Reset

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

FS-1800-0030
OMB#
EXP.

Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Committee Project Number
(Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2024

2. Project Name: COP 3 & SHER 3 - Full Design Funding	
3a. State: Alaska	**3b. County(s):** Valdez-Cordova
4. Project Submitted By: Alex Niepoth	
5. Date: 12/31/2023 (Date format (MM/DD/YYYY)	**6. Contact Phone Number:** (907) 424-4753 (Phone format (123) 456-7890)
7. Contact E-mail: Alexander.Niepoth@usda.gov	

8. Project Location: 60.48426°, -145.43236°

a. National Forest(s): Chugach National Forest

b. Forest Service District: Cordova

c. Location (Township-Range-Section) T16S-R1W-S17

9. Project Goals and Objectives: Kindly refer to the attached document.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) Kindly refer to the attached document.

b. Detailed: Kindly refer to the attached document.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? (●) Yes ( ) No

Land Status:

If Yes, specify: State of Alaska

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

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

13. Project Type a. Select all that apply: (select at least 1)	
☒ Road Maintenance	☐ Trail Maintenance
☐ Road Decommission/Obliteration	☐ Trail Obliteration
☒ Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): Replace 2 culverts w/fish friendly AOP structures	
☐ Soil Productivity Improvement	☒ Forest Health Improvement
☒ Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	☐ Wildlife Habitat Restoration
☒ 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): Fish Habitat Restoration	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved: 2
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved: 0.85 stream miles
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved: 9.5 pond acres
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): 9.5 pond acres
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
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):
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 04/01/2024	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 12/31/2025
Date format (MM/DD/YYYY	Date format (MM/DD/YYYY

17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

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

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (Select at least 1)	
☐ Contract	☐ Federal Workforce
☐ County Workforce	☐ Volunteers
☐ 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: $61,450
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? ○ 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:

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:**

Chairperson **Forest Supervisor**

Resource Advisory Committee 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				
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering		61,450.00		
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries				
j. Materials & Supplies				
k. Monitoring				
l. Other - ex Partner Indirect Cost				
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	$ 0.00	$ 61,450.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00

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.

Project Name: COP 3 & SHER 3 – Full Design Funding

Project Goals and Objectives: We are seeking funding to develop conceptual designs for the implementation of two crucial Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) structures – COP 3 and SHER 3 – on the Copper River Highway (CRH) near Milepost 13. These structures aim to address existing barriers and enhance aquatic connectivity for populations of Coho, Sockeye, Pink, and Chum Salmon as well as Dolly Vardan and Cutthroat Trout at the intersection of Sheridan Glacier Road and the CRH.

Project Description:

Brief:

- Develop final designs, special provisions, and bid documents for the implementation of two crucial Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) structures – COP3 and SHER 3 – on the Copper River Highway (CRH) near Milepost 13.

Detailed:

- COP 3
    - Location: Near Milepost 13 on the Copper River Highway, west of Cordova, AK.
    - Current Conditions: Partial barrier due to constriction and poor condition of the pipes.
        - ADF&G Fish Passage Rating: GRAY

Figure 1: Outlet of COP 3.

    - Objective: Gather essential data which will serve as a foundation for development of a final design set – including 65%, 95%, final designs, special provisions, and bid documents – for implementation of a fish-friendly AOP structure.
- SHER 3
    - Location: Near the intersection of Sheridan Glacier Road and the Copper River Highway.

- Current Conditions: Crushed pipe causing road damage and sedimentation of downstream wetland habitat. Crossing is a total barrier to adult and partial barrier to juvenile salmon.
    - ADF&G Fish Passage Rating: RED

Figure 2: SHER 3 outlet (Left) – Culvert is not functional and water is being converyed across road (Right).

Figure 3: Inlet (Left) and outlet (Right) of SHER 3 in 2017.

- Objective: Collect data necessary for the development of a final design – including 65%, 95%, final designs, special provisions, and bid documents – which will lay the groundwork for implementation of a fish-friendly AOP structure.

- By securing funding for these final designs, we will have materials necessary for a comprehensive and ecologically sound solution to address current barriers to fish passage while enhancing aquatic ecosystem connectivity. The successful completion of this project will not only contribute to the restoration of fish passage but also protect vital habitats and infrastructure along the Copper River Highway. The full design process will involve 65%, 95%, final designs, special provisions, and bid documents, ensuring a fish-friendly approach to the implementation of two AOP structures.
- At each design stage, partners have three weeks to review the draft designs and submit comments to the design engineers. A review meeting is hosted by CRWP to allow for discussion on specific comments from reviewers, allowing the collective expertise of the

partnership to inform the design process. All materials are cataloged on a password protected project site hosted by CRWP to ensure all project partners maintain access to all relevant project materials. Given the recent history of significant fish passage projects being implemented on the Copper River Delta, project partners also draw heavily on past experiences. At the conclusion of every successful construction project, partners meet with design engineers and the contractor to evaluate the design sets and specifications and use this as a starting point for the next project.

Partners:

- For over a decade the U.S. Forest Service has been partnering with Copper River Watershed Project, The Eyak Corporation, Native Village of Eyak, Alaska Department of Transportation, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, NOAA, and US Fish and Wildlife Service on fish passage efforts on the Copper River Delta. In 2017 our partnership received funding from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to remove 13 barriers and replace 11 with fish friendly culverts (the remaining two were a low -water ford and restoration of a stream channel after removal of old roadbed). In 2023 this partnership will successfully complete these 13 projects. At the end of 2022, The Eyak Corporation received funding from NOAA to move forward our next priority crossings, including Cop 3 and Sher 3. Over the course of 2023, TEC oversaw contracts to collect geotechnical and site survey data at these sites and initiate design work, getting the partnership 15% designs for these crossings. We are applying on behalf of the partnership to complete these final designs. Concurrently, CRWP and USFWS are working to submit a funding request to USFWS for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to construct these crossings.

Project Benefits

- The project to enhance aquatic connectivity on the Copper River Highway (CRH) through fish friendly AOP structures offers a multitude of benefits to both the local community and federal land/resources. This project serves as a comprehensive initiative, providing environmental, economic, and safety benefits to both the local community and federal land/resources. Additionally, the Sheridan Glacier Road provides important access for multiple community resources, including USFS recreation trails, the Cordova Trap and Gun Club shooting range, and critical material sites.
    - *Community Benefits:*
        - Improved Fish Passage: The stream simulation crossing design prioritizes the natural functioning of rivers, ensuring year-round passage for all fish species at all life stages, and aligns with the evolving science of stream simulation design. This restoration effort contributes to the resilience of salmon habitat, sustaining a subsistence way of life for Alaska Natives and rural residents.
        - Flood Resiliency: By adopting stream simulation culvert designs, this project enhances local flood resiliency while reducing risk of road damage and infrastructure failure (see Figure 2).
        - Support for Underserved Communities: This project directly supports disadvantaged populations in the Copper River region. Subsistence salmon harvest is integral to local communities and forms the backbone of the local economy. Improving fish passage and habitat restoration not only enhances

access to subsistence and cultural resources but also addresses unique challenges faced by the remote community, such as limited economic opportunities and vulnerability to climate-induced hazards.

- Community Resilience and Safety: As a resiliency hub according to the Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool (CREST), the Copper River Delta benefits not only from improved flood resiliency but also increased ecological function. Retrofitting stream crossings is essential to safeguard food supplies, particularly native salmon runs, and protect against natural hazards associated with climate change.
- Community Engagement: This ask will help project partner TEC build capacity for contractual management, especially as it relates to habitat restoration on their lands. Our intent is to sub-award funds to TEC for them to work with their design engineers on contract to go from 15% design to final designs, while reducing their grant management burden as a unique member of our fish passage partnership (if awards are awarded to this project, USFS will take the lead on managing reporting while TEC takes the lead on implementing project). TEC also has support from CRWP who will ensure successful management of the design contract and engagement of project partners. Should TEC capacity be limited when funding is secured for final design work, CRWP is able to take the lead with management of the final design contract.
- Education and Outreach: Partnership lead CRWP helps to coordinate multiple educational outings to AOP projects each year. Given the accessibility of these crossings to the community, they will be great destinations for engaging program participants, typically youth, in hands-on explorations aimed at increasing understanding for AOP and how culverts impact fish habitat and movement at multiple life stages. TEC also connects with their 300 shareholders throughout the year at meetings and through email and newsletter updates and will include updates and information on these projects through their various outreach channels.

- *Federal Land/Resource Benefits:*
  - Preservation of Ecological Integrity: This project aligns with the goal of preserving federal lands by adopting stream simulation culvert designs that prioritize the ecological function of rivers. This approach contributes to the overall health and resilience of the natural environment. Additionally, this project well help aid the Chugach National Forest in reaching the regional goal of becoming the USFS's first barrier free Forest.
  - Enhanced Wildlife Habitat: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool (CREST) identifies the Copper River Delta as a resiliency hub, indicating unfragmented habitat cores near human populations. This project's focus on flood resiliency is likely to result in additional benefits to wildlife habitat within the local watershed.
  - Sustainable Resource Management: By ensuring the continuation of salmon runs and supporting subsistence practices, this project contributes to

sustainable resource management on federal lands. This aligns with broader conservation efforts and promotes the responsible use of natural resources.

Other Funding Sources:

- The following have been awarded from NOAA to The Eyak Corporation (TEC) for preliminary investigations and 15% design for the two fish friendly AOP structures:
    - $24,306 for geotechnical investigation contract.
    - $64,085 for site survey and 15% design (not fully paid, but in a contract with DOWL).
    - Approximately $44,000 for TEC staff time to manage contracts for two years.
    - Approximately $75,000 for CRWP's role in managing the partnership through the design process.
- Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) is pursuing $1.68 million from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fish Passage Program for construction of these two fish friendly AOP structures.

Monitoring Plan:

- This monitoring plan emphasizes the project's dual focus on benefiting the local community and ensuring the sustainability of the infrastructure, aligning with both socioeconomic and environmental goals. Additionally, these designs will be based on adaptive management and lessons learned from the past 11 culverts the partnership has replaced in the past three years and this coming fiscal year.
- Socioeconomic Performance Measures: While challenging to quantify, the removal of barriers to salmon migration supports global commercial fishing operations by protecting the fishery and ensuring continued sustainable harvest. This project aims to ensure passage for all migrating populations of Pacific Salmon within this portion of the Copper River Delta, directly benefiting the communities of Cordova and the Native Village of Eyak which rely on salmon for subsistence, the local economy, and as a driving force behind their families' sustenance. Construction of AOP stream crossings enhances community resilience by providing flood protection, reducing routine infrastructure maintenance, and minimizing the risk of catastrophic failure which is crucial for communities with limited access to resources.
- Sustainability: Stream simulation AOP structures are designed to meet standards that reduce future maintenance needs, ensuring long-term sustainability. The AOP design standard, based on the 100-year flood, surpasses traditional hydraulic design approaches (25-50-year flood), enhancing the resiliency of structures to climate change and extreme weather events. Constructed AOP crossings are estimated to have a 50-year lifespan with minimal maintenance requirements, tied to longevity of the materials used. Long-term maintenance discussions and planning with partners occur early in the process, ensuring alignment before significant investments are made. Successful coordination with Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) involves CRWP facilitating restoration planning, ADOT participating in design review and construction check-ins, and ADOT taking over maintenance post-restoration.

FS Award: 24-DG-11100400-002

COPPER RIVER
WATERSHED PROJECT

=Upriver and down, salmon are common ground=

January 4, 2024

Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Committee (PWS RAC) Members
Tanya Zastrow, RAC Coordinator
U.S. Forest Service Chugach National Forest
P.O. Box 280
Cordova, AK 99574

Dear Mrs. Zastrow and the PWS RAC Members,

On behalf of the Copper River Watershed Project, I am writing in support of the U.S. Forest Service Cordova Ranger District's proposed project: COP 3 & SHER 3 – Full Design Funding, that will develop final designs for the implementation of two crucial Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) structures, COP3 and SHER 3, on the Copper River Highway (CRH) near milepost 13. These two crossings have been identified by the Copper River Culvert Coordinating Committee as high priority crossings due to their poor current conditions. COP 3 is a partial barrier due to the constriction and poor condition of the pipe and SHER 3 is a crushed pipe which is causing road damage and sedimentation in downstream wetland habitat. These are barriers to adult and juvenile Pacific Salmon and Dolly Varden.

To date, the Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) has led fundraising and implementation of preliminary investigations, design, and coordination of the replacement of 17 AOP structures in the Copper River Watershed, including eight culverts on the Copper River Highway. We are committed to supporting this project, USFS, and the sub-awardee organization, The Eyak Corporation. The Eyak Corporation has made investments at these two sites by funding the geotechnical reports and the 15% designs of COP 3 and SHER 3. CRWP is working to support TEC and their continued capacity to develop and steward fish passage restoration projects on and adjacent to their lands.

The U.S. Forest Service has committed to be an active member of the Copper River Culvert Coordinating Committee and has committed the capacity to effectively work with the partnership to manage this project. We will work closely with them on project planning and implementation.

Thanks for the consideration of this request.
Sincerely

Lisa Docken

Lisa Docken
Executive Director

P.O. Box 1560, Cordova, AK 99574 TEL 907.424.3334 WEB copperriver.org

FS Award: 24-DG-11100400-002

The Eyak Corporation
615 E. 82nd Ave, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99518
Phone: (907) 334-6971
Fax: (907) 334-6973

January 12, 2024

Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Committee (PWS RAC) Members
Tanya Zastrow, RAC Coordinator
U.S. Forest Service Chugach National Forest
P.O. Box 280
Cordova, AK 99574

Dear Mrs. Zastrow and the PWS RAC Members,

On behalf of The Eyak Corporation, I am writing in support of the U.S. Forest Service Cordova Ranger District's proposed project: COP 3 & SHER 3 – Full Design Funding, that will develop final designs for the implementation of two crucial Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) structures, COP3 and SHER 3, on the Copper River Highway (CRH) near milepost 13. These two crossings have been identified by the Copper River Culvert Coordinating Committee as high priority crossings due to their poor current conditions. COP 3 is a partial barrier due to the constriction and poor condition of the pipe and SHER 3 is a crushed pipe which is causing road damage and sedimentation in downstream wetland habitat. These are barriers to adult and juvenile Pacific Salmon and Dolly Varden.

To date, The Eyak Corporation has made investments at these sites to bring them to the 15% design phase. We have also funded the geotechnical reports at these sites as well as another 3 sites on the Copper River Highway. We have been active members of the Copper River Delta Culvert Coordinating Committee participating in planning and design calls as well as securing funding for these projects. We are continuing to develop our capacity to manage and implement these types of priority projects that support our lands and important subsistence resources, and we are prepared to work with the USFS to oversee this design contract to completion.

The U.S. Forest Service Cordova Ranger District has been a key partner in Copper River Delta culvert replacement work through the partnership. They are effective partners in project design, monitoring, and implementation.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Thomas Mack

Thomas Mack
Chief Executive Officer