

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):

2. Project Name: Community-led Removal of Targeted Marine Debris in PWS	3a. State: Alaska 3b. County(s):
4. Project Submitted By: Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation	5. Date: 9/30/21
6. Contact Phone Number: 310-663-4479	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>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove an estimated 10,000 pounds of mostly plastic marine debris along 300 miles of shorelines and uplands in central/southwestern Prince William Sound. (Estimate based on prior work and data from Gulf of Alaska Keeper, Chugach National Forest, communities, and tour operators.) <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restore beaches, meadows, and forests affected by predominantly plastic and foam marine debris. ○ Target sites not visited by Gulf of Alaska Keeper to avoid programmatic overlap and redundancy ○ Protect marine and terrestrial fish and wildlife from plastic pollution ○ Restore and enhance recreational access and opportunity in areas currently impacted by marine debris. ○ Convert marine debris into usable plastic construction material by partnering with Plastic Ocean Waste Solutions of Anchorage, Alaska ○ 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 Trustee Council injured resource.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*)

PWS Stewardship Foundation and its partners will remove marine debris from three targeted zones in PWS over a three-year period.

b. Detailed:

Deposition of marine debris is a well-known and persistent problem in Prince William Sound. Surveys by PWS Stewardship Foundation, Gulf of Alaska Keeper, and others show the 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.

PWS Stewardship Foundation and Gulf of Alaska Keeper are the only two entities organizing annual large-scale removal of marine debris from Prince William Sound beaches and uplands. The two organizations strategize on locations and approaches to marine debris removal. In some cases, we work together on the same project. At other times we work independently of each other, but in pre-planned and complementary ways that advance the same goal of removing marine debris from the Sound in an efficient and targeted manner. Because our two organizations operate at different scales, our work is naturally complementary. This proposal is designed with input and coordination with Gulf of Alaska Keeper.

PWS Stewardship Foundation proposes a three-year project targeted at known marine debris collection sites in the central and southwestern part of the Sound. Most of our selected sites are not regularly cleaned by other organizations. In some strategic locations we will work with Gulf of Alaska Keeper to increase their capacity, allowing their crews to cover additional areas such as the beaches of Montague Island.

The three areas identified by PWS Stewardship Foundation are:

1. Perry/Naked, to be treated in 2022

This area includes high collection zones on Perry Island, Naked Island, and mainland shores between Eaglek Bay and Unakwik Inlet, along with near-shore islands such as the Axel Lind and North Dutch groups.

2. Knight Island Group, to be treated in 2023

This area includes high collection zones on Knight, Eleanor, Disk, and Ingot islands.

3. Elrington/Bainbridge, to be treated in 2024

This area includes high collection zones in the Elrington Island, Elrington Passage, Evans Island, Bainbridge Island, Port Bainbridge, and Puget Bay areas.

While Gulf of Alaska Keeper conducts assessments and does marine debris clean-up in these zones, this project proposal targets sites that GoAK does not regularly treat. Selection of these zones and the

sites within them is done in coordination with Gulf of Alaska Keeper and the Chugach National Forest to ensure best use of resources, avoid redundancy, and maximize efficiency.

The PWS Stewardship Foundation approach to marine debris is also informed by interviews and reports from long-time tour operators, hatchery staff, community governments, tribal interests, NOAA, US Coast Guard, private lodges, and others with expert knowledge of marine debris deposition patterns in PWS.

The Foundation's approach hinges on community involvement and partnership development. Our community approach is unique and enables us to remove marine debris in a cost-efficient manner. For example, our marine debris efforts in 2021 brought together PWS Aquaculture Corporation staff, Port Ashton Lodge owners, PWS Salt Company, the Chugach National Forest, Plastic Ocean Waste Solutions, Gulf of Alaska Keeper, and over 20 private citizens and independent boaters. We also reached out to the communities of Whittier and Chenega Bay to enlist further help and gather local knowledge. As a critical indication of the success of this community-based approach, many of our partners had never regularly engaged in organized marine debris removal prior to our program. Importantly, this includes the Chugach National Forest, which now commits the use of limited staff and at least one vessel to assist with two annual clean-up trips organized by PWSSF (see budget description below). Similarly, our programs have inspired other organizations, including tour operators, to fit participation in our marine debris efforts into their existing work.

This community approach is effective at removing debris, but it also has outreach and education merit we believe is building an important legacy in the Sound. Each year that individuals, businesses, NGOs, and government entities work with us, we help raise awareness about marine debris issues, patterns of deposition, origin of debris, and the belief that local communities can work together to positively impact PWS. In these ways, our approach builds collaboration and community resilience.

Our community outreach efforts make effective use of our many partners, our website, and our social media platforms to garner interest and participation. Public feedback indicates our outreach effort inspire routine marine debris clean-up even from those not directly participating in our programs.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes No

Land Status:

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.

Restores and improves land health.

Restores water quality

13. Project Type	
a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds
<input 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): Watershed Restoration and Maintenance	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
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
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:
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): We reach a broad audience in southcentral Alaska through our social media platforms, website, online events, and other forms of public outreach.

Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 6/15/22	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 8/31/24
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

We have a solid history of partnership with the Chugach National Forest, Gulf of Alaska Keeper, US Coast Guard, PWS RCAC, PWS Science Center, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, Alaska Geographic, City of Whittier, Chugach Schools, and many private companies, lodges, tour operators, and others. Partnership and collaboration are central to our work and will be key to this project.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

Marine debris negatively impacts the wildlife, water, forest, and cultural resources that support PWS community members, Alaska visitors and residents, commercial fishing, and the recreation/tourism economy. Our marine debris removal efforts keep PWS healthy, clean and wild, for all to enjoy. Our clean-ups provides both large- and small-scale benefits to communities, from personal experiences by local families enjoying beaches to tour operations that bring thousands of visitors and generate revenue throughout our communities.

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. It 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.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input 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

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$75,600 (proposed for a three-year project aimed at specific PWS zones)
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

PWS Stewardship Foundation provides many hundreds of hours of volunteer and partnership work in support of our marine debris removal work. We also rely on grants, donations, corporate sponsorships, and member dues. Our work also garners in-kind contributions from the Chugach National Forest in the form of vessel and staff support on two annual clean-up trips.

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:
- 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:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)
Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)
Forest Supervisor

_____ National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Explanation of Budget

Row A

Fieldwork and Site Surveys: 5 days annually for PWSSF program coordinator to design project, which entails:

- a. 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.
- b. 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 program coordinator to implement marine debris clean-up:

- a. 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.
- b. Outreach and engagement with the public to assemble volunteer teams through direct mailings, online events, webpage updates, and social media.
- c. Participation in the field for a minimum of 8 days for work directly related to clean-up and data collection.

Chugach National Forest Appropriated Funds Cost to Implement:

PWSSF has successfully engaged the Chugach National Forest in PWS marine debris clean-up for four years. Each year, the Forest Service dedicates in-kind contributions that we expect to continue in the following general format:

Staff Contributions

- Boat captain and one crew member for participation in two annual clean-ups. The two employees spend 10 days in preparation and participation for annual in-kind contribution of \$18,000.00
- USFS WSA Planner: each year a GS-9 planner coordinates with PWSSF on scheduling, assessments, strategy, and reporting for a total of 10 days annually, for an in-kind of contribution of \$12,000.00.

Equipment/Disposal

Chugach National Forest dedicates the use of at least one Forest Service marine vessel in support of two annual marine debris clean-up trips, with costs of fuel and vessel operation/maintenance amounting to \$12,000.

Row J

Materials and Supplies: \$25,500.00

- a. \$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.
- b. \$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.

- c. \$4,500: PWSSF will invest in a modest amount of backcountry equipment to support citizen volunteers working with us on multi-day clean-up trips. Equipment will include tents, cookstoves, bear spray, rain gear, camp tables, and sleeping pads.

Row L

Indirect Costs

- o 12% indirect cost rate = \$8,100.00 for tunnel fees, overhead, transportation and equipment rental

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	<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>
a. <u>Field Work & Site Surveys</u>		<u>\$6,000.00</u>		<u>\$6,000.00</u>
b. <u>NEPA/CEQA</u>				
c. <u>ESA Consultation</u>				
d. <u>Permit Acquisition</u>				
e. <u>Project Design & Engineering</u>				
f. <u>Contract/Grant Preparation</u>				
g. <u>Contract/Grant Administration</u>				
h. <u>Contract/Grant Cost</u>				
i. <u>Salaries</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$33,600.00</u>		<u>\$63,600.00</u>
j. <u>Materials & Supplies</u>	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$25,500.00</u>		<u>\$37,500.00</u>
k. <u>Monitoring</u>		<u>\$2,400.00</u>		<u>\$2,400.00</u>
l. <u>Other</u> ex. <u>Partner Indirect Cost</u>		<u>\$8,100.00</u>		<u>\$8,100.00</u>
m. <u>Project Sub-Total</u>				
n. <u>FS Indirect Costs</u>				
<u>Total Cost Estimate</u>	<u>\$42,000</u>	<u>\$75,600.00</u>		<u>\$117,600.00</u>

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.