



Volunteers Making a Difference on the Kenai Peninsula

Greetings,

Thank you for your commitment to being a part of the Stream Watch Program in 2011. Beginning in 1994, volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours protecting and conserving the important natural and cultural resources on the Russian and upper Kenai River through assisting in hands-on stewardship projects and peer-to-peer education. In 2011, the great work of Stream Watch successfully expanded to include all of you as new partners.

2011 was a great year for advancing mutual goals for stream resource protection and the program at new locations was well received by the public. As we look forward to 2012 and beyond, taking the next steps to formalize the partnership will help each of us show support for the program. One of the tools that can help us formalize and document our partnership is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The language in the attached MOU has been vetted by all parties and is now ready for signature. It is noteworthy that this MOU contains a strong non-obligation clause that is important to all parties as we all conduct our business and carryout our public-trust duties with autonomy. The MOU document will help demonstrate to potential funders and future partners that we are cooperatively working together and that there is a process in place for program administration and accountability. The steering committee process outlined in section 3 of the document is critical to ensuring that all partners are represented and that the program expansion is managed in an optimal manner, considering all factors among the partners.

It is significant that we document our agreement that this program has great potential to continue to be mutually beneficial if we continue to work together and maintain open communication and the following interests:

- Maintain political neutrality and non-advocacy
- Maintain hands on restoration and education focus
- Maintain a common purpose throughout jurisdictions
- Foster reasonable consistency of messaging for users (recreationists)
- Maintain and enhance volunteer workforce capacity
- Make transitions and growth into other areas seamless to existing volunteers
- Develop sound criteria for any expansion beyond sites established in 2011
- Leverage relationships, collaboration and partnerships with Government agencies, NGO's and private enterprise to sustain and promote the program.

If you have any questions or concerns we encourage you to contact either of us and again we look forward to another great year in 2012!

Sincerely,

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Chugach National Forest, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, City of Soldotna, City of Kenai, Alaska Department of Natural Resources (Division of Parks and Recreation, Division of Parks & Mining, Land, & Water), the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Kenai Watershed Forum.