

Organized Village of Kake “Gunnuck Creek Watershed Restoration Strategy”

FY02 Grant Award: \$55,500

Project Match: \$37,033



Description and Purpose: The Gunnuck creek watershed provides drinking water to the village of Kake as well as fresh water for the operation of the local salmon hatchery. Since the 1970s, water quality in the Creek has been heavily impacted by periodic timber harvests. The creek has severe and persistent sediment and turbidity problems. This project will assess sources of sediment pollution and develop a watershed plan that identifies restoration needs and strategies to protect Kake's fish hatchery and drinking water supply. Now is the perfect

time for this project as the City of Kake is constructing a new dam to replace the structure that failed last fall. Identifying and control sources of chronic sediment delivery into Gunnuck Creek now can be used to help minimize dam impacts on sedimentation to the creek, not after the need arises to institute a periodic dredging program to maintain storage capacity. The goal of this project is to restore and protect the Gunnuck Creek Watershed so it fully supports designated water quality uses for Kake's drinking water supply and for aquaculture.

Evaluation of Environmental Benefit: Although the persons hired for these are expected to work independently, they will work closely at times with Edna Davis Jackson, OVK's Environmental Coordinator, and with the Trust/Natural Resources Officer, Mike A. Jackson. These positions are all accountable to the Executive Director, Gary Williams who is responsible for monitoring OVK staff. During the 1st Quarter, Mike and Edna will work with the Executive Director to draft an evaluation document that will be used during the final quarter to evaluate the progress/success of the project. Ultimate results expected once the final Management Plan is being implemented should result in future reduction in sediment in the Gunnuck Creek Watershed. Results may not be evidenced the first year since time will be spent compiling data and creating a Management Plan. Evaluation will be completed by the Environmental Coordinator, the Trust/Natural Resources Officer, and the Executive Director.



Deliverables for the Project Include:

1. Protocols used for assessing sediment data
2. An assessment of the sources of sediment pollution to Gunnuck Creek with baseline water quality conditions from data that has already been collected.
3. Compilation report of watershed inventory— maps, pictures and summary of water quality data taken by City and hatchery staff.
4. Training materials used in Watershed assessment workshop for Watershed Committee and others.
5. A Gunnuck Creek Watershed Plan that identifies restoration needs and protection strategies.

Project Contacts:

Grantee Project Manager

Gary E. Williams, Executive Director
Organized Village of Kake
P.O. Box 316
Kake, Alaska 99830
Phone: (907) 785-6471
Fax: (907) 785-4902
Email: ovkgovt@seaknet.alaska.edu

ADEC Project Manager

Kent Patrick-Riley
Department of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova St.
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 269-7554
Phone: (907) 269-7508
Kent_Patrick-Riley@envircon.state.ak.us