

# Working Together for Healthier Watersheds

JOIN THE KENAI WATERSHED FORUM'S BUILDING CAMPAIGN





# OUR FUTURE

## REALIZING OUR FULL POTENTIAL

As a dynamic, nonprofit organization dedicated to maintaining the health of Kenai Peninsula's watersheds, the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) is well-poised to serve the peninsula and the State of Alaska with increasing effectiveness both today and far into the future.

To realize our full potential, we need to continue expanding and improving our programs and infrastructure. Embracing our mission to work together for healthy watersheds, we are launching a capital campaign to support the revitalization of a historic building that will meet the growing needs of our organization for many years to come. We invite you to learn more about the importance of supporting KWF in this endeavor.

## GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Based in Soldotna, Alaska, KWF is the regional watershed organization of the Kenai Peninsula. Dedicated to our mission to work together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula, we strive to identify and address the needs of the entire region by providing high-quality education, restoration and research programs.

KWF, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, was founded in 1997 by a group of local citizens concerned about the health of the Kenai River watershed. In recent years, we have expanded our scope to encompass the entire Kenai Peninsula.

As a result, KWF has grown by leaps and bounds. We now employ a highly trained staff of 12. Our annual budget has grown steadily to over \$2 million. And we have significantly diversified all three of our key programs, including education, restoration and research.

For example, we added several more classrooms to our Adopt-a-Stream program for the 2008 – 2009 school year. We have greatly expanded our restoration program and are now restoring up to 15 streams annually. And we are working on more research projects than ever before. In addition, KWF, along with our executive director, Robert Ruffner, have been recognized locally and nationally for our efforts.



# GROWING



# PROGRAMS

## BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

KWF's presence in the community enhances the lives of all its residents and visitors, who are drawn here by the wonderful recreation and economic opportunities these natural resources provide. We at KWF understand and appreciate the growth opportunities and are focused on working with the community to preserve resources that enhance the quality of life on the peninsula.

## EDUCATION

Through our education program, KWF strives to teach both children and adults about watersheds and our environment.

Each year, we touch the lives of hundreds of youth, spending more than 11,000 contact hours with K – 12 students. For example, through our Adopt-a-Stream program, we provide a unique learning experience that encourages hands-on learning, respect for our environment, and stewardship in our youth, which is vital to the long-term preservation of our natural resources.

The Kenai River Festival, the premier event celebrating our great Kenai River, is another education-related community outreach effort presented by KWF. Every year in June, over 200 volunteers pitch in to put on this free event, which attracts nearly 6,000 people to Soldotna Creek Park for two days of fun and hands-on activities geared toward educating visitors and locals alike on the benefits of taking care of our environment.



## RESTORATION

There is no question that salmon is a vital resource to the Kenai Peninsula, and that the vitality of these fish greatly impacts our local economy. Through KWF's restoration program, dozens of miles of salmon habitat have been restored, allowing salmon to access the habitat they need to thrive. Through the recent expansion of our restoration program, we are now restoring up to 15 streams annually. We aim to continue protecting and preserving the health of our salmon stock/runs by opening additional habitat and reconnecting salmon with their nurseries.

## RESEARCH

In addition to our education and restoration efforts, KWF continues to be a leader on the Kenai Peninsula in watershed-related research – from leading the charge on management of Kenai River hydrocarbon standards, to monitoring river baseline levels, and conducting research related to nutrients, juvenile salmon and watershed mapping.

As we move into the future, we are committed to providing quality data, bringing together diverse volunteers, agencies, organizations and supporters, and expanding and enhancing research projects to benefit the entire peninsula.

Our community connections are forged through our three programs — education, restoration and research.





## WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHIER WATERSHEDS

### JOIN THE KENAI WATERSHED FORUM'S BUILDING CAMPAIGN

Building Campaign Goal: \$425,000

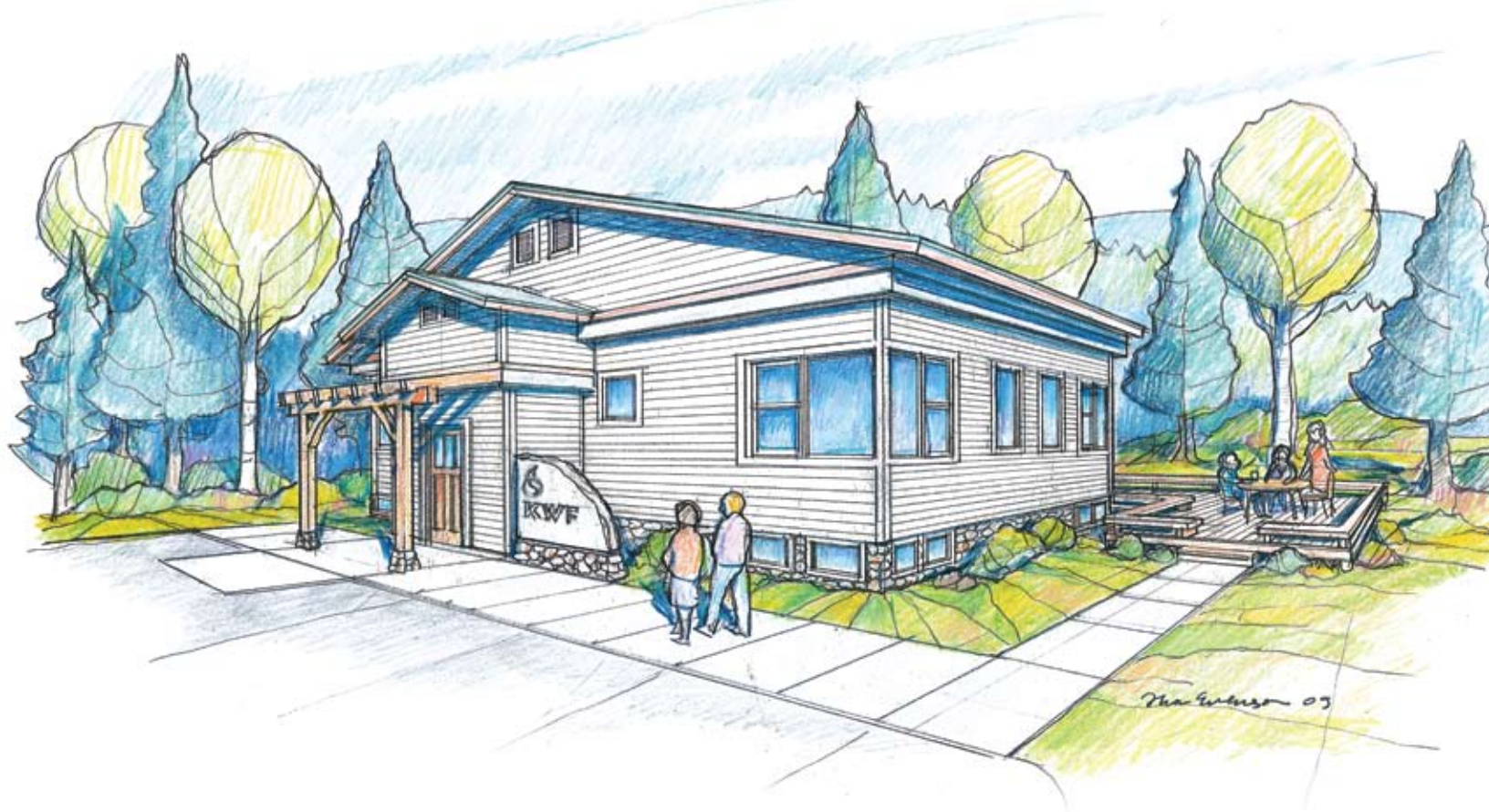
## An Investment in the Kenai Watershed Forum is an Investment in the Community.

With the growth of our education programs, the expansion of our restoration efforts, and the enhancement of our research projects, it is clear that KWF is standing upon a strong foundation. The future of KWF is to build on these successes and continue toward our mission of working together for healthier watersheds. The KWF building campaign is the critical next step in the continued growth of our organization.

KWF recently entered into a 30-year lease with the City of Soldotna to occupy a historic building located within a downtown Soldotna park at the confluence of Soldotna Creek and the Kenai River – a perfect location for our new home! The building, which is actually a 2,300-square-foot house, is one of the first permanent structures built in Soldotna, and has a unique history tied to the area homesteaders and the early highway crews.

Originally built in the 1950s, the house needs a major renovation in order to meet the growing needs of our organization. Once complete, it will provide sufficient office space for our staff and board, a laboratory for research projects, and the latest technology to enhance our efforts. In addition to providing the needed space and tools, our new building will also afford us the opportunity to expand our current services to the residents and visitors of the Kenai Peninsula.





The goal of this campaign is ambitious but entirely attainable. We believe our success will be made possible by leaders whose vision allows them to see into the future of their community, and who wish to take part in shaping a bright, new tomorrow – one filled with promise and possibilities. In return for their support, these leaders will be prominently recognized for their role in moving KWF forward into this bright future.

An investment in KWF is an investment in the vitality of the entire Kenai Peninsula for generations to come. Please join us by making a contribution to the Kenai Watershed Forum building campaign.

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE

To make a contribution to the Kenai Watershed Forum building campaign, simply complete and return the enclosed pledge form. You may also make a secure online donation at <http://office.kenaiwatershed.org/buildingcampaign>. Or, for more information, please contact Josselyn O'Connor at 907-260-5449 or [josselyn@kenaiwatershed.org](mailto:josselyn@kenaiwatershed.org). Thank you for your support.

HELP US MEET OUR  
CAMPAIGN GOAL —  
and shape a bright,  
new tomorrow.

Donate today.



## **Kenai Watershed Forum**

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