

Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
Title II Project Submission Form
USDA Forest Service

_____ **Resource Advisory Committee**

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: PWS Marine Debris Collection	3a. State: Alaska 3b. County(s):
4. Project Submitted By: Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation	5. Date: 01/26/2024
6. Contact Phone Number: (907) 441-1477	7. Contact E-mail: info@princewilliamsound.org

8. Project Location:	
a. National Forest(s): Chugach National Forest	b. Forest Service District: Glacier Ranger District
c. Location (Township-Range-Section)	

<p>9. Project Goals and Objectives:</p> <p>Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Remove thousands of pounds of mostly plastic marine debris along shorelines and uplands in four targeted zones in Prince William Sound over the course of three years. <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Engage youth and partner organizations in stewardship work and education. o Restore beaches, meadows, and forests affected by predominantly plastic and foam marine debris. o Target sites not visited by Gulf of Alaska Keeper to avoid programmatic overlap and redundancy. o Protect marine and terrestrial fish and wildlife from plastic pollution. o Restore and enhance recreational access and opportunity in areas currently impacted by marine debris.
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- o Restore natural conditions and opportunities for solitude and enjoyment of nature in the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area, which remains an Exxon Valdez Oil Spill injured resource.
- o Support the PWS recreation/tourism economy.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*)

The deposition of marine debris is a well-documented and persistent problem in Prince William Sound; this project seeks to continue the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation, the Chugach National Forest, and their partners' ongoing RAC-funded work and significantly build upon it by adding a fourth target collection zone and engaging youth in stewardship work and education.

b. Detailed:

The Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation and Chugach National Forest's marine debris work has shown great success in the past two years, but this work has also demonstrated a need for a wider scope to tackle the persistent problem of marine debris in Prince William Sound. This work builds upon years of data from the Gulf of Alaska Keeper and other organizations, which demonstrates that this debris overwhelmingly consists of plastic and foam products known to present threats to fish and wildlife through entanglement and ingestion. Species vulnerable to marine debris in PWS include EVOS-affected populations of birds, marine mammals, fish, and terrestrial wildlife. Marine debris also adversely affects EVOS-affected services, including recreation, tourism, commercial fishing, and wilderness. PWS residents and visitors are impacted by marine debris while fishing, hunting, practicing subsistence, sightseeing, and recreating. In these ways, marine debris is a negative influence on the PWS recreation and tourism economy. Marine debris also impacts fresh water and forest resources, especially in estuarine and other near-shore areas valued by salmon and other species.

We currently have a three zone approach to our work: we visit the high-collection zones on Knight and Eleanor Islands each summer and then rotate between the Elrington and Perry Island zones every other year. We are requesting this RAC funding to continue treating these highly impacted areas and to add a fourth zone to our annual rotation: the busy Passage Canal. We have worked with Alaska Teacher of the Year Catherine Walker's Dimond High School Oceanography class to work in this zone before, and we hope to grow this partnership and leverage the students' enthusiastic work on marine debris.

Additionally, we would like to expand our work in the Perry Island zone to include Naked Island, with an emphasis on collection at McPherson Bay and Bass Harbor. Our RAC-funded work in the Perry Island zone has shown us that the level of marine debris deposition is more

widely distributed than previously thought, therefore requiring additional travel time and visits.

Our three-year rotational approach has been successful. In recent years, we have removed thousands of pounds of legacy marine debris that accumulated over many years. Our monitoring shows that with the legacy trash removed, we are now getting a better idea of the volume of debris that accumulates annually, which helps us adapt our approach to where efforts are most needed. The heavy lift of removing legacy trash has also enabled us to remove garbage from more beaches, as our efforts are not as bogged down by materials entangled in years of vegetative growth. Nevertheless, the plastics and foam are still gathering on PWS beaches. And, our total weights of trash removed have remained in the thousands of pounds annually. The difference is that removal of legacy debris has now allowed us to treat more beaches. If we don't continue our work, the debris accumulating today will become the legacy trash of the future.

In another indicator of our success, the Chugach National Forest is now devoting two vessels and crews to support our work. In early years, the Forest Service only assigned one vessel and crew. This shows the project is making measurable gains and engaging an ever-growing list of partners.

Our community-driven approach has been successful, as we have engaged various stakeholders throughout the region in the conversation around marine debris. We hope this funding will also help us to engage more students in our work, including students of Catherine Walker's Dimond High Oceanography class, who we have worked with on marine debris projects before, and Four Valleys Community School students and community members. Our budget includes funding for water taxis to selected locations in the fourth (Passage Canal) zone for these volunteers and for outreach/educational programming to encourage community building and stewardship through programming such as marine debris art sessions.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes X No

Land Status: State of Alaska, City of Whittier, and Private lands

If Yes, specify: Each year we outreach to State of Alaska land managers, Alaska Native corporations and tribal interests, municipalities, hatchery operations, and the general public to learn about marine debris deposition patterns, locations, and to offer to remove debris from state, private, and other lands.

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.
Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems. X
Restores and improves land health. X
Restores water quality. X

13. Project Type	
a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
Road Maintenance	Trail Maintenance
Road Decommission/Obliteration	Trail Obliteration
Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
Soil Productivity Improvement	Forest Health Improvement X
Watershed Restoration & Maintenance X	Wildlife Habitat Restoration X
Fish Habitat Restoration	Control of Noxious Weeds
Reestablish Native Species	Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
Implement CWPP Project	Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above): Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained: 0
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated: 0
Number of structures maintained/improved: 0
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved: 50 miles of estuarine and lower streams over three years
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved: 300 miles of coastal habitat over three years
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment: 0

Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction): 5,000 acres
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: 5,000 acres (although likely much larger due to how marine debris is spread ashore by wind, waves, and curious wildlife).
Acres of noxious weeds controlled: 0
Timber volume generated (mbf): 0
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks:
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 2,000
Direct economic activity benefit: To Prince William Sound communities and southcentral Alaska
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 05/15/2024	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 08/31/2026
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

Marine Debris Tracker app (University of Georgia)

U.S. Coast Guard Station Valdez

Gulf of Alaska Keeper

PKS Consulting and Plastic Ocean Waste Solutions

Anchorage School District

Four Valleys Community School

Ocean Conservancy

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

Port Ashton Lodge

Alaska Geographic

Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

Prince William Sound Science Center

Chugach Regional Resources Commission

City Of Whittier

Whittier Parks & Recreation

And many more businesses and individuals

18. Identify benefits to communities.

Removing marine debris directly benefits ecosystem health in Prince William Sound. With Prince William Sound’s unique geographic position connecting freshwater streams coming down from the mountains to the Gulf of Alaska and the northern Pacific Ocean, working on local shorelines has the potential to impact a broad area as well.

Removing marine debris prevents marine life and terrestrial life along the coastline from ingesting it or becoming entangled in it. Some of these species are Exxon Valdez Oil Spill affected species.

Removing marine debris also benefits the growing tourism and recreation industries that operate out of the primary gateway cities of Whittier, Valdez, and Cordova, as well as the fishing industry throughout Prince William Sound.

Moreover, removing marine debris helps keep Prince William Sound healthy, clean, and wild for all to enjoy, and the education/outreach component of this project aims to create awareness and stewardship of this unique area for generations to come.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

Removing marine debris protects fish and wildlife, including species affected by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. This project restores and protects public access and enjoyment of National Forest lands. It improves remote and natural settings in the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area. It protects fresh water sources and fish habitat by removing the plastics and foam materials that leach into streams and soils. Studies have shown that these materials also contribute to accelerating climate change. The investment in marine debris removal now is one that will have lasting impacts for the future, including curbing additional future spending.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
Contract X	Federal Workforce X
County Workforce	Volunteers X
Grant	Agreement
Americorps	YCC/CCC Crews
Job Corps	Stewardship Contract
Merchantable Timber Pilot	Other (specify):

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$72,050.00
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.
- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring: Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation staff
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.

Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Forest Supervisor

Resource Advisory Committee

_____ National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Explanation of Budget

Column A

Row e. WSA/Recreation planner dedicates 5 days per year to marine debris project planning and design. \$2,000.00 per year for 3 years.

Row i. Chugach National Forest devotes 6 staff for 10 days each year for two annual marine debris cleanups. This includes 2 boat captains and two staff for one trip and one boat captain and one staff for the other trip. \$39,000 over 3 years.

Row j. Chugach National Forest fuel and vessel costs over 3 years is \$7,500.00. This is for 1 boat/4 days per year and 2 boats/4 days per year (one annual trip uses only 1 USFS vessel; one annual trip uses 2 USFS vessels).

Column B

Row a. Fieldwork and Site Surveys: 5 days annually for PWSSF staff to design project, which entails:

1. Assessing shorelines and nearshore topography for debris collection characteristics, fish/wildlife habitat, and boat access potential, using satellite and mapping imagery and discussions with partners such as Gulf of Alaska Keeper and Chugach National Forest.
2. Planning clean-up strategy, anchorages, weather contingencies, camping options for crews, debris cache locations, and staffing needs.

Row i. PWSSF Salary Cost to Implement: 28 days annually for PWSSF staff to implement marine debris clean-up:

1. Discussions and coordination with government, NGO, tour operators, and community organizations, including Chugach National Forest, Gulf of Alaska Keeper, NOAA, PWS communities and tribal interests, US Coast Guard, PWS Aquaculture Corporation, Plastic Ocean Waste Solutions, tour companies, and other existing and potential partners.
2. Outreach and engagement with the public to assemble volunteer teams through direct mailings, online events, webpage updates, and social media.
3. Participation in the field for a minimum of 8 days for work directly related to clean-up and data collection.

Row j. Materials and Supplies: \$23,500.00

1. \$15,000.00 for water taxi assistance to enable greater use of citizen volunteers and more efficient and flexible transport of marine debris from PWS to Whittier.
2. \$6,000 vessel and fuel costs to support Chugach National Forest use of up to two vessels to transport USFS personnel, PWSSF volunteers, PWSSF staff, and to remove trash.
3. \$2,500: PWSSF will invest in a modest amount of backcountry equipment and supplies to support citizen volunteers working with us on multi-day clean-up trips. Equipment and supplies will include bear spray, rain gear, cooking gears, and food.

Row l. Indirect Costs

- o 10% indirect cost rate = \$6,550.00 for tunnel fees, overhead, transportation and equipment rental

Column C

Row j. Materials and Supplies: Participant contributions. \$7,200.

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

<u>Item</u>	<u>Column A</u> <u>Fed. Agency</u> <u>Appropriated</u> <u>Contribution</u>	<u>Column B</u> <u>Requested</u> <u>Title II</u> <u>Contribution</u>	<u>Column C</u> <u>Other</u> <u>Contributions</u>	<u>Column D</u> <u>Total</u> <u>Available</u> <u>Funds</u>
<u>a. Field Work & Site Surveys</u>		<u>\$6,000.00</u>		<u>\$6,000.00</u>
<u>b. NEPA/CEQA</u>				
<u>c. ESA Consultation</u>				
<u>d. Permit Acquisition</u>				
<u>e. Project Design & Engineering</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>			<u>\$6,000.00</u>
<u>f. Contract/Grant Preparation</u>				
<u>g. Contract/Grant Administration</u>				
<u>h. Contract/Grant Cost</u>				
<u>i. Salaries</u>	<u>\$39,000.00</u>	<u>\$33,600.00</u>		<u>\$72,600.00</u>

<u>j. Materials & Supplies</u>	<u>\$7,500.00</u>	<u>\$23,500.00</u>	<u>\$7,200</u>	<u>\$38,200.00</u>
<u>k. Monitoring</u>		<u>\$2,400.00</u>		<u>\$2,400.00</u>
<u>l. Other</u> <u>ex. Partner Indirect Cost</u>		<u>\$6,550.00</u>		<u>\$6,550.00</u>
<u>m. Project Sub-Total</u>				
<u>n. FS Indirect Costs</u>				
<u>Total Cost Estimate</u>	<u>\$52,500.00</u>	<u>\$72,050.00</u>	<u>\$7,200.00</u>	<u>\$131,750.00</u>

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

NOTES:

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

Row K: Costs associated with performing monitoring described in Items 24a, 24b, and 24c. Amounts should be similar between Item 24 and Row K.

Row N: Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.