

Community Coastal Impact Assistance Program

Wood-Tikchik Park Clean-Up and Pollution Prevention Program

Award Amount

\$ 11,700

Grantee

Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Parks Division

Project Contact

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Location

This cleanup project will take place at Grant Lake, Overflow Lake and Tikchik Lake in the Wood-Tikchik State Park.

Project Duration

Project Start Date: May 1, 2013

Project End Date: June 1, 2014

Project Duration: The project will be completed within a year of the receipt of funding.

Project Description

This project will protect and restore the coastal area of Wood-Tikchik Park by the cleanup of debris and contaminants that could flow into the local waterways and wetlands and from there into the coastal environment. Two sites will be completely cleaned and the third will have at least one airplane load of materials removed.

Background

The largest state park in the nation, at 1.6 million acres, is named for the two major watersheds that are partially within the park's boundary - the Wood River and the Tikchik River. The Park represents almost half the acreage in the entire Alaska State Park System. Located in the Bristol Bay region of southwest Alaska, the park was established to protect fish and wildlife populations and to support traditional subsistence and recreational activities.

Important fish and wildlife species include sockeye salmon (the park's waters are thought to contribute 20 percent of the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run, the largest in the world), other Pacific salmon, rainbow trout, moose, caribou, black bear, and grizzly bear. Traditional activities in the park include subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping, as well as recreational fishing and hunting. The number of recreational wilderness-travel activities has grown in the park, including kayaking, river floating, hiking and some mountain climbing.

Consistent with the Legislature's purposes for establishing the park, primary management objectives of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will be to: 1)

protect and conserve the area's fish and wildlife populations and breeding systems; 2) provide for the continued use of the area for traditional subsistence and recreational purposes; and 3) protect the area's recreational and scenic resources.

Proposed Clean-Up

All sites are remote and access is by aircraft. The CIAP funding will be used to fund flight costs to and from the sites, the costs associated with hiring two short-term Alaska Conservation Corps personnel, and disposal fees.

Site One and Two will be cleaned completely as a result of this project. They are located on north shores of Overflow and of Grant Lake. The site on the north shore of Overflow Lake is the site of illegal cabin construction activity in the 1980's. The cabin was never constructed when builders discovered their activity was prohibited by state law. They abandoned the stockpiled building materials as well as a snowmachine and miscellaneous tools. The second site is located on the north shore of Grant Lake. This site has an abandoned tent platform and boat. The goal of the project is to remove these materials and haul non-biodegradable materials to the landfill. The completion of this project will result in the removal of the debris and restoration of these public lands to its natural condition.

Site Three is an abandoned fishing site located on the north shore of Tikchik Lake. During the 1960's this site was used as a base camp for commercial fishing activities and was abandoned a few years later. The operator left behind most of the equipment and debris. The goal of the project is to disassemble, remove and haul out the dilapidated metal building, numerous 55 gallon petroleum barrels, fuel cans, batteries, scrap snowmachines, engines and miscellaneous metal scrap. Funding will allow at least one airplane load of debris to be removed from the Tikchik Lake site.

Measurable Goals and Objectives

The completion of this project will result in the removal of the debris, potential contamination source and restoration of three sites on public lands to its natural condition. Sites at Overflow Lake and Grant Lake will be completely cleaned up and restored to pristine conditions.

At the Tikchik Lake site, funding is not sufficient to removal all the debris, therefore the cleanup will focus on debris, such as barrels or machinery containing oil and gas, that have the potential to contaminate the surrounding environment.

CIAP Authorized Use

The activities outlined for this project are consistent with CIAP Authorized Use 1: Projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands.

The project will result in the complete or partial clean-up and restoration of three sites, each less than an acre in size, within the coastal zone. If the debris is left where it is, contaminants could flow into the local waterways and wetlands, harm local wildlife and fish species, and degrade coastal environments. Each of the three sites is either within the coastal zone, or on a lake that is just outside the coastal zone boundary and directly connected to waterbodies that are within the coastal zone.