

Copper River Watershed Project **“Copper River Watershed FishWatch”**

FY02 Grant Award: \$11,200 Project Match: \$7,500



Description and Purpose:

This fish habitat-monitoring program is designed to involve residents of the Copper River Watershed in water quality protection by developing a habitat-monitoring program. It assembles a team of resource managers to help identify appropriate habitat indicators to monitor and develop a data collection protocol. This project identifies threatened or degraded fish habitat sites in need of restoration. It then develops a training program and conducts field test training sessions with volunteers, using the program's protocol, at one or more of the selected sites.

Evaluation of Environmental Benefits:

Participating resource management agencies and large private landowner representatives who may use the information from the volunteer program will evaluate the project's success. The project coordinator will develop a form, or other evaluation tool, that the user group will be asked to complete. Indicators of the project success and environmental benefit will include, at minimum:

- Consensus of user group that the maps and habitat assessment protocol enables them to significantly improve targeting and effectiveness monitoring of their restoration efforts.
- Successful completion of all deliverables.

The project coordinator will also evaluate the project to determine what worked and didn't work in accomplishing the project, and ways to improve it. A summary of this evaluation and discussion of the results of the user group's appraisal will be included in the project's final report.

Deliverables for this project include:

1. A coordinated, assembled team with a list of contacts and report distribution networks.
2. A reproducible, 24" x 36" GIS map of the Copper River watershed designed to track habitat monitoring sites, fish habitat sites that should be protected, and sites that are degraded and need restoration work.
3. FishWatch, a habitat monitoring program that includes:
 - Habitat indicators to measure (team will identify indicators appropriate to the Copper Basin and lower Delta)



- Habitat monitoring/data collection protocol
 - Identification of training needed for habitat monitoring volunteers
 - Mechanism for sharing monitoring data results.
4. Quality Assurance Project Plan for collecting monitoring data. This plan will be developed with assistance from the project's technical planning team.

Project Contacts:

Grantee Project Manager

Kristin Smith, Executive Director,
Copper River Watershed Project
P.O. Box 1560
Cordova, AK 99574
phone: (907) 424-3334 fax: (907)424-4318
e-mail address: crwp@copperriver.org

Project Coordinator

Becky Clausen
Copper River Watershed Project
PO Box 1560
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-7873
email: becky@copperriver.org

DEC Project Manager

Amy Ash, Environmental Specialist
Alaska Dept. of Environmental Cons.
610 University Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3643
907-451-2136, Fax 451-2187
amy_ash@envircon.state.ak.us