ones I have made in my time so far.



Sara Aamodt
Development Coordinator



Candace Nakagawa
Accounts Manager

WOW! I completed my first year at KWF. I have come to cherish more – if possible – my home and the community here on the Peninsula. It truly takes a village to care for each other and our resources. It is a delicate balance between commerce and conservation and development and restoration. With all the different organizations and interest groups here, the Forum is aptly named to be an organization that gathers the divergent agendas and voices, so we can work together as a community to support the health of the watershed that sustains us.

I am grateful for the different and passionate voices, the generosity of our funders and volunteers, and the commitment of the community to honor the environment that sustains us. Thank you! Happy Holidays!

Being able to work and play on the Kenai Peninsula is one of the greatest joys of my life. As adults, we often take for granted the plants and animals we encounter every day. Salmon fighting their way upstream, moose nibbling on willows, and cottonwood fluff drifting through the wind are common summer sights. Often so common, that I forget to take a breath and experience these natural wonders taking place before me. Working for the Kenai Watershed Forum has allowed me to rediscover my child-like joy for the natural world. Chasing cottonwood fluff and watching salmon swim upstream while children giggle and shout “Go salmon! Go!” reminds me to slow down, and appreciate the natural joys of this place I am lucky to call home.



Katey Shedden
Education Specialist



Bonnie Bernard
Invasive Species Coordinator

One of the things I love most about the Kenai Peninsula is the ecological diversity contained within our relatively small footprint-- from the black spruce bogs in my backyard, to the dwarf shrub tundra and subalpine hemlock groves of the Kenai Mountains, to the Sitka spruce cathedrals of the coastal rainforests. As an environmental scientist with KWF, my job is to continually learn about and advocate for these communities I love. I also have the privilege of calling these ecosystems my "office" for half the year! When field season is finally over, I remain inspired by the enthusiasm and creativity of our awesome KWF team.

Your support is what makes our mission possible! As this year comes to an end, please consider making a tax-deductible, year-end donation so that we may continue working for healthier watersheds.