

City and Borough of Sitka

"Granite Creek Recovery Strategy (TMDL) Implementation"

FY 03 Grant Award \$41,970

Project Match: \$31,712



Description and Purpose: This project implemented high priority tasks in the *Granite Creek Watershed Recovery Strategy and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)* dated March 2002. The project completes several structural improvements designed to reduce sedimentation to Granite Creek and verifies the effectiveness of existing and newly-constructed sediment controls in meeting water quality standards. The goal of the project was to effectively implement – and verify - actions that ensured compliance with sediment and turbidity criteria in Granite Creek and the load allocations in the approved TMDL.

Several structural and management improvements that occurred during FY02 required continued evaluation as part of the TMDL's implementation plan.

Evaluation of Environmental Benefits:

Progress in implementing the tasks proposed for FY2003 were measured in the following ways:

- 1) "before and after" water quality monitoring data used to evaluate the success of the new pollution controls;
- 2) confirmation that all gravel operators are following their stormwater pollution control plans under the EPA General NPDES permit for the gravel mining industry;
- 3) photographic confirmation that required stream buffers are staked and undisturbed and that ditch and pit run water are collected and treated prior to discharge to Granite Creek;
- 4) negotiated amendments to City/Borough of Sitka material site lease agreements;
- 5) verification that structural pollution control Best Management Practices are designed, constructed and maintained so as to meet water quality standards;
- 6) receipt of all necessary permits and successful award of a municipal matching grant to CBS.
- 7) Follow-up monitoring of the effectiveness of controls is expected to verify compliance with water quality standards.



Deliverables:

- An expanded water quality database for turbidity and TSS
- A stage-discharge rating (curve) for Granite Creek for easily estimating stream flows
- Photographic documentation of structural controls and drainage improvements, completions of the re-routed ditch water conveyance, and riparian protection efforts.
- Report on effectiveness of experimental turbidity controls on settling pond effluents

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