

Discovery Southeast

"Watershed Stewardship and Education Project"

FY 03 Grant Award \$19,970

Project Match \$13,719



Description and Purpose:

This project was a hands-on stream/estuarine study and restoration education program. It addressed the objectives for recovery of polluted waters described in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans for the waterbodies under study. The activities of this project were designed to result in tangible improvements in the stream habitat and water quality of these streams, as well as provide effective education and public outreach – listed objectives of the TMDL. Middle school and high school students working with Discovery Southeast

naturalists, and aided by experts from ADEC, ADF&G, the CBJ and advisors from private organizations, studied stream and habitat conditions in the study watersheds and completed restoration projects that addressed stormwater treatment, habitat improvement, and/or public awareness. This project provided a cost-effective strategy to achieve quality education regarding stewardship of Alaska waters while implementing provisions of the TMDLs that may result in improved stormwater treatment and stream habitat for salmon.

Evaluation of Environmental Benefits:

Both the education and the restoration components of this project received informal and formal evaluation. With regard to the education objectives, the primary emphasis was on student participation. Working in small groups, much of the evaluation was informal with the group leaders providing students with immediate and specific feedback to maximize their involvement in project activities. Students were required to keep a field journal to record all their activities and findings. These journals were collected at the end of each session and reviewed by the project leaders and the students' classroom teachers to assess student understanding and participation.

The restoration components of this project also received regular but informal evaluation. By consulting with experts from ADEC or ADF&G, student projects had the goal of implementing sound restoration activities. ADEC staff were invited to assess each completed student project.

Deliverables:

1. Updated and ADEC approved QAPP
2. Monitoring results- water quality data entry form that conforms to required STORET fields
3. Copy of poster documenting project work
4. Discovery Guide to Streamwalking
5. TMDL control measures implemented. This includes the list of control measures that were brainstormed, which measures were selected, and photographic documentation of those control measures that were implemented

Project Contacts:

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