

GOAL 1: LANDUSE PLANNING

Objective 1: Assist both private and public landowners in planning sustainable, multi-use recreational opportunities.

Task 1: Work with the stakeholders to address trail-related issues, including legal easements and environmental concerns due to poor trail design, on the Watermelon Trail.

Task 2: Coordinate with CIRI, ADFG and KPB to address trespass issues on the Watermelon Trail, including the trail plan to re-route sections of the Watermelon Trail onto public lands. Revegetate old trail and build up new one.

Task 3: Working with the stakeholders to address trail related issues, including legal easements and environmental concerns due to poor trail design, on the Caribou Lake Trail, provide assessment of the trail.

Task 4: In conjunction with the Homer Demonstration Forest (HDF) Steering Committee and the City of Homer, Parks and Recreation Commission explore funding opportunities for regular maintenance of the current trail network at the HDF as outlined in the HDF Management Plan.

Task 5: Working with the stakeholders to identify high priority issues on the Watermelon Trail, provide detailed assessment and prescription for the trail.

Task 6: Once trail needs are identified and solutions approved by ADFG and DNR, install trail improvements on the Watermelon Trail.

Objective 2: Build capacity among local land owners to promote informed, sustainable management of natural resources as part of area wide land use management.

Task 1: Provide landowners with information about NRCS programs and share information about online wetland maps and other resources to aid landowners in conservation planning

Task 2: Facilitate Homer Demonstration Forest Steering Committee meetings. Assist with research and education projects in the HDF that will support landowner efforts to manage their forest lands in productive and sustainable ways.

Task 3: Facilitate Caribou Lake Trail committee meetings. Assist with interpretation of legal requirements and restrictions. Identify and help to acquire sources of funding.

Objective 3 (LANDUSE PLANNING): Working with Federal partners, provide support to study, identify, and implement conservation practices.

Task 1: Monitor vegetation and soils on mining sites before or after management activities to determine the site needs in terms of planting or vegetative treatments desires to reach management objectives. Assist with development of Alaska-specific Best Management Practices for rehabilitating mined streams.

Task 2: Provide staff support for NRCS Soil Survey for vegetation and soil studies in animal grazing areas, such as in the Nulatto Hills reindeer grazing lease area.

Task 3: Provide trained AIM staff support for BLM for vegetation and soil studies in animal grazing areas such as in the the proposed Nulatto Hills reindeer grazing lease area.

Task 4: Provide support to the NRCS staff to implement conservation practices and farm bill programs at the local level.

Task 5: Provide facilitation to the KBNERR to identify strategies for fostering research, education, and collaboration on biological conservation and natural resource management in Alaska and the Arctic

GOAL 2: WATER QUALITY

Objective 1: Work with partner agencies to assist in the protection of salmon habitat.

Task 1: Work with partners and local land owners to assess the needs and best solutions in the area of the lower stretch of the Anchor River where the streambank needs to be stabilized and restored to protect aquatic life and habitat, water quality, and to reduce flood damage. Prepare for the design and implementation of the project.

Task 2: Continue to improve and upgrade bridges (ramps and build bigger) that cross the fingers of Wallace Creek and improve the trails in the Fox River Critical Habitat Area to address current impacts of critical riparian habitats that support juvenile salmon. Certify weights on bridges, install zincs, flags for corners, & bronze plate with our name.

Task 3: Outreach and coordination of landowners in the Fox River Valley to determine the location for the trails to mitigate damage in the area.

Task 4: Work with partners to increase local knowledge of salmon and their use of freshwater and marine habitats, potential threats to salmon, habitats, and ways to improve critical degraded habitat. Work towards interagency coordination of research, funding opportunities, and partnerships. Identify research projects, develop grants for funding, and support projects to document impacts of development on wetland and stream hydrology.

Task 5: Implement identified streambank stabilization projects on the Anchor River.

Objective 2 (WATER QUALITY): Promote and support sound management and protection of wetlands on non-federal lands on the Kenai Peninsula.

Task 1: Assist NRCS with completing wetland determinations in order to facilitate conservation planning and ensure compliance with USDA conservation program requirements. At least one staff member will be certified for identifying wetlands for Food Security Act purposes (Wetland Conservation Provisions).

Task 2: Assist with the NRCS Snow survey program to estimate snow melt and help forecast water supplies for the Kenai Peninsula.

Task 3: Assist the KBNERR with disseminating information to private land owners regarding the potential benefits of blue carbon offset markets and the long term protection of important wetlands on the Kenai Peninsula as well as the latest understanding of groundwater systems.

GOAL 3: AGRICULTURE

Objective 1: Provide support for agricultural activities in the Homer District.

Task 1: Provide soil testing services for use in developing nutrient management plans for high tunnel participants and agricultural producers.

Task 2: Provide conservation technical assistance to NRCS for EQIP participants. Have at least one staff certified for nutrient management planning.

Task 3: Utilizing office space, serve as an outlet for information from partners such as Farm Service Agency, Cooperative Extension Service and the Division of Agriculture. Serve as a host for meetings held by local farming and ranching organizations

Task 4: Host 3 community meetings on the topic of high tunnel growing and two high tunnel tours.

Task 5: Host monthly educational presentations or engagement activities for agricultural producers throughout the winter months.

Task 6: Work with NRCS Rangeland Specialist to assist local hay producers to increase quality of hay crop production. Provide site visits, soil sampling, and forage testing services to producers on the southern Peninsula.

Task 7: Look into providing a program for available farming equipment for rental to district cooperators. Promote sustainable agricultural practices through the service of farm equipment rental.

Objective 2 (AGRICULTURE): Research the strengths and challenges of the local food system and of local specialty crops.

Task 1: Develop a leasing program for equipment to lease to the Alaska Rhodiola Products Cooperative that will improve processing capacity of the root into a marketable form.

Task 2: Conduct a study of the local food producers to identify issues that they face in business planning, finances, marketing and other farm-related issues.

Task 3: Working through the Homer Farmers Market, identify issues for producers that could be avoided in direct-to-consumer marketing if there were materials, information, and training available. Develop those materials and trainings.

Task 4: Conduct a study of the local food consumer market to identify issues that influence the purchase of local foods.

Task 5: Conduct a soil health study to demonstrate to Southern Kenai Peninsula farmers the benefits and feasibility of using cover crops and reduced tillage to improve their soils. Provide demonstration of conservation practices to the agriculture community on the Southern Kenai Peninsula. Encourage producers to collaborate with NRCS to utilize conservation practices and technical advice.

GOAL 4: INVASIVE PLANT PROGRAM

Objective 1: Collaboratively work with partners in the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (KP-CWMA) to promote outreach and effective coordination of resources to address identified concerns of the KP-CWMA.

Task 1: PARTNERS: Provide staff time to serve as the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator. Promote the CWMA and continue to expand partnerships, facilitate quarterly meetings, disseminate relevant information among CWMA members, and assist with efforts to implement projects across jurisdictional boundaries. Support KP-CWMA sponsored events such as the annual weed smack down and the annual weed workshop.

Task 2: PUBLIC: Continue District public outreach programs on the southern Kenai Peninsula to increase awareness of the threat of terrestrial invasives to natural ecosystems. Provide staff to help identify invasive plant species of local concern for our cooperators. Develop pest management plans (IPM) to treat invasive species in accordance with KP-CWMA integrated pest management protocols. Assist cooperators with implementing IPM and use of federal cost share programs.

Task 3: Work with the KP-CWMA to maintain an up-to-date, comprehensive inventory of invasive plant species recorded on the Peninsula. Ensure all records from the KP-CWMA are entered into the Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC).

Task 4: Working with USFWS, develop and implement an invasive weed cost share program.

Task 5: Promote certified Weed Free products. Have staff trained to inspect fields and certify crops and/or gravel pits as weed free upon request.

Objective 2 (INVASIVE PLANT PROGRAM): Work with agencies and cooperators Peninsula-wide to manage invasive weeds that threaten to degrade natural and agricultural resources.

Task 1: Partnering with Alaska Department of Transportation and the USFS Regional advisory Committee of Chugach National Forest, develop an integrated pest management plan for state road right-of- ways on the Kenai Peninsula. Provide for a roving crew to work with the eradication priority species as defined by the KP-CWMA, to provide for a comprehensive survey of additional species, and to report to AKEPIC.

Task 2: Partner with Port Graham Village Council and Nanwalek Village Council to develop invasive plant mitigation strategies and to incorporate Best Management Practices as defined by the CWMA into construction contracts and village projects, specifically the new airport construction project.

Task 3: Work with regional partners to implement the management plan for the eradication of elodea in lakes in southcentral Alaska. Continue to provide support for early detection and rapid response (EDRR) efforts to prevent establishment of new invasive populations.

Task 4: Control of 2 acres of white sweet clover at Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project Expansion to protect valuable adjacent wilderness on state and federal land in cooperation with: AK DMLW, KNWR, KFNP, HEA and AEA

Task 5: Working with cooperators, design and develop experimental plots to monitor invasive weed responses to different fertilizers.

GOAL 5: EDUCATION

Objective 1: Work with local schools to promote education focused on agriculture, food and natural resources.

Task 1: Collaborating with Kenai and Fairbanks SWCD and Ag in the Classroom, staff will work with area teachers to develop indoor growing projects.

GOAL 6: ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT

Objective 1: Provide resources to fulfill cooperative agreement between Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Homer Soil and Water Conservation District.

Task 1: Provide office personnel to run the day-to-day operations of the HSWCD. Hold monthly Board of Supervisor meetings, encouraging the participation of local landowners and land use managers with resource interests or concerns. Produce quarterly newsletters highlighting HSWCD projects and NRCS programs and opportunities. Maintain and improve the HSWCD website with regular updates about District programs and by providing links to other sites of interest.

Task 2: Maintain financial records, document expenditures and receivables, maintain program budgets, and make available financial reports to HSWCD Board of Supervisors and the AACD.

Task 3: Research, apply for, and administer grants for conservation-related projects that meet the mission of the HSWCD. Coordinate available educational, financial, and technical resources to better meet the needs of local land users and managers involved in protecting and conserving soil, water, and related resources.

Task 4: Support Board of Supervisor's development and travel to bi-annual AACD conferences. Recruit board members, provide for time to manage the annual call for nominations and elections. Maintain membership in state and national associations when appropriate.









