

## Why Odiak Watershed?

- There are 3 partially perched culverts connecting it to the ocean, potentially affecting fish passage.
- There is 1 capped landfill in watershed.
- It covers 139 acres, 60% of which is developed land, contributing debris, sediment and other pollutants to Odiak via stormwater run-off.
- It contains invasive weeds.
- It is home to Coho salmon, Dolly Varden, Cutthroat trout, sticklebacks, river otters and other fish and wildlife.

## What Changes Will We See?

- Treatment of invasive weeds in the pond and surrounding areas.
- Establishment of a native plant garden.
- Strategic placement of native plants to provide a natural stormwater filter.
- Cleaner water.
- More coho salmon spawning in the stream.
- Continued monitoring and upkeep of area by Cordova students.
- Community members and visitors enjoying this clean, natural setting.

## Community Partners and Contributors

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Chugach Corporation  
City of Cordova  
Cordova School District  
Cordova 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Class  
Ecotrust  
Eyak Corporation  
National Assoc. of Counties Research Foundation  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
5-Star Restoration Program: Southern Company, Fedex and EPA  
Native Village of Eyak  
Prince William Sound Science Center  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
USFS Cordova and Glacier Ranger Districts

- Do you have any questions about the project?
- Do you have memories of Odiak you would like to share?
- Want to volunteer for cleanups or invasive plant removal?

## Contacts:

**Kristin Carpenter and Kate Alexander**  
Copper River Watershed Project  
P.O. Box 1560  
Cordova, AK 99574  
(907) 424-3334 fax: 424-3418  
kristin@copperriver.org  
kate@copperriver.org



## Odiak Watershed Restoration



For the next 3 years, the Copper River Watershed Project and partners will be working to improve habitat for the coho salmon and other inhabitants of Odiak watershed. These efforts will also result in a clean, enjoyable natural setting within city limits that all Cordovans can enjoy and will serve as an outdoor classroom to educate future generations.

# A look back in time...

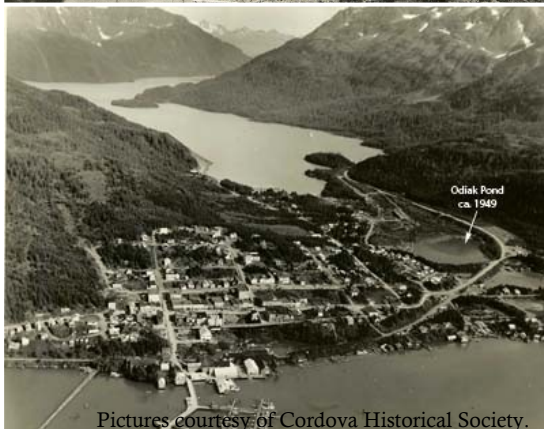
From the time Cordova became a town, Odiak Pond has been through a lot of changes. It wasn't always a pond. It was the site of Cordova's first cannery, and its connection to the ocean gave boats easy access. Then it was slightly cut off from Odiak Inlet with the building of the Copper River Railroad. Its shores became home to the railroad's roundhouse, and also the site of its burning. After the railroad shut down in 1945, residential areas around the water grew. In 1964, the earthquake completely cut Odiak Pond off from the ocean by raising the level of the land. After this, a landfill was dug in next to the pond.

The landfill was capped in the 80s and the hospital built in 1985. Now we have the opportunity to restore Odiak Watershed to the healthy habitat it can be. This began with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class from Cordova Jr./Sr. High School getting the pond and stream accepted into the State of Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog in 2010. This means that the state recognizes it as an important habitat for coho salmon. Copper River Watershed Project and partners hope to restore Odiak to healthy salmon habitat as well as an enjoyable outdoor space for all residents and visitors to enjoy.



Stormwater run-off occurs when precipitation from snow and rain storms flow over roadways and sidewalks and can't soak into the ground naturally. Stormwater can pick up garbage, chemicals, dirt, and other debris and pollutants, and wash them into a storm drain or directly to a lake, river, wetland or coastal water.

## Summary of Activities:



Pictures courtesy of Cordova Historical Society.

**Stormwater Assessment.** An engineer will conduct a stormwater assessment of the watershed to quantify stormwater and pollutant loading and propose treatment alternatives for improving Odiak Pond water quality.

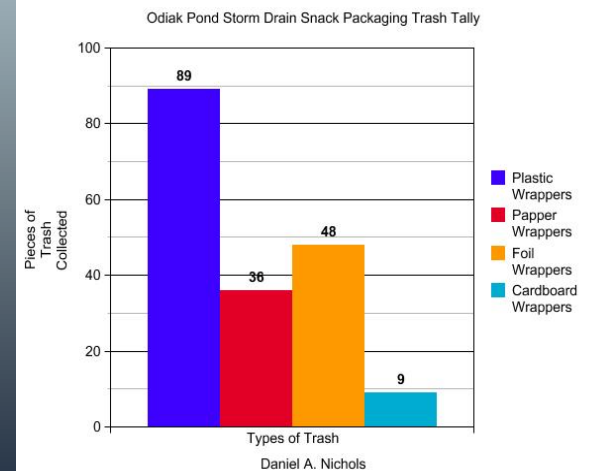
**Native Plant Filters.** Native plants will be grown in strategic areas, including near the capped landfill, to provide a natural filtration system for stormwater runoff. This will help protect Odiak Pond from pollutants.

**Native Plant Garden.** A garden will be created to educate residents and visitors about native plants. Seeds will be harvested and dried each fall to provide a source of native plant seeds to use when restoring other areas treated for invasive plant removal.

**Invasive Plant Removal.** Invasive plants can out-compete native plants and affect habitat quality and food availability for native fish and wildlife. We will be testing different methods for removing Reed Canarygrass that is currently growing in the pond.

**Ongoing Monitoring of Watershed.** Cordova Jr./Sr. High School 7<sup>th</sup> grade class will continue to monitor the pond. The students will continue to track water quality and make sure that it stays suitable for the salmon that live there.

In Cordova, our dirty stormwater can be costly to our environment, especially the salmon with which it comes in contact. Keeping Odiak watershed clean will help protect our fish.



This graph shows the number of snack packages collected around Odiak watershed by Cordova 7<sup>th</sup> graders from September 2010 to April 2011.