

Central Council of Tlingit and Haida “Peterson Creek Monitoring and Assessment”

FY02 Grant Award: \$60,544

Project Match: \$75,490



Description and Purpose: This project supports the State’s Protection and Restoration of Waters at Risk effort by assessing water quality and fish habitat in the Peterson Creek watershed in Juneau. The assessment will form the basis for developing planning guidelines that detail specific management measures needed to maintain water quality and fish habitat as the watershed is developed. Peterson Creek is an exceptional creek in terms of water quality and habitat values. The watershed however, is slated for development, including an 18-hole golf course that would surround much of the stream. Agency efforts so far to incorporate adequate stream protection in development projects have been frustrated partly by lack of good site-specific data. The project will expand the scope of an existing monitoring and assessment program by determining baseline bed sediment composition in selected reaches of the watershed, expanding

water quality and flow data to include more detailed spatial and temporal variation, produce seasonal video documentation of the watershed’s current state and create a GIS database of stream characteristics, salmonid habitat use, sedimentation and water quality. A report will be produced with guidelines for land-use planners to prevent degradation of salmon habitat and water quality in the Peterson Creek watershed.

Evaluation of Environmental Benefit: This project will provide a scientific document for land-use planners, with guidelines for environmentally protective development in the Peterson Creek Watershed. The environmental benefit will be that water quality and fish habitat in the watershed will be maintained as development takes place. The project will be a success if the advisory committee agrees that this study was conducted with high technical and scientific standards, and if interested parties adopt this final document to assure use by land-use planners to prevent degradation of salmon habitat and water quality. Baseline water quality and habitat conditions will be documented for comparison with future conditions after development occurs. Future monitoring will determine if water quality and habitat have been maintained or significantly degraded from development, and will determine the effectiveness of management practices that are required as permit conditions to development projects such as the golf course, roads and housing development.



Deliverables for the Project Include:

- Quality Assurance Project Plan.
- Summary and electronic data for sedimentation and water quality.
- Seasonal video documentation of the watershed.
- GIS maps of seasonal salmonid habitat use and water quality data of the watershed.
- Scientific report with guidelines for land-use planners to prevent degradation of salmon

habitat and water quality in the Peterson Creek watershed

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