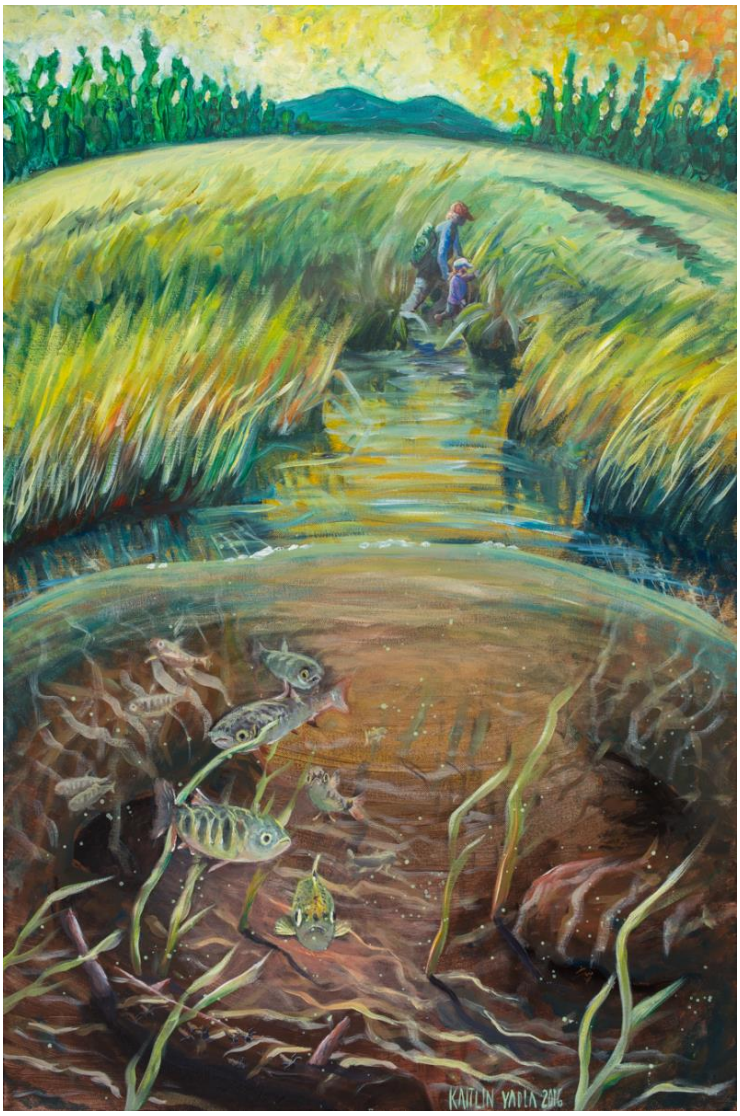
Community-based Watershed Tour:

Planning for our next 25 years



Cook Inletkeeper

3734 Ben Walters Lane, Homer, AK 99603

Project Manager: Sue Mauger, Science Director & Interim Executive Director

sue@inletkeeper.org, (907) 235-4068

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

November 12, 2019

Applicant: Cook Inletkeeper

Homer, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska

Community-based Watershed Tour: *Planning for our next 25 years*

Cook Inletkeeper is a community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 1995 that combines advocacy, education and science toward its mission to protect Alaska's Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains. Through this project we will identify critical watershed issues and determine which are high priorities at the community level. Based on local experiences during the summer of 2019, we anticipate that drinking water shortages and declining ecological resiliency will be priority issues within certain communities. Our project goal is to understand current community-specific concerns about threats to water resources as we prioritize future projects that best serve the people of the Cook Inlet watershed. The project is located on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Borough. Funding will be used to 1) identify existing and emerging threats to water resources on the Kenai Peninsula, 2) survey stakeholders to understand community-specific concerns about threats, 3) facilitate community conversations to generate ideas of projects that would improve the watershed and address priority concerns, and 4) produce a new *State of the Inlet* watershed restoration plan to capture threats, community-specific concerns and ideas, which will help direct our watershed-based organization as we plan future projects. WaterSMART funding will support Cook Inletkeeper's efforts to engage diverse stakeholders in forming local solutions to address their water management needs.

Project time period: April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2022.

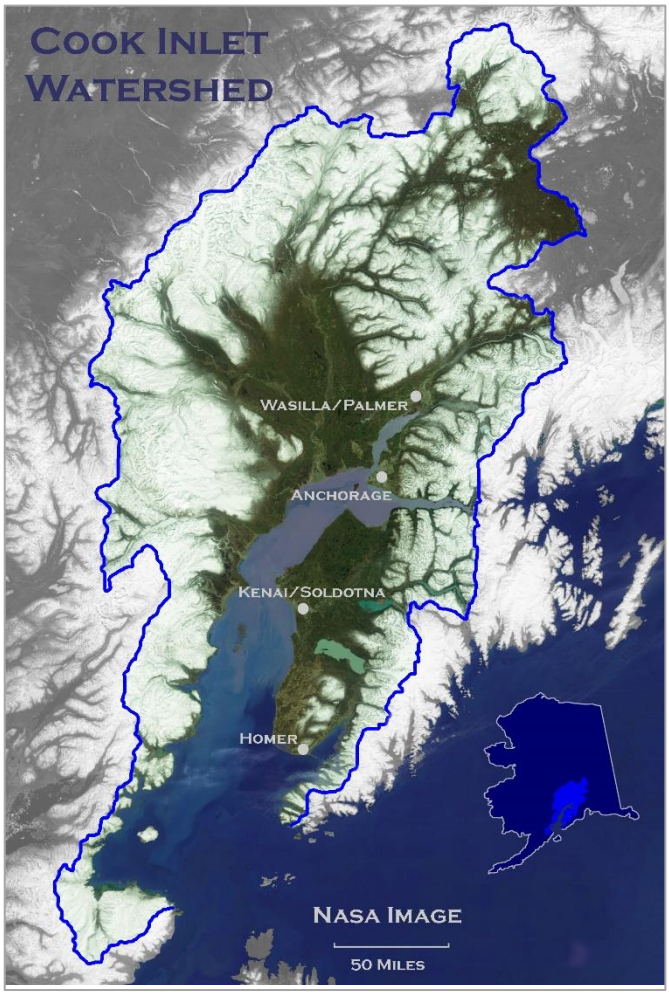
This project is not located on a Federal facility.

Community-based Watershed Tour: *Planning for our next 25 years*

Background Data

<u>Cook Inlet watershed</u>

The Cook Inlet watershed is a spectacular ecosystem covering 47,000 square miles of southcentral Alaska, and it's the most populated and fastest growing region in Alaska. From Denali National Park in the north to the famous McNeil River Bear Sanctuary in the south, the watershed encompasses some of Alaska's most unique ecosystems, and supports diverse fishing, tourism and subsistence economies and cultures.



Map 1. Cook Inlet watershed in southcentral Alaska

Cook Inlet opens southward to the Gulf of Alaska and its basin consists of coastal and valley lowlands surrounded by rugged mountains. The basin's major river systems drain alpine glaciers with high sediment loads and turbidity, while many tributaries and smaller watersheds are non-glacial and run clear. The climate ranges from continental to maritime, with mean annual temperatures between 21 and 43°F (-6 and 6°C). Precipitation much of which falls as snow during winter months ranges annually from 20 inches (50 cm) across the continental zone to 71 inches (180 cm) across the maritime zone.

Over 400,000 people - nearly 2/3 of Alaska's population - live in the watershed. Cook Inlet families and communities depend on the watershed's healthy waters and wild habitats for their livelihoods. Alaska Native villages pursue a subsistence lifestyle that is centuries old, supplying up to 90% of the villagers' diet. Cook Inlet represents one of the most productive fisheries in Alaska, in which five species of salmon, herring, scallops, halibut, and several other species of bottom fish are harvested. And each year, nearly one million visitors from around the world venture to Cook Inlet to relish its magnificent beauty.

For this project, we are focusing on the watersheds of the Kenai Peninsula located on the southeast side of the Cook Inlet basin. This geography includes the cities of Kenai, Soldotna, Homer and Seldovia as well as numerous unincorporated communities and Alaska Native villages within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and includes approximately 56,000 people. The Kenai Peninsula encompasses the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and part of the Chugach National Forest. Land use on federal lands varies from wilderness to intensive use for minerals, oil, gas, and timber. Additional public lands include the Kachemak Bay State Park, and other state designated recreation and special management areas.

Map 2. The project location is the Kenai Peninsula, which is located on the southeast side of Cook Inlet, and encompasses watersheds within HUC 19020301/02.

Current water uses

- Municipal water sources: Municipal water for the City of Kenai comes from four wells drilled at a depth of 200 to 250 feet. The City of Soldotna obtains municipal water from five wells at depths ranging from 225 to 295 feet. The City of Homer's municipal water supply is 100 percent surface water collected in a reservoir north of the city. On the south side of Kachemak Bay, the City of Seldovia and the Native villages of Port Graham and Nanwalek rely primarily on surface water.
- Domestic: Kenai Peninsula residents without direct access to or hauling services from municipal water require groundwater wells.
- Aquatic Life: All five species of Pacific salmon plus Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) spawn and rear in the waters of the Kenai Peninsula. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game holds instream flow reservations for the protection of fish and wildlife on five (5) anadromous streams on the Kenai Peninsula.
- Industrial: Several industrial users draw large amounts of groundwater from wells in the North Kenai/Nikiski area.
- Agriculture: On the Kenai Peninsula, from 2012 – 2017, the number of farms selling food directly to consumers increased from 56 to 74 while the number if farms producing flowers/nursery crops increased from 46 to 103. Irrigation comes from both groundwater and surface water sources.
- Hydropower: Bradley Lake, on the south side of Kachemak Bay is the largest hydroelectric facility in the state. Additional surface water from Battle Creek is anticipated to be diverted into Bradley lake in 2022. Grant Lake Hydroelectric Project within the Kenai River watershed is moving through the permitting process.

Existing threats to water resources

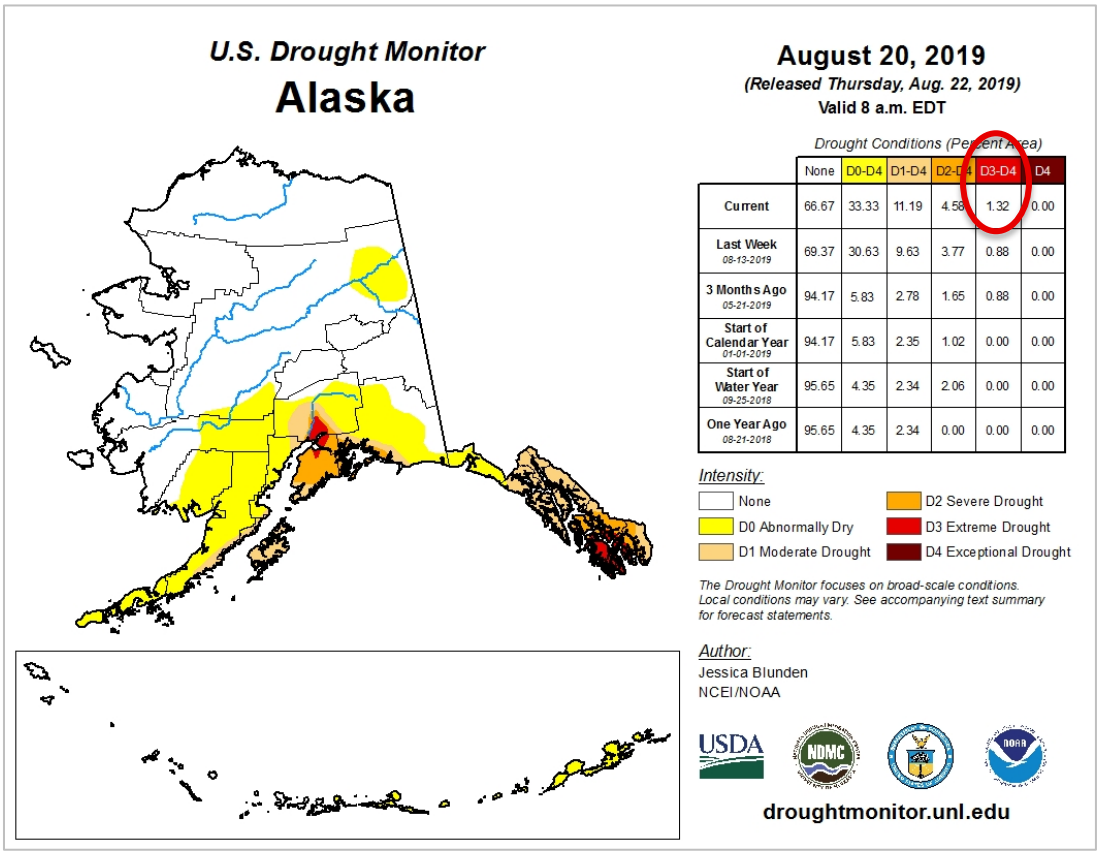
Although water quality is generally good, there are a number of isolated areas on the Kenai Peninsula, which are experiencing water quality problems. Septic tanks have caused water quality problems in a number of high-density residential areas where lot size and drainage are not adequate for onsite sewage disposal, and public sewers are not yet available. Contaminants associated with petrochemical production, refining, or storage have been discovered in isolated areas in all major cities, communities and rural areas where oil and gas have been mined and/or stored. Oil operations on the Kenai Peninsula have caused soil and groundwater contamination. Controversy has arisen in the past over the impact of industrial withdrawals on water levels of the shallow lakes in the North Kenai area. There are more than 60 active contaminated sites on the Kenai Peninsula in the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation database.

Emerging threats to water resources

Over the last 20 years, new threats to water quality and quantity have emerged. Most notable has been the rapid change in climatic conditions. Research from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge shows that wetlands in the Kenai Lowlands lost 6% to 11% of their surface area per decade since the 1950s. Local meteorological records show a 55% decline in available water since 1968, of which one-third is due to higher summer temperatures and increased evapotranspiration and two-thirds is due to lower annual precipitation.

The summer of 2019 was particularly dramatic.

- In Southcentral Alaska we had our first ever 'extreme' drought designation on August 20th. Meanwhile, most of the Kenai Peninsula was in 'severe' drought status.



- Smoke filled the skies from numerous forest fires on the Kenai Peninsula. Lightning ignited the Swan Lake Fire on June 5, 2019 in a remote area of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness. A wind event in August spread the fire to over 167,000 acres causing highway closures and putting the community of Cooper Landing on notice for possible evacuation. Ironically, later that same week in August, rapid release of water from a glacier-dammed lake resulted in a flood advisory along the Kenai River from Cooper Landing to Skilak Lake.

- In communities on the south side of Kachemak Bay which depend on surface water, residents faced drinking water shortages as their reservoir dried up. By September the Alaska Native village of Nanwalek had to barge water in for their 300 residents.

Nanwalek residents worry 'if this is the future of no water'

By **Renee Gross, KBBI - Homer** - September 16, 2019

- Water temperatures in non-glacial streams of the Kenai Peninsula reached or exceeded maximum stream temperature values predicted for 50 years in the future. Cold-water fish like salmon, which prefer temperatures below 55ºF, are much more susceptible to pollution, predation and disease when water temperatures soar into the mid-70s as they did in the summer of 2019.
- 2019 presented challenges for one of the largest emerging agriculture sectors on the Peninsula – peony farming. Typically, Alaska peonies are harvested at a unique time for the world market: July wedding season. But in 2019, the hot dry summer resulted in an early and condensed harvest. This slight shift in timing was an expensive hit to this emerging economy and a critical factor for new farmers to consider as they build their business plans.

Project Location

The project is located on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Borough (see Map 2). We have chosen this region (HUC 19020301 & 19020302) to take advantage of our organizational capacity with staff in the community of Homer on the southern Peninsula and in Soldotna on the central Peninsula. Although this region might seem large, it represents a small area of the entire Cook Inlet watershed. Through this project, we want to connect with a diverse group of stakeholders who have a variety of concerns about their water resources.

Technical Project Description

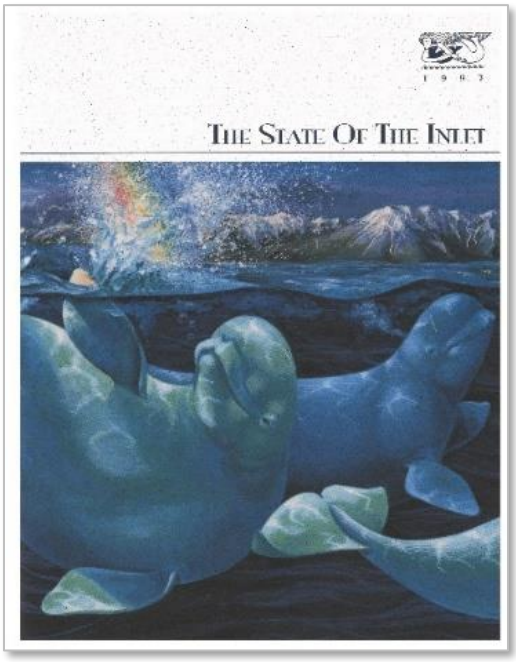
Applicant Category: Existing Watershed Group

Cook Inletkeeper is a community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 1995 that combines advocacy, education and science toward its mission to protect Alaska's Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains. A brief history of our organization:

1994: A group of Alaskan fishermen, scientists, Native Alaskans and concerned citizens met in Homer to learn more about the rapid ecological changes occurring throughout the Cook Inlet watershed. The group held workshops on environmental law, science and policy, and set the wheels in motion to pursue a Waterkeeper program for Cook Inlet.

1995: Citizen groups joined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sued Cook Inlet oil and gas producers for over 4,200 Clean Water Act violations. The oil and gas companies settled the lawsuit and directed 3 years of start-up funding to Cook Inletkeeper. The Board of Directors formally incorporated as a nonprofit organization in April 1995, and hired its first paid staff.

1996: Inletkeeper established Alaska's first agency approved citizen-based water quality monitoring program. Since then, Inletkeeper and its numerous partner organizations have trained more than 500 citizens to collect scientifically defensible data to guide better resource management decisions.



1997: Released the first-ever "State of the Inlet" report, detailing the status of pollution, fisheries, wildlife and habitat throughout the watershed, and held a series of workshops to explore watershed-based management options for Cook Inlet.

2002: Released an oil and gas pipeline report that has played an important role making industry and government more accountable.

2003: Helped build support for and enact a novel watershed protection ordinance using impervious surface controls for the Bridge Creek Watershed, the City of Homer's sole drinking water source.

2005: Conducted a survey as part of our 10-year anniversary celebration to understand stakeholder priorities and concerns across the watershed.

2008: Initiated the first regional study of stream temperatures in non-glacial salmon streams across Cook Inlet to assess impacts from land-use and climate change.

2009: Worked with local municipalities and harbormasters to kick-off Alaska's first Clean Harbors Certification Project, designed to save money while reducing boat-based pollution.

2012: Led a multi-agency working group to develop a *Stream Temperature Action Plan* with the purpose of identifying the highest priority actions for the next 5-10 years that will lead to greater protections of Alaska's wild salmon habitat as thermal change continues.

2014: Created a series of online videos for well water testing as part of our Safe Drinking Water program.

2016: Distributed 350 clean boating kits, including oil absorbents, to boaters throughout the Cook Inlet watershed and began working with over twenty businesses throughout the watershed on our clean boating discount card incentive program.

2018: Expanded our annual electronics recycling program beyond Homer to Port Graham, Nanwalek, Seldovia, Ninilchik, Soldotna, Kenai and Cooper Landing.

2019: Initiated our Salmon-Safe Agriculture program to infuse the expanding agriculture and local food culture in Alaska with an ethic of using salmon-safe practices. We organized farm visits to begin engaging in dialogue with farmers about best practices regarding stream habitat protection, stream bank vegetation protection, water conservation, erosion prevention, pesticide use, erosion prevention, animal management, and promoting biodiversity.

In 2020, Cook Inletkeeper will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. We see this is an important opportunity to connect with stakeholders and a new generation of Alaskans especially during this time of rapid climate change. We have a long history of community engagement and strategic planning which makes us well suited to create inclusive and effective outcomes. Our project team includes a dynamic Inletkeeper staff (see Attachment 1 for board and staff profiles). We will also contract with *Adaptation International*, which is a woman-owned small business focused on helping communities and organizations build resilience to climate change. Members of the *Adaptation International* team grew up on the Kenai Peninsula and will provide extra capacity for survey design and creation of materials for community conversations (see Attachment 2).

Eligibility of Applicant

Cook Inletkeeper is a grassroots, non-regulatory watershed group with a local Board of Directors, who provide strategic guidance in our work to address water quality, quantity and habitat issues. Our current membership includes 975 households (40% from 14 Kenai Peninsula communities) and more than 30 local businesses predominantly representing recreation and tourism. In addition to our membership, our staff engages in a variety of partnerships, which expand our connections to a diverse group of stakeholders. For example, we are an active partner in the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership, which includes U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kenai Peninsula Borough and Tribal partners. Our Science Director served for 10 years as a Steering Committee member and helped draft the Partnership's strategic plan. Inletkeeper staff serve on the Alaska Food Policy Council and Alaska Farmers Market Association; and serve as mentors to youth involved in the Alaska Youth for Environmental Action program.

Goals

Our project goal is to understand current community-specific concerns about threats to water resources as we prioritize future projects that best serve the people of the Cook Inlet watershed.

Our objectives are to

1) identify existing and emerging threats to water resources on the Kenai Peninsula,
2) survey stakeholders to understand community-specific concerns about threats,
3) facilitate community conversations to generate ideas of projects that would improve the watershed and address priority concerns, and
4) produce a new *State of the Inlet* watershed restoration plan to capture threats, community-specific concerns and ideas, which will help direct our watershed-based organization as we plan future projects.

Approach: Watershed Restoration Planning (Task B)

We will use the Watershed Restoration Planning (Task B) approach to achieve our objectives, which will include the following activities:

1) identify existing and emerging threats to water resources on the Kenai Peninsula

    Activity: Compile a descriptive list of existing threats to water resources using relevant documents, including the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership's Strategic Plan (2011), Kenai Peninsula Borough's Comprehensive Plan (2019), Cook Inletkeeper's *State of the Inlet* Report (1997), and online federal and state government sources and databases.

    Activity: Compile a list of emerging threats from more recent reports and media sources, particularly related to the extreme events during the summer of 2019.

2) survey stakeholders to understand community-specific concern about threats

Activity: Develop an online and hard-copy survey to gain feedback from stakeholders about community-specific concerns of identified existing and emerging threats to water resources.

Activity: Promote the survey to get broad and diverse participation using social media and in-person events.

Activity: Perform in-person interviews with members and stakeholders, who are not likely to engage in a formal survey process due to language or cultural barriers.

3) facilitate community conversations to generate ideas of projects that would improve the watershed and address priority concerns

Activity: Develop compelling communication tools (e.g. presentation, graphic) to share the survey results.

Activity: Identify questions to facilitate a conversation that draw out community-specific knowledge and concerns.

Activity: Connect with local stakeholders for logistical support and help promoting community conversations.

Activity: Invite diverse stakeholders who include local government officials, city planners, property owners, local scientists, and Alaska Native tribal members.

Activity: Hold facilitated community conversations across the Kenai Peninsula that represent distinct communities and diverse stakeholders. Hold three different community tours: south side of Kachemak Bay; southern Kenai Peninsula, central Kenai Peninsula. We anticipate direct community engagement with residents of Seldovia, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Homer, Anchor Point, Ninilchik, Soldotna, Kenai and Cooper Landing.

Activity: Working with watershed group members, landowners, Federal agencies, and state or local governments to determine how the watershed can be improved.

4) produce a new *State of the Inlet* watershed restoration plan to capture the threats, community-specific concerns and ideas of projects that would improve the watershed

Activity: draft an updated *State of the Inlet* plan informed by facilitated conversations that highlight community-specific concerns about threats to our water resources on the Kenai Peninsula.

Activity: Share the report widely with stakeholders, landowners, Federal agencies, and state or local governments to catalyze projects that would improve the watershed.

Outcome: Maintain organizational relevance in our long term and short-term strategic planning to achieve our mission of protecting the Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains.

Outcome: Increased public awareness of threats to water resources on the Kenai Peninsula and identification of community-based solutions to address these threats.

Evaluation Criteria

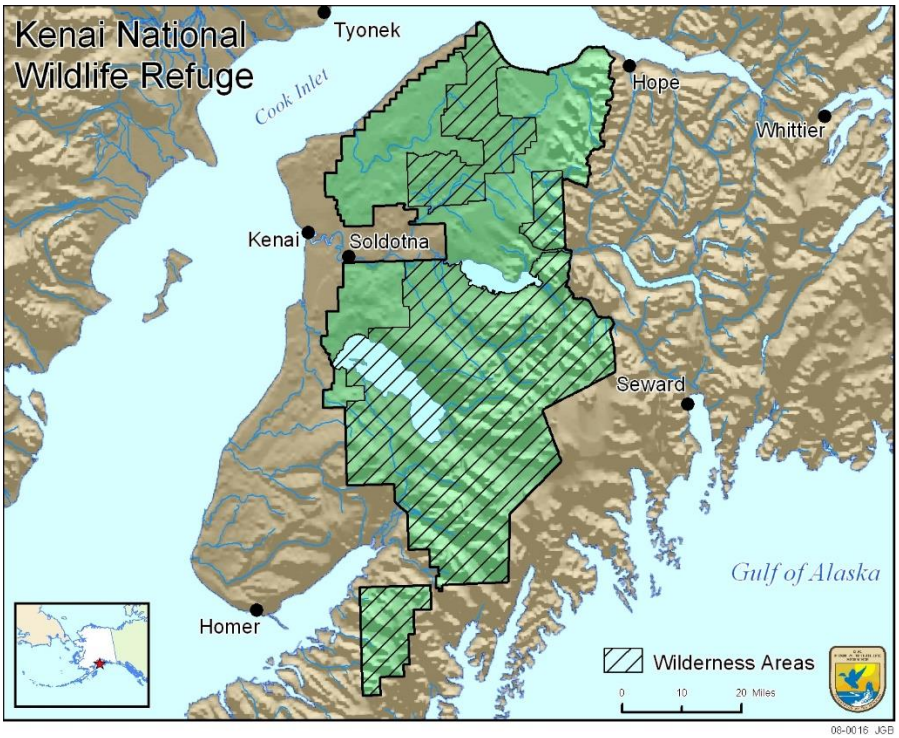
A1. Watershed Group Diversity

- The residents of the Kenai Peninsula in our project area are all "affected stakeholders" from threats related to the quantity or quality of water. Our reliance on small surface water reservoirs and private wells for drinking water make this region vulnerable to changing climate patterns. Additionally, our recreation and tourist economies and our emerging agricultural economy all rely on clean water.
- Our existing Cook Inletkeeper membership is a small fraction of the "affected stakeholders"; however, we have long-term relationships and partnership across the Kenai Peninsula which are not reflected in paying membership numbers only. Through our 25 years of programs and events, Cook Inletkeeper has extensive contacts and supporters across diverse communities and economic sectors.
- Inletkeeper has a strong background in community education and outreach, as well as solid working relationships with Alaska's print, radio and TV media outlets throughout the Cook Inlet watershed. Since 1995, Inletkeeper has effectively communicated information on its various water quality and salmon monitoring projects to a diverse range of stakeholders and media outlets. We will use these connections as well as our social media networks to get broad engagement in our survey and community conversations.

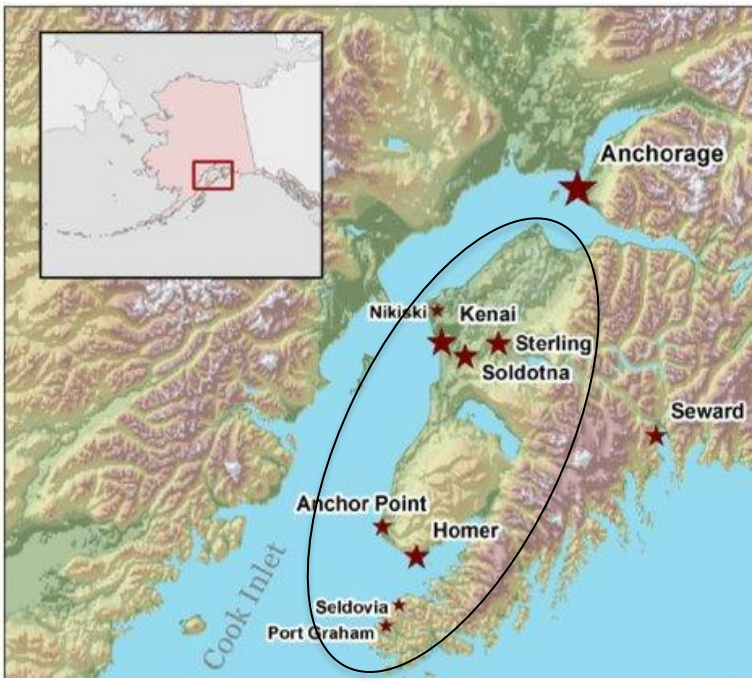
A2. Geographic Scope

- The project is located on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Borough (see Map 3 and 4). Much of the Peninsula is held in the Federally-managed Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Most communities are located in the central and southern Peninsula with a few smaller communities located on the south side of Kachemak Bay.
- It is our intention to reach as many stakeholders as possible throughout the project area. Each community has unique concerns and vulnerabilities to water resource management so we want to capture the full range of responses from as many diverse communities as possible.
- In our survey design we will capture respondents' location and other demographics so we will be able to track where we need additional outreach.

- Our community conversations will ensure direct community engagement with residents of up to nine communities: Seldovia, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Homer, Anchor Point, Ninilchik, Soldotna, Kenai and Cooper Landing.



Map 3. Much of the Kenai Peninsula is held in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.



Map 4. "Affected Stakeholders" are located in communities outside the Refuge on the Kenai Peninsula.

B1. Critical Watershed Issues

Through this project we will identify critical watershed issues and determine which are high priorities at the community level. Based on local experiences during the summer of 2019, we anticipate that drinking water shortages and declining ecological resiliency will be critical priority issues within certain communities. Please see pages 5 and 6 for our current understanding of existing and emerging threats to water resources on the Kenai Peninsula.

B2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

We have two key strategies for developing our "State of the Inlet" watershed restoration plan.

First, we will develop an online and hard-copy survey to gain feedback from stakeholders about community-specific concerns of existing and emerging threats to water resources. We will compile a descriptive list of existing threats to water resources using relevant documents, including the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership's Strategic Plan (2011), Kenai Peninsula Borough's Comprehensive Plan (2019), Cook Inletkeeper's *State of the Inlet* Report (1997), and online federal and state government sources and databases. In addition, we will compile a list of emerging threats from more recent reports and media sources, particularly related to the extreme events during the summer of 2019. We will promote the survey to get broad and diverse participation using social media and in-person events. We will also perform in-person interviews with members and stakeholders, who are not likely to engage in a formal survey process due to language or cultural barriers.

Second, we will hold facilitated community conversations across the Kenai Peninsula that represent distinct communities and diverse stakeholders. Key members of Cook Inletkeeper staff have facilitation training and will use their skills to resolve conflicts. Based on the information compiled from these conversations, we will work with members, landowners, Federal agencies, state, borough and city governments to determine how the watershed can be improved. Inletkeeper has hosted and participated in a wide-range of community engagement projects over the years, which have led to clear outcomes: impervious surface controls on the City of Homer's drinking water reservoir; expansion of electronic recycling across the Peninsula; community composting on the Central Peninsula.

Based on the survey results identifying water resource concerns and community conversations to identify local solutions, our "State of the Inlet" watershed restoration plan will be shared widely to catalyze projects that will improve the watershed. We will use this as a guide to plan future projects that best serve the people of the Cook Inlet watershed

C1. Understanding of and Ability to Meet Program Requirements

Project Schedule	**2020**									**2021**												**2022**		
	Apr	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**
Objective 1: Identify threats to water resource	X	X	X																					
Objective 2: Survey stakeholders				X	X	X	X	X	X															
Objective 3: Community conversations										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Objective 4: State of the Inlet Report																			X	X	X	X	X	X

Major Tasks:

1) identify existing and emerging threats to water resources on the Kenai Peninsula

Milestone: Compile a descriptive and comprehensive list of existing and emerging threats

Start date: April 1, 2020

End date: June 30, 2020

Cost: $6,492

2) survey stakeholders to understand community-specific concern about threats

Milestone: Develop an online and hard-copy survey by July 30, 2020

*Milestone: G*et broad and diverse participation using social media, in-person events, and in-person interviews

Start date: July 1, 2020

End date: December 31, 2020

Cost: $30,138

3) facilitate community conversations

Milestone: Hold facilitated community conversations across the Kenai Peninsula

Start date: January 1, 2021

End date: September 30, 2021

Cost: $30,853

Objective 4) produce a new *State of the Inlet* watershed restoration plan

Milestone: draft and share an updated *State of the Inlet* plan

Start date: October 1, 2021

End date: March 31, 2022

Cost: $16,075

C2. Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts

This project will result in increased public awareness of threats to water resources on the Kenai Peninsula and identification of community-based solutions to address these threats. This information will complement the Kenai Peninsula Borough's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan (2019), which recommends preparing a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan and forming a Commission on Sustainability. Our survey results and broad engagement in conversations will provide foundational knowledge about water resource threats, community priorities and local solutions. Our project also complements the strategic planning efforts of the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership which is focused on water quality and quantity issues related to the Kenai Peninsula's vibrant fisheries.

D. Department of the Interior Priorities

This project will meet the Department of the Interior's priority to restore trust with local communities (#3). This project is located on the Kenai Peninsula where much of the land is held in the Federally-managed Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Map 3). By creating community conversations and including wildlife refuge staff, we will improve dialogue and relationships with communities and landowners who border the refuge. During the summer of 2019, decisions by the Kenai Wildlife Refuge staff about their initial response to the Swan Lake Fire created conflict with the community of Cooper Landing, which was put on notice for evacuation once the fire got out of control. By providing a facilitated conversation about water resources and creating an opportunity to expand the lines of communication across federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders, we are rebuilding trust among neighbors.

Project Budget

Budget Table:

Budget Item	$/unit	quantity/tasks				Total Cost
Salaries and Wages		Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	
Sue Mauger	$36/hour	40hr	40hr	40hr	80hr	$7,200
Satchel Pondolfino	$24/hour	40hr	160hr	160hr	40hr	$9,600
Kaitlin Vadla	$27/hour	40hr	120hr	120hr	40hr	$8,640
Robbi Mixon	$26/hour	10hr	40hr	40hr	10hr	$2,600
Brandon Hill	$30/hour		40hr	40hr	40hr	$3,600
subtotal		$3,740	$10,760	$10,760	$6,380	$31,640
Fringe Benefits		$1,122	$3,228	$3,228	$1,914	$9,492
Travel			$2,985	$4,775		$7,760
Material & Supplies			$3,050	$2,000		$5,050
Contractual			$4,925	$4,900		$9,825
Other expenses			$500	$500	$5,000	$6,000
Total Direct Costs		$4,862	$25,448	$26,163	$13,294	$69,767
Indirect Costs		$1,630	$4,690	$4,690	$2,781	$13,791
Totals		**$6,492**	**$30,138**	**$30,853**	**$16,075**	**$83,558**

Budget Narrative

Cook Inletkeeper requests $83,558 in WaterSMART funds to complete the project.

Salaries and Wages: $31,640

Project Manager – Sue Mauger, Science Director & Interim Executive Director
$36/hour x 200 hours = $7,200
Other key staff:
Satchel Pondolfino, Lower Inlet Organizer, $24/hour x 400 hours = $9,600
Kaitlin Vadla, Central Peninsula Regional Director, $27/hour x 320 hours = $8,640
Robbi Mixon, Local Foods Coordinator, $26/hour x 100 hours = $2,600
Brandon Hill, Chief Creative Officer, $30/hour x 120 hours = $3,600

Fringe Benefits: $9,492

Includes health, dental, vision and ADD insurance; IRA match; payroll taxes; long-term disability. Calculated at a rate of 30% of salaries and wages for full-time employees.

Travel: $7,760

For Task 2: airfare for Adaptation International staff (Nyssa Russell) from Cordova to Homer (RT) to work on survey design with Inletkeeper staff: $600, 3 nights lodging: $300, 4 days per diem:

$220; airfare for 2 staff to travel to remote communities on the south side of Kachemak Bay to do in-person survey interviews: $400, water taxi: $250, 2 nights lodging: $400, 3 days per diem, 2 people: $330 ; 750 miles for road-based communities @ $0.58/mile: $435
For Task 3: airfare for Adaptation International staff (Sascha Petersen) from Austin, TX to Homer (RT) to develop community conversation materials and strategy with Inletkeeper staff: $1,000, 3 nights lodging: $300, 4 days per diem: $220; airfare for 3 staff to travel to remote communities on the south side of Kachemak Bay for community conversations: $600, water taxi: $375, 2 nights lodging: $600, 3 days per diem, 3 people: $495; 750 miles for road-based communities @ $0.58/mile: $435; Rental fee for community conversation meeting space, free in 4 communities, $150 fee in 5 communities: $750.

Materials & Supplies: $5,050
For Task 2: 3 ipads for mobile surveys at events and in remote communities: $3000; misc supplies (clipboards, pens): $50.
For Task 3: facilitation materials (poster paper, markers, sticky notes, dots): $200; hospitality for community conversations, 9 x 200: $1,800

Contractual: $9,825
For Task 2: Adaptation International staff for work on survey design and preparation of survey summary, 60 hours x $55/hour (Nyssa Russell), 25 hours x $65/hour (Sascha Petersen): $4,925
For Task 3: Adaptation International staff to develop community conversation materials and strategy, 30 hours x $55/hour (Nyssa Russell), 50 hours x $65/hour (Sascha Petersen): $4,900

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs: NA

Other expenses: $6,000
Task 2: Copying surveys for broad distribution, 10,000 x $0,05: $500
Task 3: Copying and printing community conversation materials, $500
Task 4: Printing State of the Inlet watershed restoration plan, 1000 x $5.00: $5,000

Indirect Rate: $13,791
Cook Inletkeeper has a federally negotiated indirect rate for 2020 of 33.53% for all salaries and wages including fringe benefits; $41,132 x 33.53%: $13,791 (See Attachment 3)

An Official Resolution from Cook Inletkeeper's Board of Directors will be submitted following the next Board meeting on November 22, 2019.

2019 Board of Directors

Patrick Dougherty, President (Anchorage): Pat is an avid fly fisherman and a longtime journalist with a passion for protecting water quality and fish habitat around Cook Inlet. He worked for the Anchorage Daily News for 34 years and served as the paper's Executive Editor & Senior Vice President. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Journalism from Baylor University, and he was selected for a prestigious Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University. In addition to fishing and tying flies, Pat spends his spare time bird hunting, dog training, skiing and playing music (2015).

Willow King, Vice President (Kasilof): Willow is a born and raised Alaskan, now raising her three young children with her husband in Kasilof. Willow grew up commercial fishing on the shores of Cook Inlet, and she's also worked in the processing and sustainable seafood marketing sectors. She recently created a new eco-friendly abode made of recycled and reused materials, a personal contribution to protecting the watershed. (2014)

Michael O'Meara, Treasurer (Homer): Mike is a long-time Homer resident and activist. As Special Project Coordinator for the Homer Society of Natural History, Mike is well-known for curating the profound *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill exhibit, which toured the nation. Mike received a B.A. and M.A. in Art and Education from California State University. Mike is a founding member of the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, and past Board member of the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society. (1995)

Nancy Wainwright, Secretary (Anchorage): Nancy is an attorney with the public interest law firm Trustees for Alaska, where she focuses on constitutional and clean water issues, and works closely with Native, fishing and conservation clients to protect their rights. She received a BA in political science from Scripts College in Claremont, CA, and a JD from Hastings College of Law, San Francisco. (1999)

Rob Ernst (Nikiski): A true "Alaskan entrepreneur," Rob was born in a cabin in the dark woods of Nikiski; today he fishes commercially, runs a coffee retail business, and teaches in the Kenai Peninsula School District. Rob received a B.S. from Amherst College and M.A. in Linguistics from the University of Washington. (1998)

Tom Evans (Nanwalek): Tom is an influential leader among his Sugpiaq people, a southern Alaska Indigenous tribe which occupies a 200-person village off the road system on the southern Kenai Peninsula. Tom sits on the Nanwalek IRA Council where he provides leadership and direction on the complex socioeconomic issues facing his people. Tom attended UCLA and he fishes to feed his family. (1995)

Peter Mjos (Anchorage): Peter is a medical doctor with over 40 years providing medical care for Alaskans. He has an extensive history of involvement in community and civic affairs, including work with the Nature Conservancy, Alaska Center for the Environment, Anchorage Citizen's Coalition, Sierra Club, Tongass Conservation Society, Anchorage Junior Nordic League, and he was a member of the Glen Alps City Council and Anchorage Community Council. Peter received a B.A. from St. Olaf College (Cum Laude, Chemistry 1968) and M.D. in 1972 from the University of Minnesota. (2014)

Shannyn Moore (Tutka Bay): Born and raised in Homer, Shannyn is a top-rated progressive radio and television broadcaster based in Anchorage, Alaska. A dynamic media personality, she pioneered the progressive political talk forum for women in the 49th State. She has interviewed the state's best-known politicians and authors, worked extensively with the Alaska Public Radio Network and appears regularly on MSNBC, The Canadian Broadcasting Company and other national media forums. (2009)

2019 Inletkeeper Staff Profiles

Sue Mauger, Science Director/Interim Executive Director: Sue leads Inletkeeper's efforts to elevate the importance of salmon stream protection in the face of rapid climate change. Sue joined Inletkeeper in Summer 2000, and has considerable experience in water chemistry, water quality monitoring, and macroinvertebrate assessment. Before joining Inletkeeper, Sue worked for the Xerces Society as Project Director for the Aquatic Invertebrate Monitoring Program and for Earthwatch, as Project Coordinator in the Life Sciences Department of Field Operations. Sue holds a B.S. in Zoology from Duke University and an M.S. in Fisheries Science from Oregon State University.

Bob Shavelson, Advocacy Director/Inletkeeper: Bob is a reformed attorney with backgrounds in biology, chemistry, and environmental sampling and compliance. He was Editor-in-Chief of the University of Oregon's Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation, and has considerable experience in toxics, the Clean Water Act, and Right-to-Know issues. Prior to joining Inletkeeper in 1995, Bob worked in the United States Senate, Oregon's Senate Majority Office, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, and the University of Oregon's Ocean & Coastal Law Center. Bob is a leader in the Alaska conservation community, and in 2010, he received the Alaska Conservation Foundation's highest award for professional achievement. He holds a BA in Biology & Chemistry from Boston University and a JD from the University of Oregon.

Brandon Hill, Chief Creative Officer: Brandon moved to Alaska in 2012 to join anti-coal organizing efforts in the Mat-Su Valley and has since been a graphic designer, photographer and digital organizer across multiple conservation campaigns in Alaska. In 2007 Brandon helped to create "The True Cost of Coal," a visual narrative of coal mining issues in Appalachia and has since been intimately engaged with coal and climate related activism around the country. He has been a videographer on a film series documenting indigenous land rights in Malaysian Borneo and recently co-produced the film "Chuitna: More than salmon on the Line", Winner of Best Environmental Film at The International Wildlife Film Festival in 2015.

Bridget Maryott, Development Director: Bridget leads the fundraising and capacity building efforts at Inletkeeper, with various backgrounds including microscopy, cancer diagnostics, marketing & visual communications. Originally from Arizona, Bridget started visiting the Kenai Peninsula in 1986 and was a repeat visitor before making the move in 2016. She spent time in tourism and serves on the Kachemak Bay Shorebird committee. Bridget is delighted to join the Inletkeeper team to protect clean water, healthy salmon habitat and food security in Alaska.

Robbi Mixon, Local Foods Coordinator: Robbi organizes efforts to create greater food security by connecting more people to healthy, local foods through an online Food Hub. Originally from Georgia, Robbi spent several years in San Francisco as an event organizer and operations manager before moving to Alaska in 2010 to work as an intern on a small farm. She eventually found herself taking on the role of Homer Farmers Market Manager and Coordinator for the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. She holds a B.A. in Environmental Anthropology from the University of Georgia.

Satchel Pondolfino, Lower Inlet Organizer: Based in Homer, Satchel recently joined the Cook Inletkeeper team to take on a community organizing role in the Lower Inlet. After receiving an Environmental Studies degree from Southern Oregon University in 2015 she worked for a Southern Oregon climate focused nonprofit where she found her passion for cultivating community through environmental advocacy. After half a year of South American travel she found herself back in Anchorage, where she was born and raised, eager to continue utilizing and developing her community organizer skillset in her home town. She is overjoyed to join the Cook Inletkeeper team and re-root to Alaska in a meaningful way by bringing people together to fight for resilient and healthy communities in the face of climate change

Kaitlin Vadla, Central Peninsula Regional Director: Kaitlin joined Inletkeeper in 2013 to spearhead grassroots organizing efforts on the North Kenai Peninsula. Born and raised in Clam Gulch, Kaitlin grew up fishing, hunting, and exploring in and around the Cook Inlet watershed. Kaitlin received a B.A. in International Relations and Entrepreneurship and an M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University. She spent a year as a visiting student at Oxford University and recently returned to Alaska after a year as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar earning a Post Graduate Diploma of Science at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Adaptation International is a woman-owned small business focused on helping communities and organizations build resilience to climate change. We use collaborative approaches to connect the best available science and tools with local knowledge to empower communities to be holistic, equitable, and adaptive. This approach ensures that the products developed through our projects are both useful and usable by the community partners.

Founded in 2010, Adaptation has successfully developed climate resilience tools and plans for counties and communities across 14 states. Our work has included collaborating with cities such as San Antonio, TX and Boulder, CO and partnering with nearly 20 tribal communities across the country. Our team has more than a decade of experience in climate change science, natural resource management, spatial analysis, public policy, public health, strategic planning, workshop development, and stakeholder engagement and collaboration. Adaptation International believes in the power of communities to look to the future, respond to the challenges of a changing climate, and thrive in the 21st century and beyond. Team member resumes available upon request.

Custom Adaptation Strategies

Vulnerability Assessment

Workshop Design

Communication and Design

Community Engagement

The Project Team

Sascha Petersen, Founder and Director

Sascha has been working specifically on climate change for more than 13 years. He was the first managing director of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, a Lead Author for the Great Plains Region of the National Climate Assessment (2014) and the Pacific Northwest Region of the forthcoming National Climate Assessment. He has worked with both climate scientists and municipal governments and focuses on bridging the gaps between climate change science, policy, and action. Before starting Adaptation International, he led the City of Austin's climate preparedness and resilience efforts.

Ellu Nasser, Project Coordinator

Ellu is currently coordinating a climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning project with the Washoe Tribe in California and the Lac du Flambeau Tribe in Wisconsin. She is an expert at community engagement and helps lead Adaptation International climate change and human heath work with ten years of experience working to decrease disparities of environmental effects on community health. Ellu has a Master's in Public Health.

Nyssa Russell, Climate Resilience Specialist

Nyssa is currently working on identifying and communicating climate-related risks and possible adaptation strategies for the Shoshone-Paiute, Lac du Flambeau, and Pueblo of Laguna Tribes. She has a background in fisheries management and worked with the U.S. Geological Survey on ways in which the USGS can make its research more accessible and useful for decision-makers. Nyssa holds a Master's in Marine Affairs and Certificate in Climate Science and Communication from the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs at the University of Washington and a Bachelor's in Environmental Science and Policy from Duke University.

Alex Basaraba, Climate Resilience Specialist

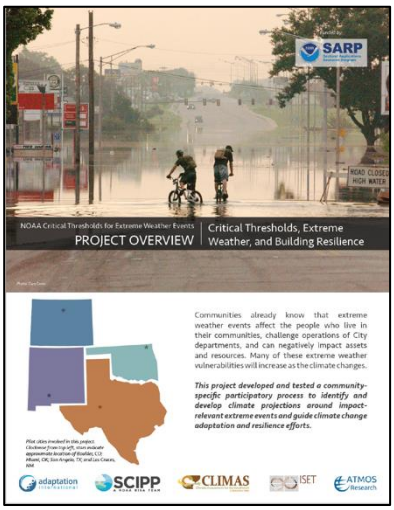
Alex works at the interstice of environmental conservation, climate change, and human well-being using visual storytelling, research, and planning. Past projects include work with the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Geographic Expeditions, the U.S. Department of Defense, the Three Affiliated Tribes, and the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, among others. Most recently, his work has focused on supporting climate change resilience planning efforts with the Lac Du Flambeau Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, the Pueblo of Laguna, and the Upper Snake River Tribes. He holds a MSc in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and a BSc in Biology, both from Colorado State University.

Trevor Even, Spatial Analysis Specialist | Role: GIS Lead

Trevor is an applied researcher focusing on issues of how humans and environments interact, and how society can learn to manage these interactions in ways that ensure long-term social and ecological sustainability. His work has included community recovery from natural disaster processes and the vulnerability of land-based livelihoods (such as ranching, outdoor recreation, and farming) to changes in climate. Trevor blends anthropological, geographic, climate, and ecosystem science to investigate how different value systems, technologies, ways of understanding nature, and modes of resource governance shape water security and sustainability at the hydrological basin scale. Trevor is a PhD candidate at Colorado State University.

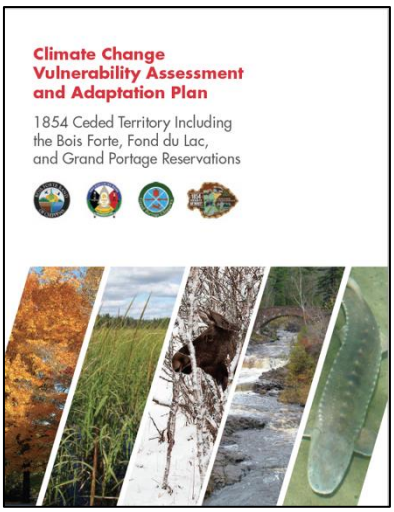
Past Project Examples

Adaptation International has had extensive experience working across the United States on climate change adaptation and resilience. Below are four recent and locally relevant project examples. More project examples are available upon request.



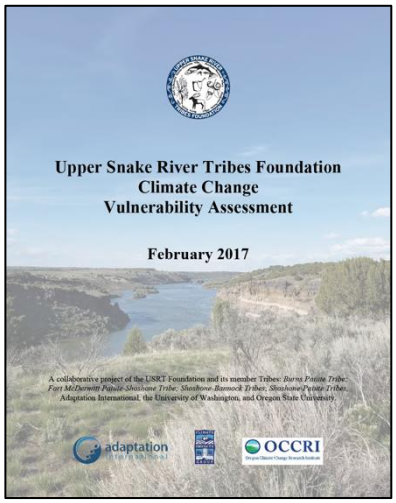
Critical Thresholds, Extreme Weather, and Building Resilience | Completed 2017

This NOAA Sectoral Applications Research Program funded project involved exploring the utility of using community defined extreme weather thresholds to customize climate projections and make that information more useful and relevant to the communities. In a partnership with three of NOAA's Regionally Integrated Sciences and Assessment programs, ISET-International, and Atmos Research, Adaptation International led a diverse project team that worked with four communities across the Southcentral U.S. in four states.



1854 Treaty Authority – Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan

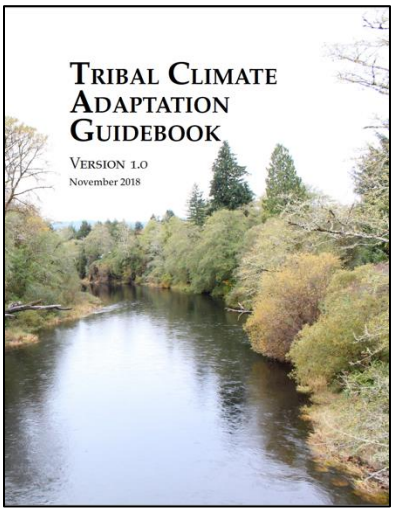
This collaboration focused on key natural resources in the 1854 Ceded Territory. Adaptation International partnered with the Treaty Authority, and the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessment Program to develop detailed local climate change projections for the region, assess the potential vulnerability of key species, and collaboratively develop adaptation actions to address those vulnerabilities and enhance resilience.



Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation – Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan

Idaho, Nevada, Oregon | Ongoing

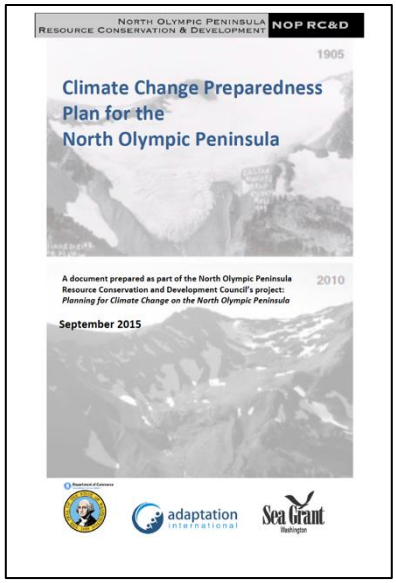
This three-year collaboration has focused on key natural resources in the Upper Snake River Watershed. Working closely with the Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation and its four member tribes, our team has developed downscaled climate projections for the region, completed a detailed community driven climate vulnerability assessment, developed adaptation actions to reduce those vulnerabilities, and developed education and outreach materials for the tribe. Refine, and discuss, extreme weather thresholds that matter.



Tribal Climate Change Adaptation Completed 2018

Reference: Meghan Dalton – Project Manager – Oregon State University - mdalton@coas.oregonstate.edu

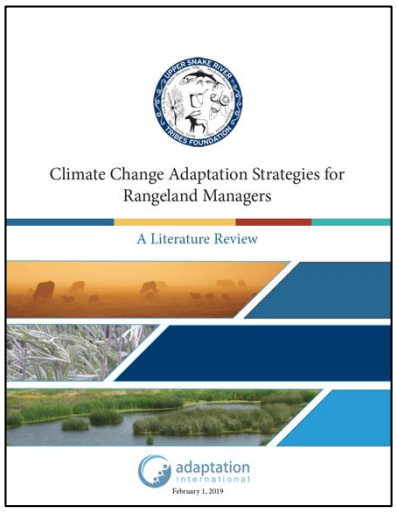
In a collaboration with Oregon State University and a suite of advisors from tribal communities around the United States, Adaptation International helped develop a new Tribal Adaptation Guidebook. The guidebook describes the process tribes are using to assess vulnerability and enhance resilience to climate change and highlights case studies from more than two dozen tribes across the Pacific Northwest and the Country relevant to adaptation planning.



Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula Completed 2015

Reference: Kate Dean– Jefferson County Commissioner –- kateodeanell@gmail.com

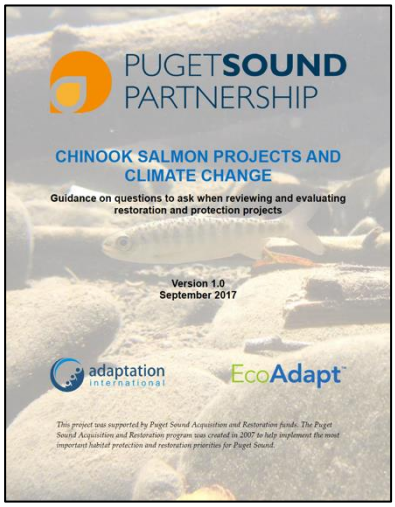
This collaboration focused on key natural resources in the 1854 Ceded Territory. Adaptation International partnered with the Treaty Authority, and the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessment Program to develop detailed local climate change projections for the region, assess the potential vulnerability of key species, and collaboratively develop adaptation actions to address those vulnerabilities and enhance resilience.



Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Rangeland Managers

Idaho, Nevada, Oregon | Completed 2019

This project - funded by the Department of the Interior - was designed to review and summarize key literature on the ways in which climate change can affect rangelands and cattle in the Upper Snake River Watershed and Great Basin. This report is an excellent resource for developing effective actions to enhance the resilience of rangelands by managing grazing, conserving and restoring rangelands and riparian areas, and managing water resources.

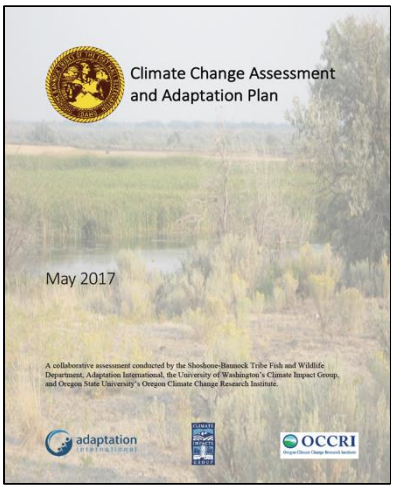


Chinook Salmon Projects and Climate Change

Completed 2017

Reference: Amber Moore – Project Coordinator – Puget Sound Partnership amber.moore@psp.wa.gov

This Department of the Interior funded project was designed to review and summarize key literature on the ways in which climate change can affect rangelands and cattle in the Upper Snake River Watershed and Great Basin. Nearly completed, this report can provide an excellent resource for developing effective actions to enhance the resilience of rangelands by managing grazing, conserving and restoring rangelands and riparian areas, and managing water resources.



Climate Adaptation Plan for the Shoshone Bannock Tribe

Idaho | Completed 2017

This project was developed for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe and was focused on effective community responses to climate change. Adaptation International led a series of workshops to engage tribal staff in the creation and refinement of these actions. As part of that project, we helped the Tribe create a 4-minute documentary style video, *Dammen Baa*[1], to share their resilience story.

[1] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYJSxXnUsx0

United States Department of the Interior
INTERIOR BUSINESS CENTER
Indirect Cost Services
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 7-400
Sacramento, CA 95814-4706

November 5, 2018

Carly Wier, Executive Director
Cook Inletkeeper
3734 Ben Walters Lane
Homer, AK 99603-7738

Dear Carly Wier:

Enclosed is the Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement offered by the Interior Business Center (IBC). If you agree with the contents, **please sign and return** the agreement to IBC to complete the acceptance process. IBC will then countersign and return a signed agreement to you.

As a recipient of federal funds, the regulations require you to maintain a current indirect cost rate agreement. **Your next indirect cost rate proposal is due in our office six (6) months prior to the expiration of your current rate agreement.** Please submit actual fiscal cost data for the most recently completed fiscal period, typically the year prior to the year in which the rate will expire. In addition, you may also submit budgetary data for the fiscal periods for which you are requesting rates. Proposals are processed on a first-in, first-out basis.

Please visit our website for information and updates on filing indirect cost proposals. If you have any questions concerning the negotiation agreement or require additional information, please contact our office for assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Wills

Craig A. Wills
Office Chief

Enclosure: Negotiation Agreement

Phone: (916) 930-3803
Fax: (916) 930-3804
Email: ICS@ibc.doi.gov
Website: https://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/Indirect-Cost-Services