



Message From the President

As I think back on the formation of the Kasaan Bay Watershed Council, I recall that the community of Kasaan thought long and hard on what were the pressures on our system and ourselves. Out of these discussions, two items kept coming to the top of everyone's priorities, our municipal water supply/quality and our concern over the belief from traditional knowledge that there is a decline in the Karta River sockeye run.

Currently the City of Kasaan has had to post a "Boil Water" notice due to the elevated levels of trihalomethane. This is caused by organics, which are the result of debris from logging and new growth in the watershed.

To address the concerns of the sockeye run in the Karta River, the Organized Village

of Kasaan in partnership with the USFS and the AK Dept. of Fish and Game, with funding from the US Fish and Wildlife, has operated a fish weir to count the sockeye run. That count has come back with just over 10,000 sockeye making their journey up the river. 10,000 is an alarmingly low number but it is important to know that these numbers were taken this year and are only a snapshot of what is happening in the Karta System. We have funding for one more year, but desperately need to fund several more years to better establish what the numbers are over a multi-year timeline.

The reason I point out these two priorities is to show that not only were they very appropriate priorities for our

community, but to also demonstrate the need of the Kasaan Bay Watershed Council to advocate on behalf of these issues. It is through the work of the KBWC that we can determine the best avenues for us to begin looking for relief as well as the involvement of the stakeholders in identifying not only the concerns, but also to begin developing solutions. It is my personal view that the underlying mission of the KBWC is to accomplish these very important functions. And for this I give you my sincerest thanks for your various contributions.

Ha'waa,

Richard Peterson

WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING

The Kasaan Bay Watershed Council will be holding a Council meeting on the 18th of October at 1:00.

It will be held at the David S. Peele Community Hall. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Light refreshments will be served.



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• JOKE CORNER:

Q. A father bull drinks four gallons of water a day, a baby bull drinks 2 gallons of water, how much water does a mother bull drink in a day?

A. None, there is no such thing as a mother bull.

Q. A barrel of rainwater weighs 20 pounds, what must you add to make it weigh 15?

A. Holes

“Welcome Ranger Anderson” New District Ranger for Thorne Bay

Jason Anderson, the public affairs officer and partnership coordinator for Bridger-Teton National Forest was recently named the new District Ranger for Thorne Bay. He is scheduled to report for his new job in September. Anderson originates from Modesto CA, he has served 10 years with the US Army Corps of Engineers as a natural resource program leader before going to work for the US Forest Service in 2001. His work with the Corps included riparian habitat restoration, anadromous fisheries, community development, information and education, and recreation programs. In addition to his Forest Service public affairs and partnership work, Jason has served on the Bridger-Teton National Forest Fish and Wildlife Program staff. Anderson said he's "both honored, and



humbled by this amazing opportunity," to serve as the Thorne Bay District Ranger.

"We are glad Jason has accepted this opportunity," Tongass National Forest Supervisor Forrest Cole said. "I am confident he'll do a great job leading the district and serving the local community."

"After visiting Thorne Bay and Southeast Alaska, I was excited by the small town feel and beauty of the area, and I am thrilled to be given an opportunity to be part of a small community and the professional staff located in Thorne Bay." The

new ranger said. "A dream come true. My wife and I have talked for many years about the adventure of living in Alaska." Anderson and his wife Julie have three children, Abigail, age 2; Reed, age 2; and Owen, who is 3 mo. old. Anderson said his 1st priority will be, "getting to know and learn everything I can from my staff, the communities, and the natural resources on Prince of Wales Island." "After that," he stated, "My long term goal is to work with the District staff to implement a sustainable management program that meets the social, economic, and ecological values of people living on the Island."

Anderson has earned degrees in forestry and wildlife biology, from CA Modesto Junior College, and Stanislaus University.

Klawock Watershed Council 5th Annual Meeting

The Klawock Watershed Council will be hosting their 5th Annual meeting on October 27th 2005 at 11:00 am at the Craig Tribal Hall. They have extended their invitation to the Kasan Bay Watershed Council. A potluck style lunch will be served. The KWC is formed of members from private,

Tribal, local, State, Federal and other interested groups. They started up in 1998. Their watershed is approximately 29,000 acres. Klawock's goal is to assist in restoring the watershed back to its original state prior to human activity within it. Tentative agenda items include welcome,

introductions, history of the KWC, 2005 accomplishments, guest speakers, and closing comments.



UNDERSTANDING WATERSHEDS

In the last issue, we learned that we all live in a watershed, we learned about the drainage networks, the outlets, tributaries, and sub-watersheds.

No watershed is exactly like another; each has a different size, shape and drainage pattern. Two factors responsible for the varying natural characteristics of watersheds are geology and climates. Geologic processes, including glaciers, volca-

noes and plate tectonics, determine the rock formations and how they change over time. Climatic processes erode and shape the rock formations.

Weathering and erosional agents such as rain, snow, wind, glaciers, and variation in temperature create topographic variation in watersheds. Streams result from precipitation and are important agents in surface erosion; they carve rocks into

upland areas called hillslopes and lowland areas called valleys.

Through the process of carving valleys, streams break large rock material down into smaller pieces. They transport fine materials, or sediment throughout their watersheds. In fast flowing streams, sediment adds erosional force to the water, cutting through valleys and scouring stream bottoms. (cont. on page 3)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS

It has been mentioned at several watershed council meetings that there is a concern about people putting hazardous materials down the drains and having it make its way through the outfalls into the Kasaan Bay. There will be a little something in every newsletter addressing this concern.

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be 'household hazardous waste' or HHW. Products, such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides, that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when you dispose of them.

Improper disposal of HHW can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, burning, or putting them out with

the trash. The dangers of such disposal methods might not be immediately obvious, but improper disposal of these wastes can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

Prince of Wales used to have a HHW van that came down every year, but, due to the high cost of disposal, that program has been discontinued. So what do we do? Any ideas? Well, just buy what you need, don't buy 2 gallons of paint when a gallon and a quart would do. If you have left over paint, share it with someone. Reduce your use of pesticides by making sure you really need it before buying it. Take steps to eliminate conditions that are favorable to the pests. Seal cracks or openings where pests can enter the home, remove pests access to sources of food

and water, vacuum your home frequently, keep pets bathed and healthy, and eliminate home clutter or garden wastes.

And ALWAYS read the label before purchasing a product.

HOW KBWC GOT STARTED UP

In 1999 the Organized Village of Kasaan applied to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) for a I-GAP (Indian General Assistance Program) Grant. They received it, and have re-applied each year successfully. In the fiscal year 04-05 it was written into the grant

for the development of the Kasaan Bay Water Shed. This objective included a mission statement, charter, and documentation of membership with state and federal agencies. These objectives have been met with the collaboration of the OVK I-GAP Environmental Staff, the BIA

Water Resource Technician, SE Conference & members of the KBWC. The second objective in the I-GAP grant is to develop a Unified Water Assessment for the KBWC. This objective is currently being developed by the OVK I-GAP scientist, Cathy Needham.

Understanding Watersheds: continued from page 2

In slow moving streams, sediment is deposited, settling out to form sandbars, levees, and fertile flood plains.

Like water, sediment is crucial to life. Sediment and organic matter compromise soils, the skin of a watershed and interface between the living and non living parts. Soils have different textures, mineral content, and water holding and transmitting properties. They play a key role

in watersheds by determining which plants grow, how much water runs off the land and how susceptible the land is to erosion.

Vegetation is another key watershed component. Plant roots slow and absorb runoff, releasing the water slowly to groundwater and streams and back to the atmosphere. Vegetation also plays many other important roles, including providing

nutrients and habitat for fish and wildlife.

Each watershed, with a distinctive combination of soils and plant communities, supports a diversity of habitats that support a diversity of life.



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***TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND
RESTORE***

**If you have any news you would like
to put in this newsletter please
contact Audrey at the above address**

WATER TRIVIA FACTS

1. A person can live with out food for more than a month, how long can a person live with out water?
2. How much of the human body is water?
3. How much water must a person consume per day to maintain health?
4. How many miles of pipeline and aqueducts are in the United States and Canada?
5. Does water regulate the earths temperature?
6. How much of the earths water is suitable for drinking water



Humpies at Son-i-hat Creek

7. How much does one gallon of water weigh?
8. How much water must a dairy cow drink to produce

one gallon of milk?

ANSWERS:

1. Approximately one week depending on conditions.
2. 66%
3. 2.5 quarts from all sources (i.e. water, food)
4. Approximately one million miles, enough to circle the earth 40 times.
5. Yes, it is a natural insulator
6. Only 1%
7. 8.34 pounds
8. 4 gallons