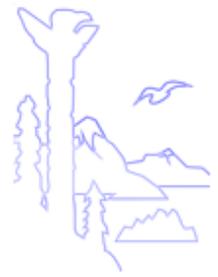


Matanuska-Susitna Borough “Water Quality Monitoring Program”



FY02 Grant Award: \$ 35,103

Project Match: \$23,402



Description and Purpose: The project helps accomplish DEC’s stewardship effort for lakes in the Mat-Su Valley. It continues monitoring of Mat-Su Valley Lakes to help the Borough and others identify where problems may be occurring or developing, and also evaluate how well their management practices are working to protect Borough lakes. The 2000 Census indicated it is one of the fastest growing areas in the country, with the population projected to exceed 100,000 people by 2010. Much of the development is happening around the many lakes in the Borough,

which has resulted in widespread concern about the health of these lakes. The MSB Water Quality Monitoring Program utilizes a systematic community based approach to obtain information on the water quality of the MSB’s water supplies by establishing a volunteer based water quality monitoring program. The goals of the program are: 1) a more informed public; 2) useful information for public agency use; 3) useful information for local decision-makers; and 4) establishment of baseline data for Alaska lakes.

The MSB Water Quality Monitoring Program will monitor lakes and ponds. Lakes will be monitored for pH, temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and Secchi transparency, monthly throughout the sampling season. Samples will be analyzed for phosphorous and chlorophyll A once in the fall and again in the spring. Surveys will be conducted for aquatic life, wildlife, birds, human use, and land use. This information will be used to establish baseline conditions, determine trends in water quality, and to identify current or emerging problems, and to identify solutions.

Evaluation of Environmental Benefit:

- ◆ Number of volunteer trained and/or re-certified in water monitoring and sampling,
- ◆ Obtaining a full season’s data for monitoring sites throughout the borough.
- ◆ Creation of a database for management of sample data, equipment, and volunteers for this grant.

Deliverables for this Project Include: An [annual water quality report](#) will be provided to DEC, borough officials, volunteers, and the general public. This report will include information collected by volunteers, site survey information, and analysis of data, and recommendations for modifications to the program. The [QAPP](#) and [SOP](#) will be revised and/or updated. Written reports will be submitted electronically, will include an acknowledgement to DEC, and may be published on the ADEC website. The database, whether it is ACCESS or EPA’s STORET, will be made available.



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