

Alaska Boreal Forest Council
“Hydrologic Assessments of Shaw Creek and Providence Creek
Watersheds in the Tanana Basin, Alaska”

FY02 Grant Award: \$ 85,000

Project Match: \$77,181



Description and Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to provide an assessment and long term monitoring of the water resources of the Shaw Creek watershed. The overall goal is to provide much needed baseline data for sustainable development of the Tanana River basin, such that multiple land uses can be supported while protecting the natural qualities of this watershed. Shaw Creek, a northern tributary of the Tanana River, has been identified as rearing and possibly spawning habitat for coho and chinook salmon, very important spawning habitat for grayling, and habitat for other resident fish species. In addition, it serves as winter habitat for the Fortymile caribou herd, moose, bears, and other furbearers. The watershed also contains spruce and hardwood timber resources, mining resources, scientific resources (e.g. Shaw Creek Tamarack and Rosa Keystone Dunes research natural areas), and recreational resources (e.g. Quartz Lake, winter trails, and access to the Goodpaster River).

Evaluation of Environmental Benefits:

The evaluation of the project will take into account both data-collection objectives and use of the Internet site to gauge public participation in the project and use of the data and environmental information. The site will provide data on groundwater and surface water interactions and basic hydrologic parameters for the area, which will be of interest year round. The project's products will also be available over the Internet and print media. Actual use of the information by agencies and the public will be an important measure of its value.

Deliverables for this project include:

- Establishment of 3 long-term hydrologic index sites.
- Establishment of a publicly accessible website with near-real time data updates and data archives.
- Display of index-site data on an Internet site to assist in resource management and to improve public education.
- Usage statistics and a copy of the Internet site will be provided on a CD at the end of the project.
- Final project report.



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