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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** August 1, 2011

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Donald E. Gilman River Center  
Kenai Peninsula Borough  
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### **River Debris Removal Program Announced**

The Kenai Peninsula Borough is initiating a program for the removal of debris, junk and other harmful materials from the banks and beds of streams, lakes and coastal environments. This one-time program is possible through grants received from the US Department of the Interior's Coastal Impact Assistance Program and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Through these two programs \$74,000 was awarded to the Borough for this project.

This project seeks to remove debris from rivers, floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas and coasts. Debris has found its way into these sensitive lands through poor past practices and through natural disasters like floods.

Kenai Peninsula Borough staff at the Donald E. Gilman River Center will be coordinating the grant and removal process. Efforts are now underway to identify the location of existing junk, materials, wrecked cars and other debris that may be polluting or blocking our waterways. Once a comprehensive list of the debris, its location and the potential for harm is identified, the Borough will hire a contractor to remove the materials as soon as possible.

Staff at the River Center is asking for the publics' help in identifying the specific location of river debris within the Borough. A description of the debris, its size, location, and whether the debris may pose a hazard is needed. Photos and GPS coordinates are also helpful. To report river or coastal debris for removal, please contact John Czarnetzki at the Donald E. Gilman River Center at 907-714-2463 or [jczarn@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:jczarn@borough.kenai.ak.us).

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