

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

**Prince William Sound**

**Resource Advisory Committee**

**Project Number** (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

**Funding Fiscal Year(s):**

<b>2. Project Name:</b> Invasive species management in Whittier	<b>3a. State:</b> Alaska <b>3b. County(s):</b>
<b>4. Project Submitted By:</b> Kenai Watershed Forum	<b>5. Date:</b> 09/30/2021
<b>6. Contact Phone Number:</b> 907-260-5449 (ext 1208)	<b>7. Contact E-mail:</b> maura@kenaiwatershed.org

<b>8. Project Location:</b> Whittier, AK	
a. National Forest(s): Chugach	b. Forest Service District: Glacier
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) T8N, R4E, Sections 15, 22, 23, 24	

**9. Project Goals and Objectives:**  
The goal of this two-year project is to control and eradicate terrestrial invasive species within the City of Whittier. These species include Bird vetch (*Vicia cracca*), Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), White sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*), Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). Additionally, this project will expand upon the outreach and education taking place within the community regarding invasive species through educational programming, community weed-pulls and slug removal opportunities, and invasive species signage at trailheads.

**10. Project Description:**  
a. Brief: (*in one sentence*)  
The Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) intends to control and eradicate several populations of invasive species from the City of Whittier through manual and chemical means as well as initiating outreach and educational programming to the public.

b. Detailed:  
The Kenai Watershed Forum has been involved with invasive species education and management on the Kenai Peninsula (KP) for over 20 years. KWF regularly coordinates with a variety of partners including the Chugach National Forest and Homer Soil and Water Conservation District to control invasive species populations within and adjacent to the Chugach National Forest. KWF hosts the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area's (KP-CISMA) Field Coordinator and is the KP's primary herbicide applicator. While Whittier is outside of the geographical scope of both KWF and the KP-CISMA, both entities believe the security of the KP from invasive species invasion goes beyond the borders of the KP, and therefore, controlling invasive species in adjacent areas will ultimately lead to the protection of the KP and Alaska at large. Through this project, KWF will work

with local groups including the Chugach National Forest, the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation (PWSSF), the Whittier City Council, the Whittier Harbor, and the Whittier Community School to develop and engage in educational activities with both adult and youth members of the community. This will expand upon the years of invasive European Black Slug education, outreach, and control efforts that have taken place. In addition to invasive slugs, the community will also learn about terrestrial invasive plants and their potential to cause great harm, especially in the wild and intact regions of the Prince William Sound. Plans will be made to install 2-3 boot brush systems in Whittier (locations TBD) that will include invasive species educational material. These will be similar to the signs placed within the Homer and Seward harbors (photo attached in separate document-Figure 1.). KWF will also partner with Chugach National Forest, Homer SWCD, and Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AK DOT&PF) to initiate eradication efforts with the use of herbicide at targeted infestations in Whittier. This includes follow-up treatments to previously tarped infestations of Reed Canarygrass; herbicide treatments of a recently documented infestation of Creeping thistle; and roadside herbicide treatments to previously documented infestations of Bird vetch, White sweetclover, and Ox-eye daisy in Whittier. Selected infestations in the neighboring Portage Valley (Milepost 4-6 of the Portage Highway) of White sweetclover and Bird vetch will also be treated with herbicide under this project. Terrestrial Invasive Species eradication efforts are dependent upon the Invasiveness Ranking of each species, as determined by the Alaska Center for Conservation Science. All targeted species within the community of Whittier will have an invasiveness ranking of 60 or greater (on a scale of 0-100) for eradication to be pursued. The appropriate NEPA documents and Environmental Assessments have been completed within the community of Whittier and greater Prince William Sounds Zone, allowing for the use of herbicides.

**11. Types of Lands Involved?**

State/Private/Other lands involved?  Yes  No

**Land Status:** State and City lands

If Yes, specify: AK DOT&PF rights-of-way, City of Whittier 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.

Restores and improves land health.

Restores water quality

**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

<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above):	

<b>14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish</b>
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:            5 acres
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:        5 acres
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:        5 acres
Timber volume generated (mbf):
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): 50+ (including both adults and youth)
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

<b>15. Estimated Project Start Date:</b> 4/1/22	<b>16. Estimated Project Completion Date:</b> 9/30/23
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**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.**  
The Kenai Watershed Forum has been involved with invasive species education and management on the Kenai Peninsula (KP) for over 20 years. KWF regularly coordinates with a variety of partners including the Chugach National Forest and Homer Soil and Water Conservation District to control invasive species populations within and adjacent to the Chugach National Forest. KWF hosts the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area's (KP-CISMA) Field Coordinator and is the KP's

primary herbicide applicator. While Whittier is outside of the geographical scope of both KWF and the KP-CISMA, both entities believe the security of the KP from invasive species invasion goes beyond the borders of the KP, and therefore, controlling invasive species in adjacent areas will ultimately lead to the protection of the KP and Alaska at large. Through this project, KWF will work with local groups including the Chugach National Forest, the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation (PWSSF), the Whittier City Council, the Whittier Harbor, and the Whittier Community School to develop and engage in educational activities with both adult and youth members of the community. This will expand upon the years of invasive European Black Slug education, outreach, and control efforts that have taken place. In addition to invasive slugs, the community will also learn about terrestrial invasive plants and their potential to cause great harm, especially in the wild and in-tact regions of the Prince William Sound. Plans will be made to install 2-3 boot brush systems in Whittier (locations TBD) that will include invasive species educational material. These will be similar to the signs placed within the Homer and Seward harbors (photo attached in separate document- Figure 1.). KWF will also partner with Chugach National Forest, Homer SWCD, and Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AK DOT&PF) to initiate eradication efforts with the use of herbicide at targeted infestations in Whittier. This includes follow-up treatments to previously tarped infestations of Reed Canarygrass; herbicide treatments of a recently documented infestation of Creeping thistle; and roadside herbicide treatments to previously documented infestations of Bird vetch, White sweetclover, and Ox-eye daisy in Whittier. Selected infestations in the neighboring Portage Valley (Milepost 4-6 of the Portage Highway) of White sweetclover and Bird vetch will also be treated with herbicide under this project. Terrestrial Invasive Species eradication efforts are dependent upon the Invasiveness Ranking of each species, as determined by the Alaska Center for Conservation Science. All targeted species within the community of Whittier will have an invasiveness ranking of 60 or greater (on a scale of 0-100) for eradication to be pursued. The appropriate NEPA documents and Environmental Assessments have been completed within the community of Whittier and greater Prince William Sounds Zone, allowing for the use of herbicides.

**18. Identify benefits to communities.**

The control and elimination of invasive plant species promotes and restores native vegetation and enhances native plant diversity. Removal of invasive plants also prevents introduction and further spread into nearby pristine habitat, such as Prince William Sound and Portage Valley. The potential spread of invasive plants to riparian zones and other aquatic sites may degrade overall watershed health. Control of small populations of invasive plants ultimately reduces the cost of large-scale treatments if populations are left to spread, and also increases the potential for eradication. Outreach, education, and an increased number of opportunities to be involved in invasive species management in Whittier will lead to an increased sense of stewardship among community members. An increase in the knowledge the community holds about invasive species and the encouragement to report invasive species will assist in the early detection of new invasive species infestations.

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

Whittier is visited frequently during the summer season as a gateway to remote and pristine locations in Prince William Sound. Controlling invasive plant infestations will likely limit or prevent the spread of invasive plants to federal lands, thus protecting the native plant diversity and overall ecosystem health. Costs of invasive plant control in remote sites of Prince William Sound would be significantly greater than in coastal towns such as Whittier. Rapid response to invasive plants and subsequent prevention of spread is critical to successful control and eradication.

**20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment?** (check at least 1)

Contract

Federal Workforce

<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):

**21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber?**     Yes     No

<b>22. Anticipated Project Costs</b>
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$15,646.50
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:**

In-kind contributions to this project will come from volunteers, the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation, coordinators of the KP-CISMA, and Chugach National Forest.

**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.

The Kenai Watershed Forum will use baseline data collected by the US Forest Service Ecology staff in Girdwood and historic entries in the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (a statewide invasive plant database) to establish treatment sites. Kenai Watershed Forum staff will continue to monitor these sites during and after treatment. All treated areas will be revisited within the same field season and again the following year to determine treatment efficacy. Pre-treatment data will be compared to post-treatment data, including infestation area and percent cover. All data will be recorded and submitted to the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (a statewide invasive plant database).

- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring: Kenai Watershed Forum
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k): \$500

**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:**

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

**Project Approved By:**

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

**Chairperson**

Resource Advisory Committee

**Forest Supervisor**

\_\_\_\_\_ National Forest

# Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

## Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	\$500			\$500
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering	\$500			\$500
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries		\$5,500		\$5,500
j. Materials & Supplies		\$5,000		\$5,000
k. Monitoring		\$500		
l. Other ex. Partner Indirect Cost 1. Travel 2. Indirect Cost		1. \$1,200 2. \$3,446.50		1. \$1,200 2. \$3,446.50
m. Project Sub-Total		\$14,646.50		\$14,646.50
n. FS Indirect Costs				
<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$14,646.50</b>		<b>\$15,646.50</b>

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.

Worksheet description:

- a. Includes time for Forest Service personnel to assist with project implementation.
- e. Includes time for Forest Service personnel to provide background information on the project to KWF
- i. Includes the salaries of KWF employees (Invasive Species Specialist and Invasive Species Intern) to complete project work. This includes project preparation, communicating with project partners, planning community events, completing post-treatment monitoring efforts, and reporting on project accomplishments.
- j. Includes materials to implement project work including herbicide and herbicide sprayers as well as boot brushes and invasive species signage from the organization PlayCleanGo. This also includes funding to the amount of \$1,000 to contribute to the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation to assist in community outreach planning efforts in Whittier.
- l. 1. Includes mileage for 3 trips to Whittier (from Soldotna) each year.  
2. KWF's established Indirect Rate is 28.25%. Subtotal of project costs=12,200.

## Invasive species management in Whittier Additional Information and Attachments

**Figure 1:** A Boot Brush and Invasive Species signage installed in the Seward Harbor in 2021



### Note of support and project collaboration interest from Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation:

For four years, the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation, City of Whittier, and Whittier School have hosted an annual Whittier Slug-Out event, which pulls together volunteers and students to collect slugs from targeted areas such as Smitty's Cove. Since the events began in 2017, data show a sharp decrease in slugs found at Smitty's Cove, from over 4,000 in 2017 to only a

couple hundred in 2020 and 2021. This is promising evidence that volunteer-led efforts may be able to curtail the spread of slugs. Smitty's Cove was chosen for this work because it is a popular spot where kayakers, jet skiers, boaters, divers, picnickers, and other visitors can inadvertently transport slugs to new locations, either eastward into Prince William Sound or westward toward communities in Turnagain Arm or the Kenai Peninsula (a population was recently documented in Girdwood). While the ecological impact of black slugs is unknown, they do carry high spread and establishment potential, as described in the 2010 Copper River Valley European Black Slug Risk Assessment. The Slug-Out events have attracted up to 35 volunteers each year, and the Kenai Watershed Forum and Chugach National Forest have participated in these community-led events.

This proposal includes a small amount of funding (\$1,000) to help Stewardship Foundation staff continue organizing at the community level in Whittier. Their efforts with slugs help engage community members in the broader invasive species discussion, and the Foundation would like to work with the Kenai Watershed Forum to conduct additional outreach to address the other invasive species mentioned above, including Canada thistle and reed canary grass. The Foundation board includes business owners, city councilors, guides, and educators who are rooted in the Whittier community and can help with all invasive species efforts.

From Project Submission Form:

**24. Monitoring Plan**

a. The Kenai Watershed Forum will use baseline data collected by the US Forest Service Ecology staff in Girdwood and historic entries in the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (a statewide invasive plant database) to establish treatment sites. Kenai Watershed Forum staff will continue to monitor these sites during and after treatment. All treated areas will be revisited within the same field season and again the following year to determine treatment efficacy. Pre-treatment data will be compared to post-treatment data, including infestation area and percent cover. All data will be recorded and submitted to the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (a statewide invasive plant database).

Additionally, the number and diversity of people participating in outreach and education events will be tracked in order to determined the reach and effectiveness of outreach efforts in the community.

b. Kenai Watershed Forum

c. \$500

**Project Cost Analysis Worksheet**

Worksheet 1

<i>Please submit this worksheet with your proposal</i> <b>Item</b>	<i>Column A</i> <b>Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution</b>	<i>Column B</i> <b>Requested Title II Contribution</b>	<i>Column C</i> <b>Other Contributions</b>	<i>Column D</i> <b>Total Available Funds</b>
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	\$500			\$1,000
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering	\$500			
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries		\$5,500		
j. Materials & Supplies		\$5,000		
k. Monitoring		\$500		
l. Other - 1. Travel 2. Indirect Cost (28.25%)		1. \$1,200 2. \$3446.50		
m. Project Sub-Total				

n. FS Indirect Costs				
<b>Total Cost Estimate</b>	\$1,000	\$15,646.50		

a. Includes time for Forest Service personnel to assist with project implementation.

e. Includes time for Forest Service personnel to provide background information on the project to KWF

i. Includes the salaries of KWF employees (Invasive Species Specialist and Invasive Species Intern) to complete project work. This includes project preparation, communicating with project partners, planning community events, completing post-treatment monitoring efforts, and reporting on project accomplishments.

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