



2024 STREAM WATCH VOLUNTEER MANUAL

Volunteers Making a Difference on the Kenai Peninsula!

<http://kenaiwatershed.org/community-outreach/stream-watch/>

Dear Volunteer,

Thank you for volunteering to make a difference with Stream Watch this summer!

Beginning in 1994, volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours protecting and conserving the important natural and cultural resources on the Russian and upper Kenai River through assisting with hands-on stewardship projects and peer-to-peer education. In 2011, Stream Watch was expanded to include additional popular recreation and fishing sites on the lower Kenai Peninsula in hopes of making a bigger difference educating anglers and visitors about how to reduce their impacts on the land, fish, wildlife and cultural resources.

In addition to great work on the ground, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the company of other dedicated volunteers while working in some of the most beautiful places on the planet. As the eyes and ears of the land managing agencies, your presence, your concern and your efforts to protect Kenai Peninsula rivers will have a lasting impact. Every time you answer a question, pick up a piece of trash, or mend a river protection fence, you can be assured that you are making a HUGE difference!

On behalf of the partner agencies and entities, we sincerely thank you for your time and dedication and look forward to working with you this season.

Be safe and have fun!

AK Department of Natural Resources: Division of Land, Mining & Water

AK Department of Natural Resources: State Parks

Chugach National Forest

City of Soldotna

City of Kenai

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Table of Contents | 1 |
| Stream Watch – “At a Glance” | 2 |
| Stream Watch Sites at a Glance | 5 |
| Day in the Life of a Stream Watch Ambassador | 7 |
| Safety | 8 |
| Educational Messages | 14 |
| Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) From Visitors | 17 |
| Site Descriptions | 19 |
| Kenai-Russian River Complex | 19 |
| Bing’s Landing-Kenai River Special Management | 22 |
| Moose Range Meadows | 24 |
| Centennial Park, City of Soldotna | 26 |
| Kenai Beach | 28 |
| Mouth of the Kasilof River | 30 |
| Kasilof River Boat Launch | 32 |
| Ninilchik River | 34 |
| Deep Creek | 36 |
| Anchor River | 38 |
| Important Dates | 40 |
| Key Contacts | 42 |
| Additional Resources | 44 |
| 2024 Stream Watch Volunteer Agreement | 47 |

Stream Watch – “At a Glance”

Mission

Assisting Kenai Peninsula land management agencies with river protection projects and peer-to-peer environmental education to Kenai Peninsula visitors and residents.

Introduction

Each year hundreds of thousands of local, national, and international visitors come to the Kenai Peninsula to enjoy world-class recreational opportunities including some of the best trout and salmon fishing on the planet. The impacts of this can be many. If not managed effectively, the rivers and surrounding areas can begin to deteriorate from litter, trampled plants, illegal fishing or other inappropriate uses. To help ensure that these special places and the plentiful natural resources are not jeopardized, volunteers play a critical role in assisting the partner agencies in being the eyes, ears, and hands on the ground each season. Since the creation of the program in 1994, Stream Watch has grown from only a handful of people to over 60 active volunteers who work on major waterways throughout the Kenai Peninsula.

Administration and Partners

The Stream Watch program is jointly administered by the Chugach National Forest and the Kenai Watershed Forum in partnership with the following:

- Alaska Department of Natural Resources
 - Department of Mining, Land and Water
 - Alaska State Parks
- City of Soldotna
- Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
- Kenai Peninsula Borough

Volunteer Coordinators

Two volunteer coordinators provide support to Stream Watch volunteers. Duties of the coordinators include: volunteer training, scheduling, special event planning and assisting with on-the-ground projects such as fence installation and litter patrols. Responsibilities include:

Schedule, coordinate, and provide on-site support for volunteers

Develop and facilitate projects

Act as liaison between agency managers, on-site staff, and volunteers

Collect data and report

Supporters

The Stream Watch program's success is attributed to the dedication of individual volunteers and groups such as Alaska Fly Fishers, Alaska Geographic, Alaska Recreational Management, Alaska Wildland Adventures, City of Kenai, ConocoPhillips, McLaughlin Youth Center, Trout Unlimited, Youth Restoration Corps and more. These groups have supported

the program by providing staff or financial resources as available over the years.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are two ways to get involved with the program:

Ambassador Program

Ambassadors are trained volunteers that donate *at least* 24 hours during the summer 2024 season and are provided with incentives for making an ongoing commitment to the program.

Stewardship Day Program

Provide volunteers an opportunity to get their feet wet during a one-day project like river clean-ups, erosion control projects and fence installation. If you know of a group who would like to participate or you would like to be a volunteer leader for the day, please contact a volunteer coordinator.

Training

Volunteers receive a mandatory, in-depth training on effective outreach and program protocols, logistics and safety. In addition to a pre-season training session, on-site river orientations are scheduled with new volunteers to familiarize them with site specifics including logistics and educational messaging. There is an online option to obtain your orientation and there will also be an in-person orientation in Cooper Landing on June 1, 2024. After completing pre-season orientation, contact the Stream Watch Coordinator in your area and set up a time for your on-river orientation.

Agency Abbreviations

ADFG (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

ARM (Alaska Recreational Management, Inc)

CNF (Chugach National Forest)

DNR (Alaska Department of Natural Resources)

KNWR (Kenai National Wildlife Refuge)

KWF (Kenai Watershed Forum)

USFS (United States Forest Service)

USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)

Stream Watch Sites at a Glance

| Site | Key Messages | Priority Tasks |
|--|---|---|
| Russian and Upper Kenai River (USFS and USFWS) | Proper river access and habitat protection (boardwalk & designated trails) Bear safety (food storage order, fish possession, etc.) Fish waste management Fishing regulations | Education Fence mending Sign maintenance Litter |
| Bings Landing (Alaska State Parks) | Proper river access (designated trails & access points) Restroom awareness Bear safety Fish waste management Parking and regulations | Check in with campground host Share parking info Education (river bank protection) Litter |
| Moose Range Meadows (USFWS) | Proper river access (boardwalks) Bear safety In-water fishing regulation Regulations and leave no trace (LNT) | Education (River bank & LNT) Fence mending Litter Sign Maintenance |
| Centennial Park (City of Soldotna) | Restroom awareness Fish waste management Proper river access (handicap boardwalk) Bear safety | Check in with campground host Share parking info Education (fish cleaning station) Monofilament collection Sign maintenance Litter |
| Kenai Beach (City of Kenai) | Dune protection Restroom awareness Leave no trace (LNT) Bear safety Fish waste management Cultural resource protection Ethical angling and regulations | Education/Dipnet Booth (dune protection, restrooms, LNT) Document vandalism Litter |
| Kasilof River Special Use Are (Division of Mining, Land & Water) | Dune protection Restroom awareness Leave no trace (LNT) Bear safety Fish waste management Cultural resource protection Ethical angling and regulations | Education (dune protection, restrooms, LNT) Document vandalism Litter |

| Site | Key Messages | Priority Tasks |
|--|---|---|
| Kasilof River Boat Launch (Alaska State Parks) | Importance of riparian vegetation Fish Waste Management Ethical angling and regulations | Education Monitoring impact on riparian vegetation by foot traffic Trash pickup |
| Ninilchik River (Alaska State Parks) | Proper river access Restroom awareness Bear safety Fish waste management Cultural resource protection Ethical angling and regulations | Education Trash pickup |
| Deep Creek (Alaska State Parks) | Proper river access Restroom awareness Bear safety Fish waste management Cultural resource protection Ethical angling and regulations | Education Trash pickup |
| Anchor River (Alaska State Parks) | Proper river access Restroom awareness Moose awareness (calving) Bear safety Fish waste management Cultural resource protection Ethical angling and regulations | Check in with campground host Share parking info Education Trash pickup Moose hazards notifications |

Day in the Life of a Stream Watch Ambassador

Diverse opportunities and duties exist with the Stream Watch program. As a volunteer, you have the opportunity to schedule work on any of the sites on the Kenai Peninsula based on site preference and availability. In addition, the program's success has been built upon working with individuals to craft a plan to meet both the needs of the site and the abilities of the volunteer(s).

Duties

Duties can include:

- Walking trails and informing the public about diverse topics (habitat protection, bear awareness, regulations, fish waste management, fishing techniques)
- Stationing in key locations to alert visitors about important information (regulation change/bear safety)
- Installing or mending river protection fences on trails or along the river
- Completing hands-on projects for erosion control
- Picking up litter and/or monofilament fishing line

Volunteer Commitment

Becoming a Stream Watch Ambassador is a commitment to the river and to the program! By signing the *mandatory* volunteer agreement, volunteers agree to follow the program protocols, complete required paperwork, and commit to volunteering *at least 24 hours* during the summer season. The agreement must be signed before an individual is allowed to volunteer at Stream Watch sites. If you are not able to complete your 24 hours of volunteer time, please discuss this with a volunteer coordinator. The orientation counts toward the 24 hour volunteer minimum.

Scheduling

Ambassadors must schedule their time with a Stream Watch Coordinator during orientation or at least 24 hours ahead of scheduled shifts. We understand that sometimes plans change. If this is the case, please notify your coordinator of new volunteer times as soon as you can. **If the coordinator is not notified of your participation that day, you will not be considered a volunteer for insurance and liability purposes.** We want to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, so please schedule shifts with as much notice as possible. Scheduling in advance helps to coordinate volunteer pairs, which is a requirement due to safety reasons, as well as increases efficiency. Volunteer shifts vary June through September.

Uniform

Ambassadors are provided with an official Stream Watch uniform. The uniform includes a Stream Watch fly-fishing shirt and hat. Ambassadors must wear their uniform while volunteering. A uniformed volunteer provides an additional presence at each site. At the end of the season please return your uniform if you will not be returning to volunteer next year.

Equipment

While actively volunteering, volunteers are loaned equipment to complete program projects. Equipment is stored at the site caches as they are shared resources for all volunteers. In addition to required items (uniform, bear spray, radio, first aid kit, and counter), equipment and supplies may include: outreach materials, gloves, and fencing supplies. If supply inventory is running low or is insufficient, bring it to the attention of a coordinator.

Free Volunteer Camp Sites

Free volunteer camping sites have been provided by program partners as an incentive to volunteers. These sites are booked through the coordinators. Ambassadors are expected to complete a volunteer shift each day that they camp. In addition to the shift day, volunteers are allowed one check-in and one check-out day. Sites are limited, so stays are restricted to no more than 3 days per visit, with at least 7 days between visits. We hope that through fair scheduling, all volunteers will have access to campsites when volunteering in these areas.

Upper River/Northern Peninsula Program

Alaska Recreational Management has provided one campsite at the Russian River Campground (can accommodate one RV and one additional vehicle and tent) and one RV site at the Russian River Ferry.

Lower River/Western Peninsula Program

The City of Soldotna has provided one campsite at Centennial Park and one campsite at Swiftwater Park. Each site accommodates one RV but requires reservations in advance with the Lower River Coordinator (KWF Coordinator). Kasilof River Special Use Area has primitive camping available.

Appreciation Event

Stream Watch Ambassadors that meet the program requirements and donate at least 24 hours of their time during the Stream Watch season are encouraged to attend. Volunteers will be recognized for their efforts to make a difference on the Kenai Peninsula through this annual appreciation event.

Safety

Your safety and the safety of others around you is the MOST IMPORTANT aspect of Stream Watch involvement. You should feel safe and have an enjoyable experience as a Stream Watch Ambassador. If you do not feel safe completing a task, do not complete the task and discuss it with a coordinator as soon as possible. A Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) will be provided. You must review and sign the JHA before you are allowed to volunteer with the Stream Watch program.

Covid-19

We continue to take the threat of Covid-19 seriously and will follow the most current State of Alaska and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to ensure the safety of our volunteers. We will continue to implement the following precautions during the 2024 season.

- Stream Watch caches will be stocked with hand sanitizer and disinfectants so that volunteers can sanitize as they see fit.
- Use your best judgment. If you are feeling ill, refrain from volunteering until you feel better.

Transportation

As a volunteer, your safety is very important. Driving on the Seward and Sterling Highways might be the most dangerous part of our day. Please drive defensively and always be aware of your surroundings, including road conditions, visibility, traffic and wildlife crossings. It is the policy of Stream Watch that the use of cell phones, including calls and texting while driving, is highly discouraged.

Field Work

Volunteers must work in groups of 2 or more to limit safety concerns (wildlife interactions, hostile public, etc.) and to promote a social volunteer experience. Some other considerations are as follows:

- Be aware of inclement weather, uneven terrain, wildlife, overhead dangers (e.g. trees, power lines, fishing rods) and other people.
- Some duties may require entering the water (this however is an optional activity), if entering the water be sure to have proper footing and follow the training techniques covered in the swift water safety training.
- Be prepared with adequate clothing for each project (i.e. eye protection, pants, closed toe boots).
- Protective eyewear is highly recommended to provide protection from fishing tackle, tree limbs, etc.
- First aid kits are provided and required to be carried by every volunteer pair. Be aware of the contents of your first aid kit and know your location at all times.
- If you are allergic to bees, let your volunteer partner know and carry your prescription EpiPen at all times.

- Communication devices are provided for safety and official use.

Litter

You may encounter sharp objects (e.g. broken glass, fish hooks, and fish fins) and unsanitary items (e.g. diapers, toilet paper, rotting fish). Wear gloves and be aware of sharp objects. The use of garbage pickers and wearing gloves is highly recommended. Do not pull the fishing line when collecting it as it may snap and fling tackle at you. After handling litter, use hand sanitizer until you are able to wash with antibacterial soap and water.

Wildlife Interactions

As a volunteer, you will work at sites that wildlife frequent. You may see bears (black and brown) and moose on trails, in campgrounds, and along the river. It is important to be aware of your surroundings and make noise to reduce the chance of an adverse interaction. If you notice signs of recent or potential bear activity (smells or scavenger birds can mean that a fresh moose kill is near, fresh tracks or scat, etc.), reroute.

Your safety is the highest priority. Inform a coordinator of your experience and document it on the daily data sheet. Each volunteer is required to have bear spray on their person while volunteering even in areas that are not known to have a lot of bear activity. Recognize that the entire Kenai Peninsula is bear country and they can be anywhere at any time.

If a volunteer discharges bear spray, the incident is to be reported to the coordinator immediately. Spent canisters will be collected to remove them from the volunteer cache and recycled appropriately. Volunteers are NOT able to volunteer with personal firearms or pets. Volunteers are not to act as bear guides, nor guards to the general public. Bear safety will be provided with more detailed information.

Interacting with the Public

Ambassadors share educational messages and give context to the rules and regulations for each specific site. Volunteers are providing factual information for people to make informed decisions. Ambassadors do not enforce the rules and regulations but instead can alert the proper authorities to a concerning individual or situation.

Recognize that not all people are going to want to converse or receive educational messaging. That's okay! The best course of action to take in peer-to-peer interactions is to let the member of the public lead the discussion. Talk about whatever that individual seems interested in, and try to find avenues to integrate Stream Watch messages. For example, if an angler mentions how beautiful the area is. That is a great opportunity to talk about how healthy vegetation not only adds to the aesthetics of the area, but also has important ecological functions.

Hostile People

Ambassadors share educational messages and give context to the rules and regulations. Not all people are receptive to this. Before approaching anyone, volunteer pairs should survey the scene to be aware of the individual's current state (emotional, physical, mental). Recognize that not every situation is a safe situation to walk into. Continue to be aware of the situation as you converse. For your safety, never get closer than 3 feet to another person and always allow for a way out of a situation. If you feel uncomfortable with a situation, exit as soon as possible and contact a Stream Watch Coordinator as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns or a request for a reasonable accommodation bring them to the attention of the Stream Watch Coordinators as soon as possible.

Ice Breaking Jokes

Who doesn't appreciate a terrible fish joke? Use these jokes to break the ice with people you meet on the river to create a friendly conversation.

Why are fish so gullible? They fall for things hook, line and sinker!

What kind of music should you listen to while fishing? Something catchy!

Where do fish keep their money? In a riverbank.

How do you communicate with a fish? Drop it a line.

Why can't you tell a joke while ice fishing? Because it'll crack you up!

Where do fish sleep? In a riverbed.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia can be a serious threat to your life. Awareness is key. To prevent hypothermia, avoid exhaustion by knowing your limits. Wear adequate footwear, layered clothing (wool or other synthetic materials), hat, and gloves. Bring full rain gear and an extra change of clothes to keep in a backpack or stage in a nearby vehicle. Early symptoms of hypothermia include intense shivering, fatigue, stumbling, poor coordination, blueness or puffiness of skin, irrationality, or irregular or weak pulse. If you notice symptoms in yourself or someone in the public, seek shelter from wind and weather to warm them while contacting 911. See Emergency Protocol on page 12.

Communication

Although cell phone reception has improved in many areas, it is not reliable at all sites, so radios are provided. Volunteers are encouraged to carry their personal cell phone as well as a radio. Program communication devices are provided for safety and official use only.

Russian River Confluence Stream Watch Sites

Staff and volunteers will be issued 2-way radios to communicate with one another while on site. Typical radio topics might include location updates, bear sightings, safety concerns, and questions.

Radio Contact Information

| Entity | Radio Frequency |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| | |
| USFS (Campground) | 6-2 |
| ARM (Campground) | 7-5 |
| ARM (Ferry) | 5-5 |

Liability and Tort Claims

If you are injured while volunteering on federal land (Chugach National Forest and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge), the government's worker's compensation coverage will apply to you to the same extent that it does for federal employees, as long as you have current volunteer paperwork on file and are acting in accordance with Stream Watch protocols. If you are sued for damage to property or for personal injury, including death, while volunteering on federal land, the government will defend you under the provisions of the Tort Claim Act as long as your actions are in accordance with Stream Watch protocols and to your level of certified training. These protections do not apply at Stream Watch sites on State or private land. Regardless of where you are working, always follow the Stream Watch protocols to avoid injuries and potential conflict with the public.

Emergency Protocols

While rare, emergencies can occur. Observe and assess each situation before entering into an action. Do NOT attempt to intervene. As a Stream Watch Ambassador your safety is the highest priority. You serve best to alert authorities and manage the scene.

You may encounter situations where first aid might be necessary. As a volunteer, the partner agencies do not expect you to respond to any safety emergencies at Stream Watch sites. We do hope, however, that you will use common sense and do everything possible to keep yourself and your volunteer partners safe. At times you may observe a need at a volunteer site, and it is up to you on how to handle it based on your qualifications (CPR, WFR, EMT certifications) or the Alaska "Good Samaritan" law.

Medical Emergencies

You may encounter situations or situations may be brought to your attention where first aid might be necessary. Your first action should be to **call 911**. If you are volunteering on a Lower River site and do not get cell phone reception, use the emergency yellow radio to identify yourself as a Stream Watch Volunteer to the dispatcher. The dispatcher will direct you from there.

Know your location and stay on the phone with the dispatcher until they inform you to disconnect. If you have someone else to stay on the phone with the dispatcher and you have a current first aid certification, assess the situation. If you feel inclined, identify yourself as a certified first aid volunteer and offer assistance per your training. If aid is declined, offer a first aid kit. It is against Stream Watch policy to remove fish hooks on others. Once help arrives or as soon as practical, contact the Stream Watch Coordinator or a supervisor listed in the contact information section.

Non-Emergency Situations

You may encounter situations that do not warrant a 911 call but are still pressing. In this case contact a Stream Watch Coordinator. If you are not able to connect with a coordinator leave a message and then contact the **Alaska State Trooper Non-Emergency Line at (907) 262-4453**.

Educational Messages

Education is the focus of the program. Ambassadors share educational messages and give context to the rules and regulations so that people can make educated decisions. Ambassadors do not participate in enforcement. Before you approach anyone, survey the scene and prepare your educational message, highlighting people's options. If you are not certain of site specific rules or regulations, be honest with the public and contact a Stream Watch Coordinator or an agency staff member for clarification. You will also find resources in this manual and on the volunteer webpage.

While Stream Watch sites are unique and different from one another, it is important that volunteers maintain uniformity in educational messages. This benefits volunteers, the general public and makes the message more effective.

Please use the following to help you craft your personal educational messages:

Historical and Geographical Acknowledgement

Up until 15,000 years ago, the Kenai Peninsula was covered by several thousand feet of glacial ice, making it uninhabitable to most life forms; however, during the final episode of the Pleistocene ice age, the Kenai Peninsula began to take on the unique geography it is known for today, as the draining and retreat of glaciers over the landmass carved a combination of lakes, marshes, rivers, mountains, and fjords onto the landscape, paving the way for the first humans to settle on the peninsula.

Current evidence shows that humans began settling on the peninsula between 7000 and 8000 B.C. For many years, the Kenai Peninsula has sustained a multitude of cultures, many of which have depended on the region's rich salmon resources. Predating European contact, the Kachemak tradition was established in 1000 B.C., and later, the Dena'ina Athabaskan people, or "Kenaitze" after which the peninsula is named, settled around 1000 A.D. In more recent history, the peninsula continued to develop as English and Russian explorers established ports, trading posts, schools, highways and post offices throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. A combination of influences, in the geological, natural and cultural sense, have made the Kenai Peninsula what it is today.

River Health and Protection

A healthy river is surrounded by a mixture of trees, shrubs and grasses. Due to the popularity of many fishing areas on the Kenai Peninsula, river health can suffer. Anglers can trample streamside plants resulting in poor water quality (dirt in the water) which negatively impacts fish (smothers eggs, stresses adults, etc). Currently many Stream Watch sites have designated trails and raised walkways to protect riverside plants. Some sites have regulations stipulating that fishing only occurs in the water. This means that gear, including nets, poles and personal items cannot be stored on the riverbank as they result in trampled plants. If we protect the plants, we protect the river.

Key Message: Please help by keeping gear off of riverside plants and by using designated trails and raised walkways. Protecting the plants means protecting the river.

Bear Awareness

Alaska is bear country and both black and brown bears can be present at Stream Watch sites. Ambassadors are required to work in groups of at least two and to carry bear spray to increase safety. The best action to take in bear country is prevention. Look for signs of bears (fresh tracks, scat, kill pile, etc) and if the signs are evident, avoid the area and report what you observed to a Stream Watch volunteer coordinator. Be aware of your surroundings and make noise to prevent surprising bears. A fed bear is a dead bear, so store personal gear (i.e. fishing gear, garbage, food, beverages, and personal hygiene items) responsibly in your car, in a bear resistant container, or within reach at all times. When bears are rewarded with human food and waste (including fish waste), bears learn to approach humans and dangerous interactions between bears and people can occur. Always follow site-specific regulations to help keep visitors safe and bears wild.

Key Message: Store personal gear (i.e. fishing gear, garbage, food, beverages, and personal hygiene items) responsibly in your car, in a bear resistant container, or within reach at all times while fishing to ensure that bears stay wild. Manage fish waste responsibly by following local agency recommendations and site specific rules.

Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace is a concept that has a variety of practices to reduce human impact in the outdoors. The goal is to leave no trace of your experience so that if another person were to come to the exact same location that you were just at, they would never know you were there because of how you left it. Using Leave No Trace practices help protect the outdoors and preserve it for the future.

Key Message: Please pack out what you pack in. Help collect litter that has been left behind to protect wildlife and sites for the future.

Litter

Any item left behind that would not naturally be found in an area can be considered litter. According to Alaska State Law 46.06.080 litter is prohibited and a person may not throw, discard, or otherwise dispose of litter in the state, both on public and/or private lands, unless the area is a designated sanitary disposal site or litter is placed in an authorized container. Most Stream Watch sites require visitors to pack in their supplies and pack everything, including trash, out with them. Litter can include fishing line, used cigarettes, and fish waste in addition to more common items like beverage containers and food wrappers. Litter is not only unsightly, detracting from the natural beauty of an area but it also poses serious threats to humans and wildlife.

Key Message: Please pack out what you pack in and help collect litter and fishing

line that has been left behind to protect wildlife and people.

Fishing Line

Fishing line can wreak havoc on wildlife. Entanglement and digested line can prove fatal for birds and fish. Starvation is the most common demise for animals that encounter fishing line. Stream Watch shares this information with anglers and collects fishing line to reduce the danger for wildlife. Litter laws may apply. A specific type of fishing line, monofilament line, is collected separately and is sent to be recycled into fresh water fish habitat restoration structures.

Key Message: Use fishing line collection receptacles for any unwanted fishing line. Boxes or tubes have been provided at all Stream Watch sites.

Human Waste

Leave no trace practices for human waste differ based on the location. Streams, lakes and rivers can become contaminated from human waste. This poses a threat to both humans and wildlife. Stream Watch sites tend to be very popular sites with a lot of visitors so it is important to reduce the impact to these sites and use designated toilet facilities if they are available. If they are not available packing out waste is the preferred way to limit your impact.

Key Message: Use restroom facilities when available or use products like WAG bags that are designed for recreationists use when restroom facilities are not available. Packing out waste minimizes impacts to the land and to sensitive cultural sites.

Fish Waste

Fish waste is an important part of a natural system. Anadromous fish are fish that are born in freshwater, spend some parts of their life in salt water and return to freshwater to breed, bringing important ocean derived nutrients back to the streams. When they spawn and die those nutrients nourish the surrounding area including the trees and a new generation of fish. However, when anglers discard unnatural human-generated fish waste into the river, it can accumulate and attract bears. Bears that learn to feed on unnatural food sources can lead to potentially dangerous situations for both the anglers and wildlife. Because of this, it is important to take care of fish waste in a responsible manner by following the rules at each fishing site. In addition to attracting bears, fish waste can also create problems in the form of pollution and unsightly and smelly messes along the banks.

Key Message: Each site's fish waste rules may vary. Be aware and follow specific rules at each site.

Wildlife Harassment

As a part of the leave no trace ethic, which works to drastically minimize the impact each person has outdoors, maintaining a safe distance from wildlife is another important concept. Give wildlife space. In the state of Alaska it is illegal to repeatedly approach an animal in a manner that results in the animal altering its behavior. This is to protect people and wildlife.

Key Message: Minimize stress on wildlife that are utilizing the river by giving them space. Never approach to get a better photograph.

Non-native Plants & Animals

Plants from other areas, as well as animals, can be transported by a variety of means: outdoor gear, wind, animals, vehicles, etc. Once they arrive and become established they can take over an area because they do not have any natural predators. This can create a major issue for other plants and/or animals that depend on the replaced plant. Outdoor enthusiasts should consider washing and drying all outdoor gear between uses to discourage the spread of unwanted plants and animals.

Key Message: Felt Soled Waders

As of January 1, 2012, it is illegal to wear felt soled waders in Alaskan waters. The felt traps disease, non-native plant seeds and spores, as well as larvae of non-native animals, and could threaten native Alaskan wildlife like salmon. Felt soled waders have been banned because they pose a major threat due to the likelihood of spreading invasive plants and animals. Regardless of what type of gear an outdoorsman uses, they should seriously consider rinsing and drying gear between uses to prevent the spread of non-native plants & animals.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) From Visitors

What is Stream Watch?

Each summer, dedicated Stream Watch volunteers go out to popular river sites on the Kenai Peninsula. They share local information on river stewardship, agency regulations and bear safety.

Since 1994, volunteers have been giving back to the rivers that continue to give so much to all of us. If you want to make a difference on the Kenai Peninsula, get involved today! Volunteer your time this season. All of the training and supplies are provided.

Where can I find bears?

Alaska is bear country. You could encounter a bear anywhere at any time. Your safety is your responsibility so be aware of your surroundings by staying alert and make noise so that you do not surprise a bear. Never approach a bear, especially to get a better photo. Feeding bears is illegal and creates a bigger problem for you and the bear. Stream Watch volunteers are neither bear guides nor bear guards.

Why aren't there garbage cans out here?

Most of the sites are "Pack it in - Pack it out" sites. Garbage attracts bears so trash is the responsibility of the individual. Because of this garbage cans are not provided.

What is wrong with hanging my coat/net/lunch off of the fence?

The purpose of the fence is to restrict entrance into a designated restoration area. The area

behind the fence is important to the river because the plants keep the river healthy. If you hang your personal items off of it then the fence is compromised and needs to be maintained. Agencies do not have the staff available to maintain the fence so volunteers donate their time to maintain it. If the fence isn't maintained then people enter the restricted restoration area, negatively impacting the river.

I don't live here but I enjoy visiting. How can I help?

Alaska may not be your home but it is home to over 700,000 people and hundreds of different kinds of animals. If you value your experience here in the legendary landscape and enjoy fishing, we hope you do care. By picking up litter, you keep wildlife wild and reduce potentially unsafe human interactions. By protecting the riverside plants, you support future fish. Your care and following of the regulations will protect Alaska for the future.

What do you mean I can't keep my backpack over there on the riverbank? I'm right here.

It is important to keep your backpack/cooler/gear near you to protect yourself, the plants and wildlife. It is also a fineable offense at some sites. When bears and other wildlife become accustomed to consuming human food, dangerous interactions between the two often result. Even if you do not have food in your backpack, a habituated animal might think you do. Keeping your gear and all personal items within reach helps in being aware of your surroundings and able to relocate quickly if necessary. Also, backpacks/coolers/gear placed on the riverbank tramples and kills the vegetation which degrades the river, impacting fish habitat.

Why should I throw my fish carcass in deep, fast moving water?

When bears and other wildlife become accustomed to consuming human derived food (i.e. fileted fish waste), dangerous interactions between wildlife and people can result. Cutting up your fish waste into small pieces and throwing it into deep, fast moving water moves the waste downriver so that it does not end up as a human-derived meal for wildlife.

Site Descriptions



Kenai-Russian River Complex

The Kenai-Russian River Complex (KRRC), defined as a five-mile radius from the Kenai and Russian River's confluence, is one of the most popular destinations in the state due to the world class salmon and trout fisheries. The Russian River is unique because half of the area is managed by the Chugach National Forest and the remaining land is managed by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The Kenai Refuge and Chugach Forest have collaborated to produce consistent regulations on both sides of the Russian River. As many as 150,000 people visit each summer season, drawn to the world famous fishery and recreation site that includes day use facilities, trails, cabins, and an 83 site campground. The Kenai-Russian River Ferry and Russian River Campground are operated by Alaska Recreational Management, Inc (ARM). The Russian River Ferry is a non-motorized ferryboat used to transport people across the Kenai River to access the area. Many people come to sport or subsistence fish while others come to hike, camp, and view the Russian River Falls where salmon leap up the falls to their spawning grounds. For thousands of years, people have been drawn to the Russian River area. Archaeological evidence and oral history show that Alaska Natives and early settlers harvested the abundant sockeye salmon runs where people continue to fish today.

Stream Watch maintains two caches in the area, one at the Pink Salmon parking lot within the Russian River campground, and one at the Russian River Ferry.

The Russian River is in the heart of bear country and visitors need to be bear-aware at all times in both the developed and undeveloped areas of this site.

Common Messages

Proper river access: promote the use of boardwalks and designated trails to protect riverside plants. The plants are very important to protect the river which in turn protects the fish.

Bear safety: In addition to regular bear safety activities, there are regulations in place to protect both wildlife and people.

Fishing regulations: Many people need help interpreting the special fishing regulations (hook size, emergency orders, etc.) that apply to the Russian and Upper Kenai Rivers.

Fish Waste Management: Anglers are asked to remove fish whole in the KRRC. If they must filet, go to the confluence of the Kenai and Russian Rivers and use tables that are provided. When fileting at the confluence, anglers need to cut carcasses up

into numerous pieces before throwing into the fast current.

Priority Activities

Education: Share information on habitat protection efforts; bear safety, fish waste management and fishing regulations.

Litter removal: Important in keeping others from littering and preventing wildlife issues.

Fence maintenance: Mending fences and sign replacement.

High Priority Times

Early June: Assist with fence and sign installation to prepare for the season.

Middle of June: The sockeye salmon season opens on June 11.

Middle of July: The second run of sockeye salmon begins around July 15.

Early September: Season wrap up (fence removal, winterization, inventory).

Regulations to Minimize Human-Bear Conflicts on CNF and KNWR Lands

Food Storage Order: *All attractants and equipment used to cook or store food* must be acceptably stored (in a bear resistant container, in your vehicle, or kept within 3 feet of you at all times). Note: This means all possessions with or without food, beverages, or refuse.

Stringers of Fish and Whole Fish in Possession: Must be kept within 12 feet of you all at times.

♦ Minimum Fine is \$125.00 maximum is \$5,000.00 on USFS lands

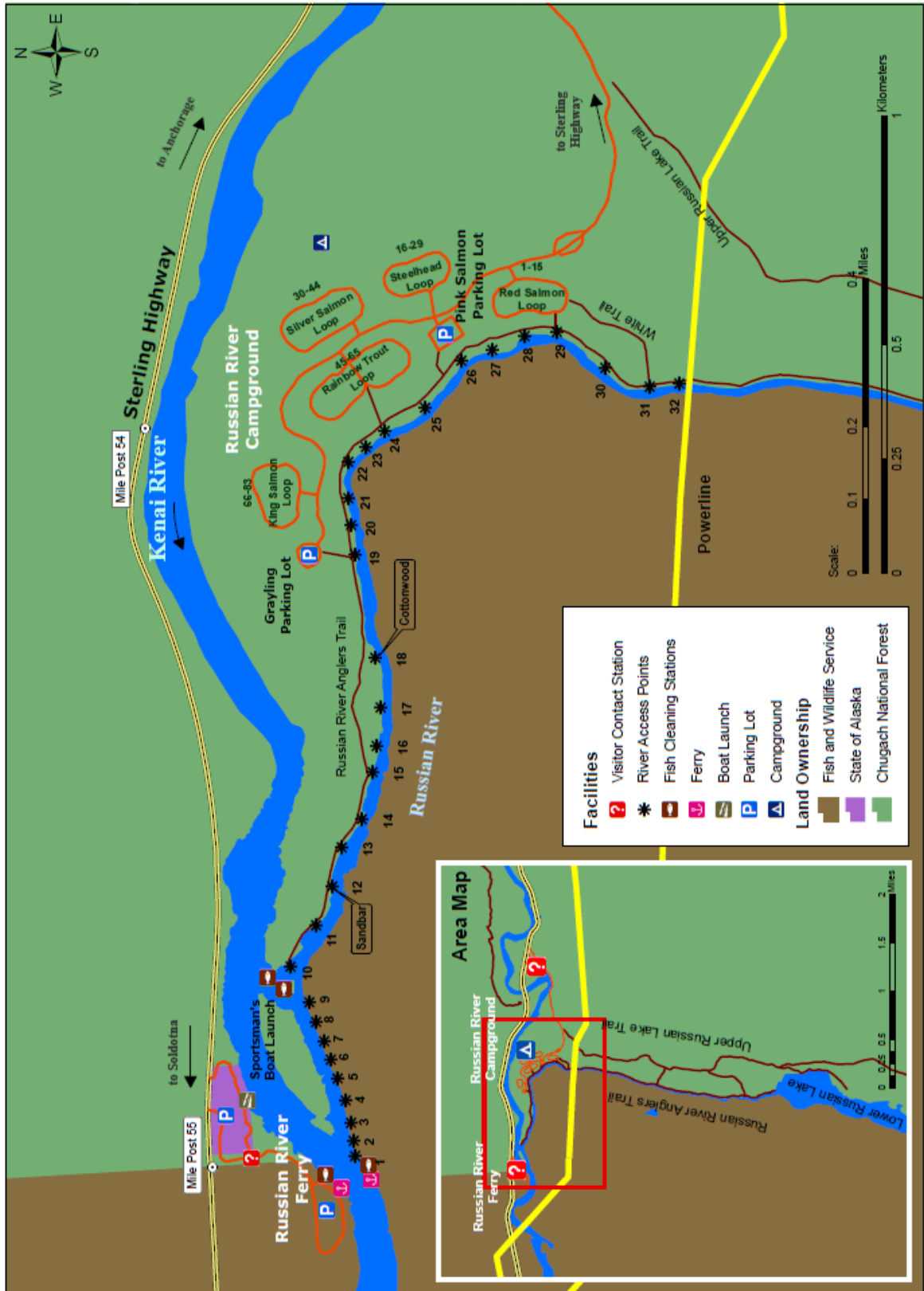
Federal Subsistence Fishery Regulations

Starting in 2007, federal law granted subsistence priority to Alaskans classified as rural residents. At the Russian River, only Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, Hope and Ninilchik residents qualify for subsistence fishing priority. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), passed by Congress in 1980, mandates that rural residents of Alaska be given a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife. For more information, go to page 65 for specifics on the Russian River fishery: [2023-2025 Fish and Shellfish Regulations Book \(doi.gov\)](#)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fishing Regulations

Follow the link below to the ADFG 2024 Sportfishing Regulations Booklet. See page 54 and 55 for information on Russian River regulations.

adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/PDFs/southcentral/2024sc_sfregs_complete.pdf





Bing's Landing-Kenai River Special Management

Bings Landing is a 126 acre (0.2 square mile) area in the Kenai River Special Management Area. It is managed by Alaska State Parks. In addition to providing access to the Kenai River, the area boasts a 37 site campground, trails and a picnic shelter. In 2011, new parking regulations were enforced in the adjacent neighborhood, making parking along specified roadways illegal. Illegally parked vehicles are subject to ticketing and towing. In addition to parking shortages, designated river access is in demand as the sensitive streambank and shoreline habitat areas are eroding due to foot traffic impact. Alaska State Parks is currently strategizing ways to remedy parking issues and river access.

Priority Activities

Education: Share information on proper river access, restroom locations, bear safety and fishing regulations.

Litter removal: Important in keeping others from littering and preventing wildlife issues.

Monotube maintenance: Mending/Emptying broken tubes and sign replacement.

Site Specific Regulations

Litter: Leave no trace by packing out what is packed in. **Fine:** \$150

Parking: Parking is prohibited where signed (Rapids Ave, Steelhead Cr, Samsel Rd).

Fine: \$25. KPB 12.04.020; Parking infractions, inside the park, range from \$50 to \$200.

Pets: Pets must be under control and on leashes in campgrounds and in day use areas. **Fine:** \$50

River Bank: It is illegal to build a structure or disturb riverbank at or below ordinary high water mark without a permit. **Fine:** \$50 - \$300.

Fires: Fires are not permitted unless in an authorized metal container. **Fine:** \$100.

Fishing: See Alaska Department of Fish & Game regulations. **Fines vary.**

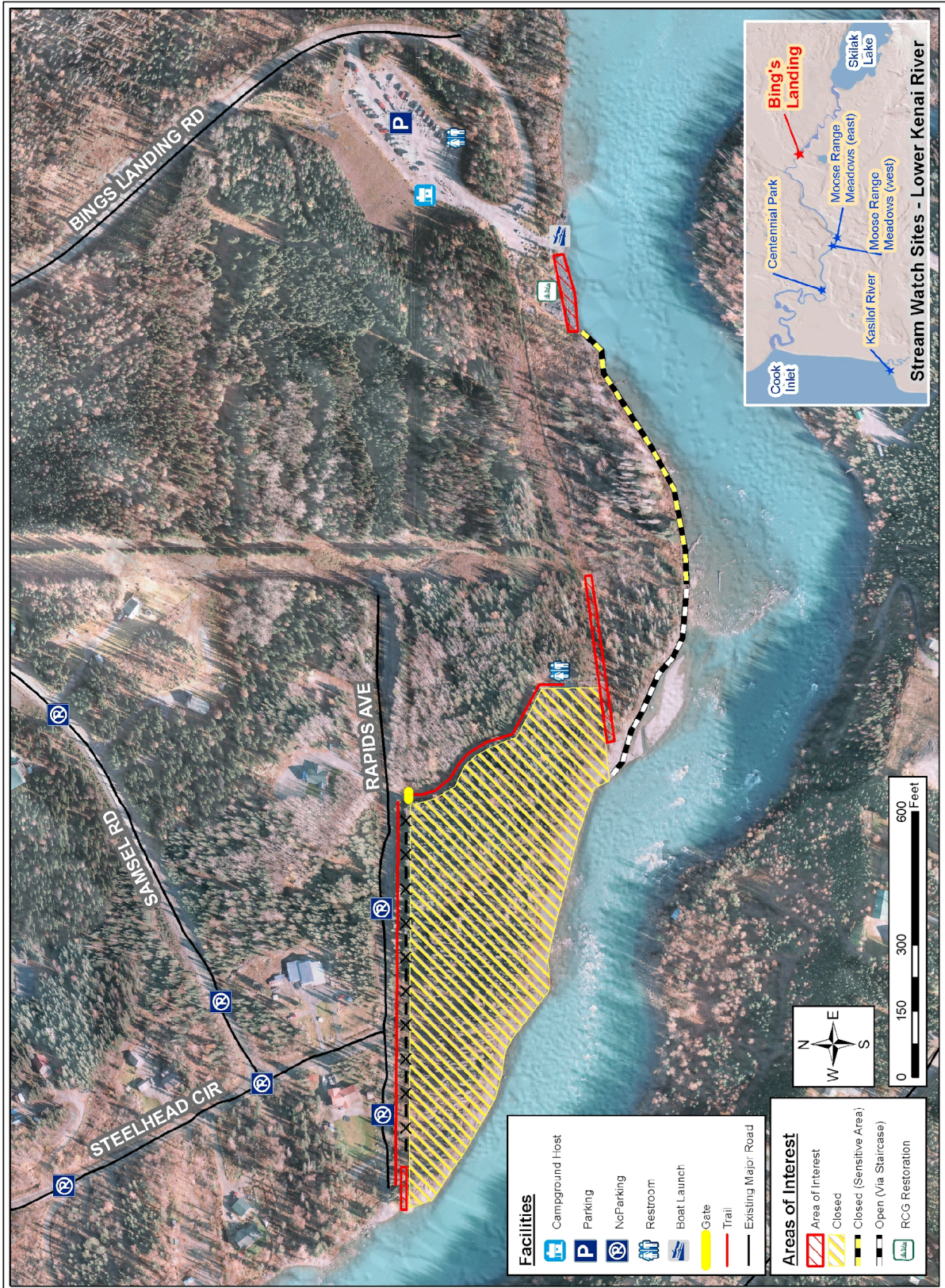
High Priority Times

Early June: Assist with fence and sign installation to prepare for the season.

Middle of July: The second run of sockeye salmon begins.

Early September: Season wrap up (fence removal, winterization, inventory)

Bing's Landing





Moose Range Meadows

Moose Range Meadows consists of two areas along the Kenai River. It is managed by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. It is open from July 1st – September 30th. The sites are pack it in, pack it out sites. Fish cleaning tables are available on the riverside boardwalks. Fishing must occur from either a boardwalk or in the water. Gear cannot be stored on the banks and/or plants. Parking shortages are common. However, volunteers do not share parking messages.

Common Messages

Proper river access: Promote the use of boardwalks and designated trails to protect riverside plants. The plants protect the river, which in turn protects the fish. Fishing can only occur from boardwalks or in the water. No bank fishing allowed. No gear can be stored on the banks and/or plants. It is a fineable offense.

Fish waste management: Encourage anglers to cut their fish waste into small pieces and throw into deep, fast moving water. Water levels may not be high enough to move fish waste from boardwalk cleaning tables.

Priority Activities

Education: Share information on proper river access, fish waste management and fishing regulations.

Litter removal: Pack it in, Pack it out - Important in keeping others from littering and preventing wildlife issues.

Fence maintenance: Mending fences and replacing signs is an important activity.

Document users: Record number of users to give the Refuge an idea of visitor usage. Document number of users on data sheet (in the cache) in the comment section.

High Priority Times

Early June: Assist with fence and sign installation to prepare for the season.

Middle of July: The second run of sockeye salmon begins.

Early September: Season wrap up (fence removal, winterization, inventory).

Moose Range Meadows (East)



Moose Range Meadows (West)





Centennial Park, City of Soldotna

Centennial Park is located on the Kenai River on the south side of Soldotna. Managed by the City of Soldotna, this park has fishing access (elevated stairways), a boat launch, campsites and day use areas. Centennial Park is a user fee area. Fees are collected at the fee station at the entrance to the park. While the park is in the city limits, bears still come through the area, especially if there are waste issues.

Common Messages

Fish waste management: encourage anglers to use the fish cleaning station. At the station, anglers should cut their fish waste into small pieces (softball or smaller) and throw it into deep, fast moving water. Water currents near the fish cleaning stations can wash waste onto the beach. Fish cleaning stations should remain in the water to facilitate waste moving through the system.

Proper river access: promote the use of boardwalks and designated trails to protect riverside plants. The plants are very important to protect the river which in turn protects the fish. There is also a handicap accessible fishing platform that is only for handicap individuals. No one should fish in front of it as it discourages use from its intended users.

Priority Activities

Education: Share information on fish waste management and proper river access. Anglers at Centennial tend to follow the fish upstream so they visit a number of Stream Watch sites.

Litter removal: Important in keeping others from littering and preventing wildlife issues.

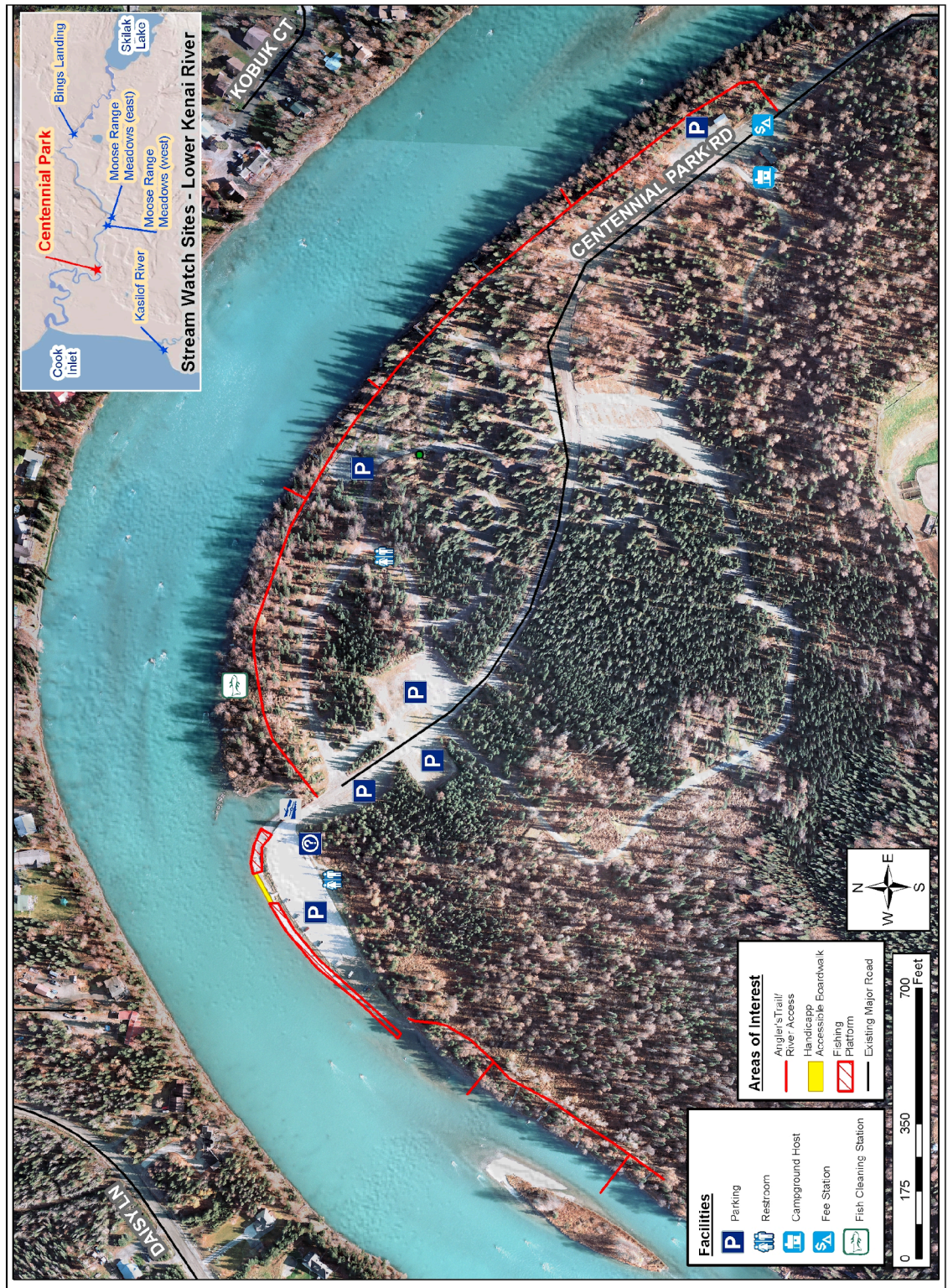
High Priority Times

Middle of June: The sockeye salmon season opens on June 11.

Middle of July: The second run of sockeye salmon begins.

Early September: Season wrap up (fence removal, winterization, inventory).

Centennial Park



Kenai Beach

Kenai Beach extends from both the north and south banks of the Kenai River. These beaches are used year round by locals, but experience peak visitation when thousands of fishers flock to the area for the personal use dipnet fishery in July. These beaches are also used as access for setnet fishers who work beyond the boundaries of the dipnet fishery. Stream Watch conducts stewardship events at both beaches and hosts the Kenai River Dipnet Booth at North Kenai Beach off of Spruce Dr.



Access North Kenai Beach by driving north through the City of Kenai on the Kenai Spur Highway. Make a left on Spruce Drive, which will take you to parking areas near the beach. During the dipnet, visitors must pay for parking, but Stream Watch volunteers do not need to pay. Let the attendant know that you are with Stream Watch, and they will give you a parking permit. Access South Kenai Beach by driving west on Kalifornsky Beach Road from Soldotna. Where the road bends south, turn right on Cannery Road. The first access to the beach is a left on Dunes Road, and the second access is first a left on Royal Street then a right on Drag Net Ct.

Common Messages

Parking and River Access: Promote Responsible Parking and staging areas for dipnet gear and direct visitors to parking attendants or the City of Kenai Police for specific questions.

Dune Protection: Inform visitors of the sensitive nature of beach dunes, which are valuable habitat and also protect inland areas from high energy storms. Respect the dunes, and don't use vehicles or trample on them.

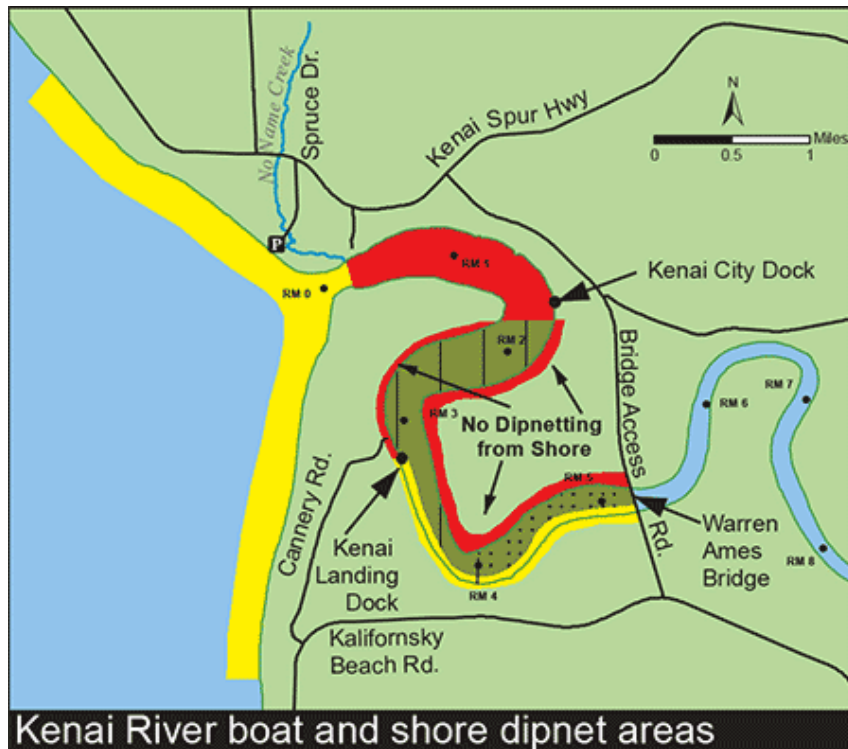
Sanitation Facilities: Inform people of bathroom and dumpster locations, encourage people to pack out waste.

Fish Waste & Bacteria: Encourage people to gill and bleed their fish on the beach and to take them out whole. Fish waste from this site can be disposed of at the dump because fish carcasses thrown into the surf wash right back onto the beach, which attracts gulls that are creating elevated levels of e.coli.

High Priority Times

June: Beach cleanups and preparation for the dipnet fishery

July: Dipnet fishery, Stream Watch volunteers staff the dipnet booth July 10-July31. Volunteers staff booth during 4-hour shifts as high tide flows.



- | | |
|--|---|
| Open to dipnetting from shore | 4 stroke or 2 stroke DFI motors only – no HP limitation |
| Closed to dipnetting | 4 stroke or 2 stroke DFI motors only – 50 HP limitation |



Mouth of the Kasilof River



Division of Mining, Land & Water

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

The Kasilof River stretches almost 20 miles from Tustumena Lake before emptying into the Upper Cook Inlet. Each summer thousands of visitors go to the mouth of the Kasilof River to participate in the Personal Use Fisheries from early June through the first week in August. The South Central Region Land Office (SCRO) within the Division of Mining, Land & Water of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources manages the state land surrounding the mouth of the Kasilof River. SCRO created a Special Use Area on state land within the lower river in order to implement special protections and requirements to address the growing impacts to the surrounding resources. The Special Use Area includes both the north and south sides of the river and extends three miles up the river, encompassing approximately 1,010 acres of state land. During the summer of 2011, the Kasilof River Historical Society obtained a land use permit from SCRO and installed a one-mile long guardrail barrier fence to discourage vehicle traffic on the dune grasses on the south side of the river.

Common Messages

Parking and River Access: Promote responsible parking and staging areas on state land to discourage negative impacts. Keep main access corridors open.

Dune Protection: Inform people of the sensitivity of the fenced dune areas. Respect the dune fencing and signs. Keep vehicles outside of fenced dune areas.

Sanitation Facilities: Inform people of restroom and dumpster locations. Encourage people to pack out waste.

Priority Activities

Education: Share information on parking, dune protection, leave no trace and restrooms.

Litter removal: Important in keeping others from littering and preventing wildlife issues.

Document vandalism: Record and report any and all vandalism. If possible, take photographs or videos of incidents and forward reports onto SCRO for follow-up.

High Priority Times

Early June: Check on sanitation facilities and report any vandalism or required services to SCRO. Beach clean-up activities

Middle of June: The Personal Use Set Gillnet Fishery opens June 15 thru June 24th (6:00AM-11:00PM). The Personal Use Dipnet Fishery opens June 25th through August 7th (24 hours a day, 7 days per week unless closed by Emergency Order).

Middle of July: The second run of sockeye salmon begins.

Kasilof River (South Beach)





Kasilof River Boat Launch

The Kasilof River crosses under the Sterling Highway roughly halfway until it dumps into the ocean. Just south of the Sterling Highway Bridge, there is a boat Launch managed by Alaska State parks that can be seen from the road. With the King fishery being closed in recent years on the Kenai River, many anglers have been traveling to the Kasilof River in hopes of big chinook salmon. This has added a lot of pressure on the fishery and the surrounding habitat with increased boat traffic, foot traffic, and litter accumulation.

Fishing is open the majority of the year on the Kasilof river with various restrictions on motor and bait use unless noted otherwise by an emergency order. The most popular fishing time will be mid May to mid-June for king salmon, and the month of July for sockeye salmon. Majority of anglers will fish from shore just below or above the boat launch, causing vegetation damage. The Crooked Creek confluence is also close by to this cache location, and sees plenty of pressure as well. It would be worth the trip to visit this location during stewardship activities as well.

Common Messages

Proper River Access/Vegetation Awareness: Encourage anglers to fish in the water where possible. With minimal hardened walkways/access points, foot traffic has a higher chance of negatively impacting vegetation.

Fishing Regulations: added pressure on the king fishery has led to an increase in emergency orders and changing regulations. While connecting with river users, establish they are up to date with regulations on all species.

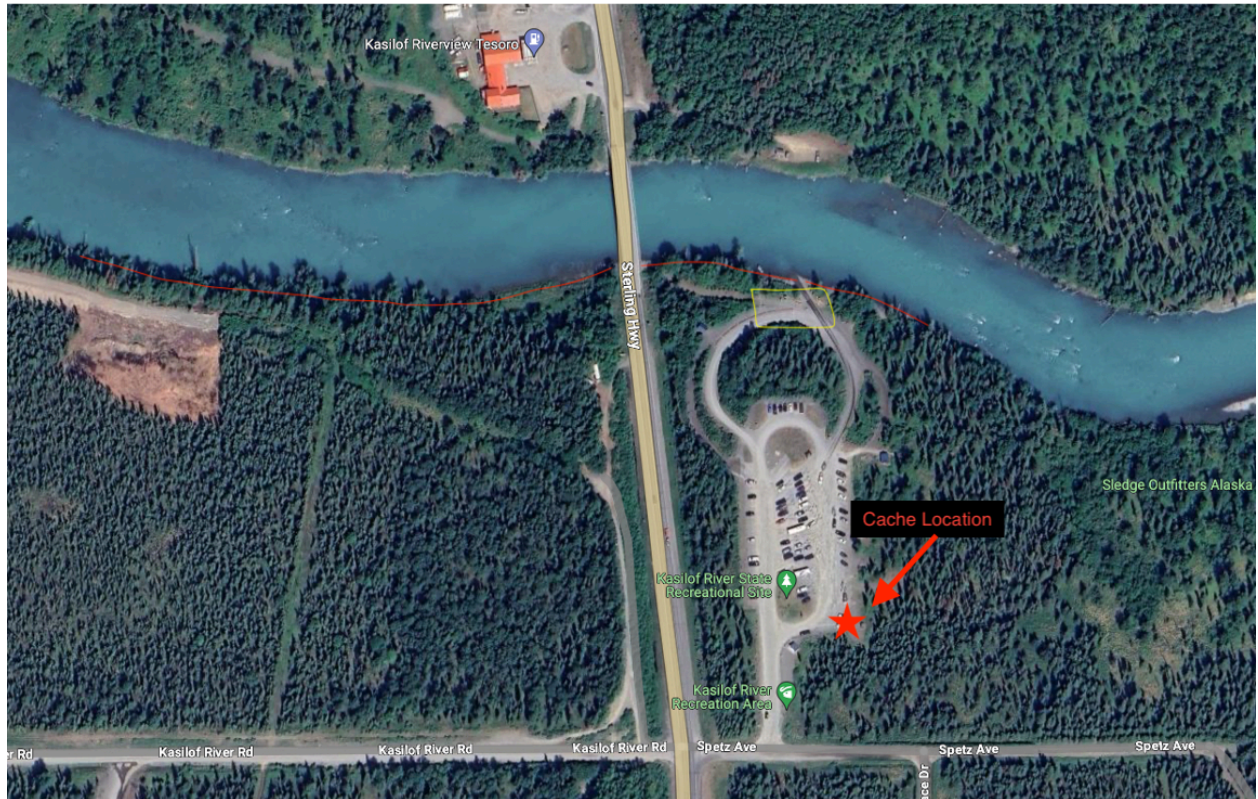
Priority Activities

Litter Removal: Trash will accumulate in the boat launch, parking lot, and the fishing area downstream of the Sterling Hwy bridge. Litter prevention will help with wildlife and ecosystem health

Education: Informing river users on the importance of riparian vegetation, identification of a native vs hatchery fish (if there is an adipose fin present or not), fishing regulations, and fish waste management.

High Priority Times

Early to mid June, July-August



Ninilchik River

The Ninilchik River crosses the Sterling Highway in the town of Ninilchik and is managed by the State Parks. Rainbow Trout can be fished on a catch and release basis, and King Salmon 20 inches or longer are limited to 1 fish per day. Fishing access is limited seasonally to the river's drainage, marked by AF&G markers. It is open from June 16th - October 31st, for all species.

Turn right onto Mission Ave. Google Maps refers to it as Beach Access Rd. Follow Mission Ave; it curves right and you cross the bridge, and there is a small marked parking area on your left (perhaps 4 or 5 spots). There is additional parking along both sides of Airport Ln (if you don't turn right over that first bridge and keep going, the road curves and becomes Airport Even though there are signs permitting parking for 12 hours, the residents prefer people not to crowd the beach. There is an additional parking lot at the turn from the Sterling Highway to Mission Ave, and Stream Watch volunteers can also park here.

Common Messages

Proper river access: Most anglers fish along the part of the river by the small boat harbor, close to the mouth; there are no boardwalks here.

Fish waste management: Encourage anglers to cut their fish waste into small pieces and throw into deep, fast moving water. Water levels may not be high enough to move fish waste from cleaning areas.

Priority Activities

Education: Share information on proper river access, fish waste management and fishing regulations.

- After taking a king salmon 20 inches or longer from the Ninilchik, Deep Creek, or Anchor River, anglers may not fish for any species in the Anchor River, Deep Creek or Ninilchik River for the rest of the day. This is an important message for all Southern Peninsula Sites: Ninilchik, Deep Creek, Anchor.
- There are 3 small blue signs with sport fishing regulations posted near the beach, and volunteers can refer anglers to the signs.
- Encourage people to use the bathrooms provided.
- From June 16th onward, only hatchery king salmon may be retained. Hatchery fish are missing their adipose fin. Regulations state that "You may not filet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a king salmon in such a manner that prevents determination whether the fish is a wild or hatchery fish until you have stopped fishing in the Ninilchik River drainage for the day and have moved more than 100 yards away from the Ninilchik River."

- There is a monoline receptacle attached to the blue sport fishing regulations sign post near the mouth of the river by the beach (see photo below).

Litter removal: Pack it in, Pack it out - Important in keeping others from littering and preventing wildlife issues.

Document users: Record number of users to give the Refuge an idea of visitor usage. Document number of users on data sheet (in the cache) in the comment section.

High Priority Times

May 25-27, June 1-3, June 5, June 8-10, June 16 - August.



Deep Creek

Deep Creek is managed by Alaska State Parks. The beach and campground can be found at mile 137.9 of the Sterling Highway, just south of the Ninilchik River. Fishing access is limited seasonally to the creek's drainage, marked by AF&G markers. It is open from July 1st - October 31st for all species except King Salmon, which can be caught between May 25-27; June 1-3; & June 8-10.

When coming from Soldotna, Deep Creek North is the first left and Deep Creek South is the second left. When coming from Homer, Deep Creek South is the first right and Deep Creek North is the second right.

Common Messages

Proper river access: Promote the use of designated trails leading down to the river to protect riverside plants. The plants protect the river which in turn protects the fish.

Fish waste management: Encourage anglers to cut their fish waste into small pieces and throw into deep, fast moving water. Water levels may not be high enough to move fish waste from boardwalk cleaning tables.

Priority Activities

Education: Share information on proper river access, fish waste management and fishing regulations.

- Fish need to be cleaned 200 ft away from the well and Deep Creek North has a sign posted regulating that fish are cleaned 200 ft away from the river.
- There is a 50-yard stretch of sandy, rocky beach and other patches of rocky areas. Encourage people to use existing trails and not degrade the vegetation on the banks.
- If an angler retains a king salmon 20 inches or longer from Deep Creek, they may not fish for any species of fish in either the Anchor River, Deep Creek or the Ninilchik River for the rest of that day.

Litter removal: Pack it in, Pack it out - Important in keeping others from littering and preventing wildlife issues. There are monoline receptacles located on both the North and South access points.

Document users: Record number of users to give the Refuge an idea of visitor usage. Document number of users on data sheet (in the cache) in the comment section.

High Priority Times

May 25-27, June 1-3, June 8-10. July and August.



Anchor River

The Anchor River is one of Alaska's premier fishing areas. The river supports King, Silver and Pink salmon, as well as Dolly Varden and Steelhead. Bait and multiple hooks are allowed during open fishing periods, which range from July 1st to October 31st in the designated fishing area marked by ADF&G markers; upstream of these markers salmon fishing is closed year round.

The Anchor River State Recreation Area provides opportunities for camping, fishing, hiking, kayaking, boating, and wildlife viewing. The Anchor River region is very important in providing habitat for fish and wildlife, and especially for moose, as it is one of the only major moose overwintering areas on the southern Kenai Peninsula. Habitat in the drainage can support up to 500 moose, or around 20% of the region's moose population. The river also provides a critical juvenile fish habitat, as it supports spawning and rearing for king and coho salmon, steelhead/rainbow trout, and Dolly Varden char.

Common Messages

Proper river access: Promote the use of designated trails to protect riverside plants. The plants protect the river which in turn protects the fish.

Bear safety: In addition to regular bear safety activities, there are regulations in place to protect both wildlife and people.

Priority Activities

Education: Share information on proper river access, fish waste management and fishing regulations.

- Fish cannot be cleaned at Coho Campground and waste cannot be left in the dumpster. A sign indicates that waste can be discarded into ocean surf, but ideally it is carried out.
- There are also drinking water spits at the campgrounds that may not be used for fish cleaning.
- Encourage people not to create their own trails but use existing access points. Especially at the fourth parking area called Slide Hole, there is a problem with creating many trails along the banks.
- Upstream from the ADF&G markers, near the confluence of the North and South forks is closed year-round to all salmon fishing. August through October, this upstream area is open to all fishing except salmon.
- Regulations state that: "A king salmon 20 inches or longer that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a king salmon 20 inches or longer from the water before releasing it."

- “If you retain a king salmon 20 inches or longer from the Anchor River, you may not fish for any species of fish in either the Anchor River, Deep Creek or the Ninilchik River for the rest of that day. For king salmon fewer than 20 inches, 10 per day and 10 in possession is allowed.”

Litter removal: Pack it in, Pack it out - Important in keeping others from littering and preventing wildlife issues.

High Priority Times

May 25-27, June 1-3, 8-10, July and Aug.

Late May and Early June: King salmon, the most popular fishery, begins its run.

Early and Mid July: Dolly Varden begins running, followed by Silver and Pink salmon.

Late September: Steelhead run begins

Anchor River State Recreation Area



Important Dates

| Date | Time | Name of Event | Host | Point Person | Location |
|-------------|-----------|---|----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 05/17-05/19 | 9am-6pm | Trash clean up/Halibut Tournament | CTF/KWF | Brandon D | Ninilchick |
| 6/4-5 | 10am-4pm | Russian River Fencing | USFS | Amanda Goss | Russian River - Pink Salmon |
| 6/1 | 10-2pm | Upper River SW Orientation | USFS/KWF | Amanda Goss/Brandon D. | Princess Lodge |
| 6/8 | All day | Kenai River Fair | KWF | Brandon D. | Soldotna Creek Park |
| 6/8 | 10am-4pm | Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Stewardship Day | USFS | Tim Lorenzini | Russian River - Pink Salmon |
| 6/9 | 12pm-4pm | Trout Unlimited Plants for Salmon | KWF/TU | Brandon Drzazgowski | Centennial Park |
| 06/12 | 10am-4pm | Soldotna Wednesday Market SW Booth | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski | Soldotna Creek Park |
| 6/14 | 10am-11am | Federal Subsistence Fishing Briefing | USFS | Heather Thamm | Russian River - Pink Salmon |
| Mid-June | 9am | Moose Range Meadows Fencing | KWF/FWS | Brandon Drzazgowski | Moose Range Meadows |
| 7/9 | 5-7pm | Trashercise Tuesday | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski | Kasilof Beach |
| 7/10 | 10-4pm | Soldotna Wednesday Market SW Booth | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski | Soldotna Creek Park |
| 7/16 | 5-7pm | Trashercise Tuesday | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski | Kasilof Beach |
| 7/23 | 5-7pm | Trashercise Tuesday | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski | Kasilof Beach |
| 7/30 | 5-7pm | Trashercise Tuesday | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski | Kasilof Beach |
| 8/6 | 5-7pm | Trashercise Tuesday | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski | Kasilof Beach |

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|------|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8/7 | 10am-4pm | Soldotna Wednesday Market SW Booth | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski | Soldotna Creek Park |
| 8/23 | 10am- 11am | King Salmon Prunus Removal | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski | King Salmon Conservation Easement |
| 8/17 | 10-5pm | KWF Golf Tournament | KWF | Brandon Drzazgowski/Sara Aamodt | Kenai Golf Course |

Key Contacts

| Important Contact Numbers | | |
|--|---|--|
| Emergency Contact | 911 | As soon as practical contact a coordinator or supervisor listed below. |
| Non-Emergency Contact | Alaska State Troopers | (907) 262-4453 |
| Volunteer Contacts | | |
| Northern Peninsula Coordinator <i>Chugach National Forest</i> | TBD | (907) 796-9219 (cell) (907) 288-7747 (office) |
| Central & Southern Peninsula Coordinator <i>Kenai Watershed Forum</i> | Brandon Drzazgowski | (907) 398-4304 brandonsw@kenaiwatershed.org |
| Education Coordinator <i>Kenai Watershed Forum</i> | Katey Shedden | (907) 252-3443 education@kenaiwatershed.org |
| Invasive Species Specialist <i>Kenai Watershed Forum</i> | Bonnie Bernard | (218) 849-1031 invasives@kenaiwatershed.org |
| Stream Watch Interns <i>Kenai Watershed Forum</i> | | streamwatch@kenaiwatershed.org |
| Program Supervisor <i>Chugach National Forest</i> | Tim Lorenzini | (907) 205-1150 (cell) (907) 288-7701 (office) timothy.lorenzini@usda.gov |
| Program Supervisor <i>Kenai Watershed Forum</i> | Trenten Dodson | (907) 260-5449 ext. 1206 executivedirector@kenaiwatershed.org |
| Stream Watch Site Liaisons | | |
| Bings Landing Alaska State Parks | Tiffany Brand Natural Resource Specialist 2 | (907) 262-5581 tiffany.brand@alaska.gov |
| Alaska State Parks Camp Hosts/Kasilof & Ninilchik | Jason Stewart Park Specialist | (907) 398-6431 Jason.Stewart@alaska.gov |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Ninilchik, Anchor River and Deep Creek Alaska State Parks | Jason Okuly Park Ranger | (907) 435-7595 jason.okuly@alaska.gov |
| Moose Range Meadows Kenai National Wildlife Refuge | Matt Connor Visitor Services Manager | (907) 262-7021 Matt_connor@fws.gov |
| Centennial Park City of Soldotna | Makai-Lynn Randall CoS Assistant Parks/Rec Director | (907) 714-1212 mrandall@soldotna.org |
| Kenai Beach City of Kenai | Jenna Brown City of Kenai | (907) 283-8262 jbrown@kenai.city |
| Kasilof River Department of Natural Resources | John Forbes Natural Resource Manager | (907) 269-8132 john.forbes@alaska.gov |
| Agency Steering Committee | | |
| USDA Forest Service Chugach National Forest | Ruth D'Amico District Ranger | (907) 288-7730 ruth.damico@usda.gov |
| US Fish and Wildlife Service Kenai National Wildlife Refuge | Andy Loranger Refuge Manager | (907) 262-7021 FAX: 866-593-6994 andy_loranger@fws.gov |
| City of Soldotna Parks and Recreation Director | Joel Todd CoS Parks and Recreation Director | (907) 953-0207 jtodd@soldotna.org |
| Department of Natural Resources, Alaska State Parks | Hans Rinke Superintendent | (907) 262-5581 ext. 21 Hans.rinke@alaska.gov |

Additional Resources

Fishing and Recreation:

The [Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(ADF&G\)](#) works to "protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle."

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Links:

- For information on ADF&G Emergency Orders and News Releases visit:
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/>
- Sport Fishing regulations can be found at:
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.sc_sportfish
- Information on the Kenai River and personal use can be found at:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUsebyAreaSouthcentralkenaiSalmon.main>
- Information on the Kaslof River and personal use can be found at:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUsebyAreaSouthcentralkaslofSalmon.main>
- Information regarding numbers of migrating fish, or fish counts:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Communication & Conservation:

Jarreau, Paige Brown, Zeynep Altinay, and Amy Reynolds. "[Best Practices in Environmental Communication: A Case Study of Louisiana's Coastal Crisis](#)." *Environmental Communication* (2015): 1-23. Accessed through:
<http://www.fromthelabbench.com/from-the-lab-bench-science-blog/2015/11/8/best-practices-in-environmental-communication-a-scientific-paper>

Provide Clarity: Focus on issues, impacts and solutions which target audiences can relate to, and always avoid controversial conversations.

Local Conversation: Local knowledge from "well-versed individuals" is very effective in spreading information throughout a community. Whenever possible, opt for person-to-person interactions, as they are very effective in conveying a sense of urgency and thus encouraging action. Sharing personal experiences which others can relate to is also helpful in effectively communicating a message. Try to "personalize" the message, by downplaying the socio-political issues and emphasizing individual triumphs or tragedies.

Action Knowledge: Make action knowledge readily available by giving individuals the information they need in order to actively address environmental problems. This involves making individuals aware of the consequences of their actions, providing information on how they can act in a more environmentally friendly way, and helping individuals to see that their actions help, matter and

make a difference. By providing such information, people will feel more empowered and are more likely to act in an environmentally friendly manner.

Relationship Building: It is important to make sure that community members feel heard and have access to information. This helps to build trust and makes it easier for local partners to communicate complex environmental projects/situations in the future. An crucial step is to make sure you listen as much as you speak. It is important that communicators understand how a given audience perceives or understands a particular environmental issue.

Integrate Values into Communication: Be aware of your audience's values and concerns when determining how to communicate information. Identify the needs and motivations of your audience, and then find and emphasize aspects of an environmental issue that resonate with those needs. Avoid socio-political issues, and instead emphasize personal experience and universal human values which emphasize pro-environmental behavior.

Language: Try to avoid complex environmental jargon and instead use terms and phrases which can be easily understood by community members. Check out the table on the following page with suggestions made by the Nature Conservancy for terms and phrases to use when talking with the community.

David, Metz; Fairbank; Maslin; Maullin; Metz & Associates; The Nature Conservancy. (2013). "Language of Conservation: Updated Recommendations on How to Communicate Effectively to Build Support for Conservation." Accessed: https://conservationtools-production.s3.amazonaws.com/library_item_files/1319/1211/2013_Language_of_Conservation_Memo.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIQFJLILYGVDR4AMQ&Expires=1558566025&Signature=jU6mfQ6JvX%2FdYWk%2Fk1HDbuyS45A%3D

Other tips for communicating conservation include connecting the environment to public health and community safety, reinforcing the compatibility between a healthy, strong environment and the economy, emphasizing the importance of preserving natural spaces as a way of helping children spend more time outdoors, and evoking a sense of shared responsibility for the environment.

| Terms to Use | Terms to Avoid |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Land, air and water | Environment |
| Natural Areas | Ecosystems |
| Fish and wildlife | Biodiversity |
| Safeguards, protections | Regulations |
| Land along lakes, rivers and streams | Riparian |
| Groundwater | Aquifer |

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Organizations protecting land, air and water | Environmental Group |
| Poorly planned growth | Urban sprawl |
| Nature's Benefits | Ecosystem Services |
| Large, connected natural areas | Landscape-scale conservation |

David, Metz; Fairbank; Maslin; Maullin; Metz & Associates; The Nature Conservancy. (2013). "Language of Conservation: Updated Recommendations on How to Communicate Effectively to Build Support for Conservation." Accessed: https://conservationtools-production.s3.amazonaws.com/library_item_files/1319/1211/2013_Language_of_Conservation_Memo.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIOFJLILYGVDR4AMQ&Expires=1558566025&Signature=jU6mfO6JvX%2FdYWk%2Fk1HDbuyS45A%3D

General Communication Tips:

Kingsnorth, Liz. (2016). "10 Tips For Effective Communication." *The Daily Good*. Accessed: <http://www.dailygood.org/story/1366/10-tips-for-effective-communication-liz-kingsnorth/>

1. Aim for a respectful, compassionate quality of connection so that everyone in the conversation can express themselves, be heard and understood.
2. Listen more than you speak.
3. Understand the person you are speaking with - the more you understand them, the more they will be willing to understand you.
4. Aim to understand the individual's underlying need, longing or value and be empathetic to these needs.
5. Take responsibility for your own feelings and emotions, and use accurate, neutral descriptions.
6. Make requests that are practical, specific and positive.
7. Be willing to hear "No."
8. Pay attention to your facial expressions, tone, body language and overall mood. These all affect the way we communicate.

2024 Stream Watch Volunteer Agreement

☐ I have read through the 2024 Stream Watch Volunteer Manual and agree to follow all protocols and guidelines therein.

☐ KWF has my permission to use any photographs including my likeness to publicly promote the organization. I understand that photos taken during field work may be used in social media, fliers, or other public postings and that no compensation will be payable to me for any reason.

Kenai Watershed Forum Release of Liability

1. I am a volunteer with Kenai Watershed Forum, an Alaska nonprofit corporation ("KWF") headquartered in Soldotna, Alaska. Some of my work may be performed in the field.
2. I recognize that field work in Alaska can be dangerous. Risks include death or serious injury from slipping and falling; vehicles and transport equipment; strain and exertion; livestock and wildlife; unruly persons; difficult terrain; and the like. Should an injury occur, immediate rescue and emergency medical treatment might not be available. Personal property may be lost or damaged.
3. In addition, I understand that during field work I may encounter unexpected weather, terrain or other conditions which could prove dangerous even if reasonable precautions are taken.
4. I am fully aware of the risks outlined above, as well as others inherent in performing work in the field. As part of the consideration for volunteering for KWF and participating in associated activities, I promise, on behalf of myself, my estate and my legal representatives, not to assert any claim against KWF, its officers, directors, employees, members and representatives for any injury, death or property damage arising from my volunteer work or participation in related activities. I will also defend, indemnify and hold harmless all such entities and persons from any such claims asserted by me or on my behalf.
5. This release encompasses not only injuries, death or damages arising from the inherent dangers of performing work in the field and participating in related activities. It also encompasses any claim against the above-identified persons and entities for negligence, including negligent supervision and negligent operation of vehicles and equipment.
6. I acknowledge that KWF's willingness to allow me to volunteer or intern with KWF and participate in associated field work and activities, rests, in part, on my willingness to sign this release.
7. The purpose of this release is for me to assume all risk for any injury or death to myself, or damage to my property, and to release all persons and entities identified above from any potential claim for damages, regardless of the theory of recovery.
8. I sign this release on behalf of myself or any minor child acting as a volunteer or intern.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Printed Name

Signature

Date