

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council *Restoration Update* October 1996 / Vol. 3 No. 4

Work plan set for FY97

The work plan for FY97 will provide \$15.4 million for research, monitoring and general restoration projects for the Kodiak Island, Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound regions. Additional projects will be considered at the Trustee Council's December meeting.

The FY97 Work Plan is the document that sets the Trustee Council budget and identifies community projects, scientific studies and administrative duties for the fiscal year beginning October 1.

In addition to the work plan, the Council approved several capital projects, including \$545,600 to the Alaska SeaLife Center to

Continued on Page 3

'Creative' Tatitlek package approved

After two years of negotiations, the Trustee Council recently agreed to purchase 66,000 acres of Tatitlek Corporation lands in a package praised by both sides for its creativity and its flexibility. Trustees agreed to spend \$33 million to protect the valuable habitat in eastern Prince William Sound.

A variety of methods were used in the package, including fee simple purchase, conservation easements with and without public access, and timber easements. "This is the most creative package the Trustee Council has seen by far," Trustee Deborah Williams told the Tatitlek Board of Directors. "It represents, I think, your unique needs and the ecological

management needs that we felt were important."

"What is particularly interesting about this transaction," she said, "is that it does provide Tatitlek not only the kind of environmental protection around your lands that will sustain your shareholders for generations, but will also allow economic development."

Carroll Kompkoff, president of Tatitlek Corporation, thanked the Council for persevering through long and difficult negotiations. "We believe the results will provide long-term benefits to the public and the Tatitlek shareholders, as well as to the resources injured by the spill," Kompkoff said.

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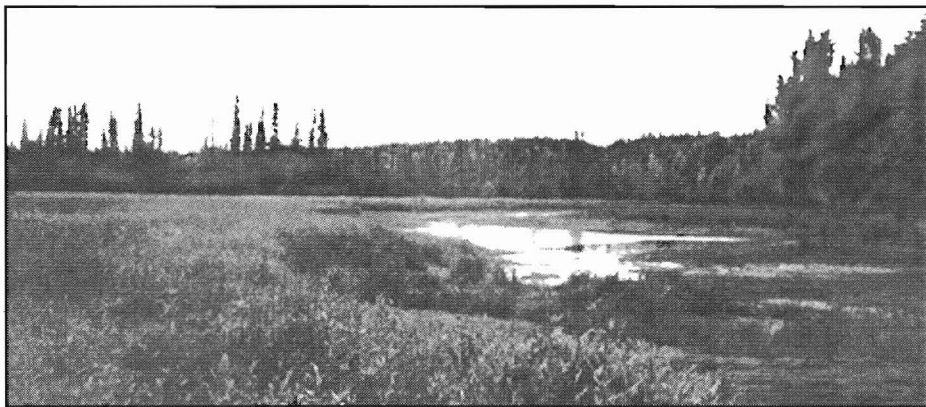
Kenai Peninsula

Exxon Valdez settlement funds benefit residents and visitors

Editor's Note: Restoring an injured ecosystem after a major oil spill is a task never before attempted on the scale now being done in Prince William Sound, lower Cook Inlet and the Kodiak Archipelago. Restoration efforts also include revitalizing human services such as subsistence, commercial fishing, and recreation.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, funded by the \$900 million civil settlement with Exxon, is bound by the courts and its trust responsibilities to restore both the environment and the human services injured by the spill. In addition, the federal and state governments are each investing \$50 million from the Exxon criminal settlement into the spill region.

This is the first of a three-part series describing how that money is being spent in each region. This issue will focus on the Kenai Peninsula. Future issues will focus on Kodiak Island (including the Alaska Peninsula) and Prince William Sound.



The 20-acre Kobylarz parcel near Soldotna includes an estuary valuable for salmon rearing.

Alaskans who enjoy outdoor activities on the Kenai Peninsula are starting to see the benefits from dozens of projects funded by the Exxon Valdez criminal and civil settlements.

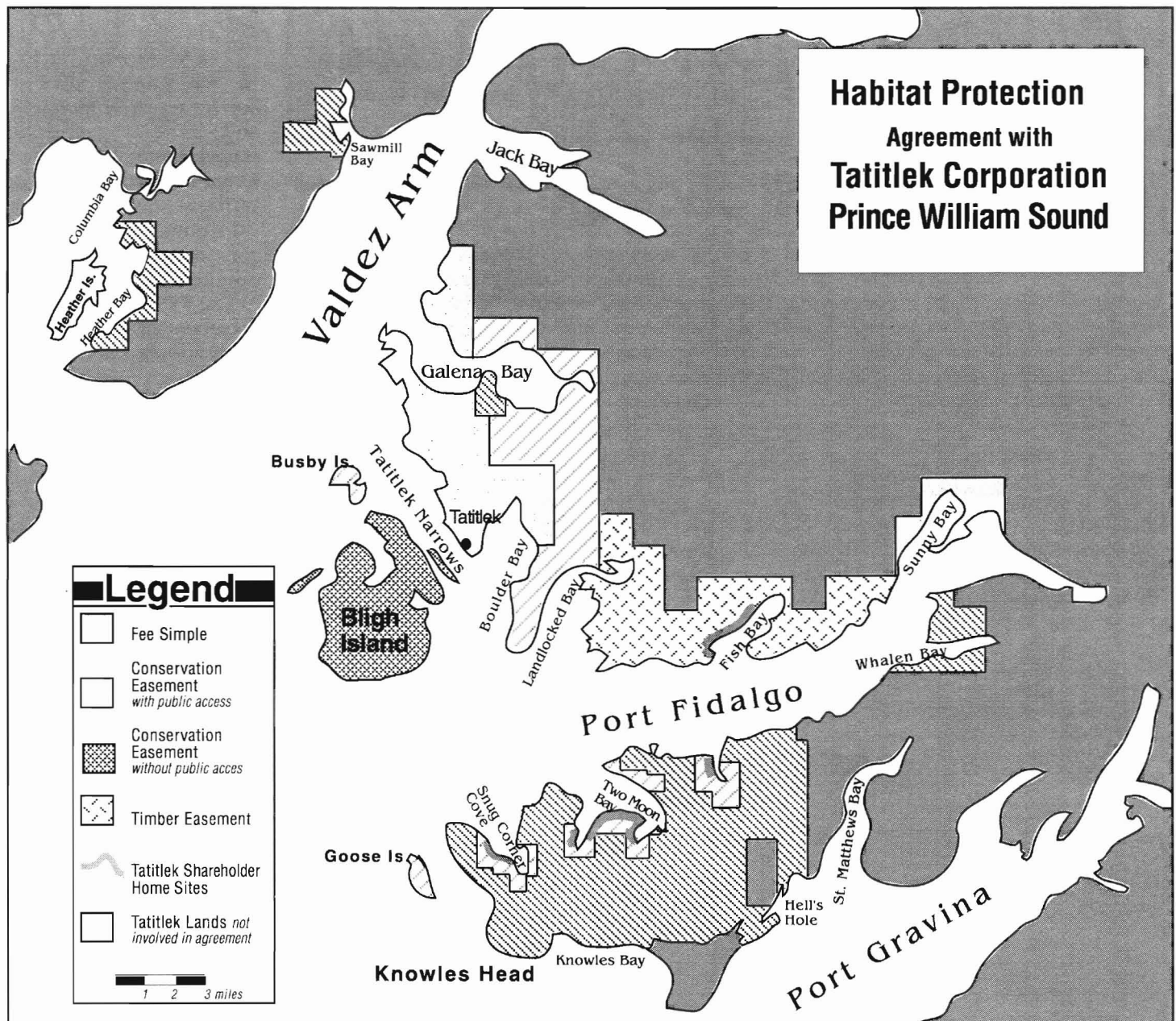
Kachemak Bay State Park has been unified through the purchase of 23,800 acres of park inholdings and fortified with new trails, public use cabins, campsites and mooring buoys.

Protection of the Kenai River has

taken a big step forward, with progress on habitat protection, sockeye management, riverbank restoration and fisher education. The Council has purchased and protected several miles of Kenai River shoreline, financed important research into sockeye salmon genetics, sockeye over-escapement, and restoration of shoreline habitat destroyed by overuse.

The \$55 million Alaska SeaLife

Continued on Page 3



Tatitlek

Continued from Page 1

The entire package must be approved by two-thirds of the Native corporation's shareholders.

The protection package includes a conservation easement covering Bligh Island, the closest point of land to the reef where the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground. Bligh Island is considered one of the most valuable parcels in Prince William Sound for its habitat and its importance as a subsistence harvest area.

A portion of the land would be administered as part of the Chugach

National Forest. The remainder would be managed by the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Executive Director Molly McCammon said the protection package represented a cooperative effort in which each side worked hard to make the best agreement possible. Under the agreement, Tatitlek Corporation would retain lands for future development and their shareholder land program. "It's a win-win opportunity," McCammon said.

Numerous species injured by the oil spill use the area for nesting, feeding, molting and wintering. The area is important to harlequin ducks, bald

eagles, black oystercatchers, marbled murrelets, pigeon guillemots, harbor seals, sea otters and river otters.

Bligh Island has the highest nesting concentrations of pigeon guillemots in eastern Prince William Sound. The Hell's Hole area is highly productive for salmon, cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden and sees significant sport fishing use. The entire region is popular for recreational purposes and subsistence food gathering.

The Trustee Council will provide \$23 million toward the purchase. The remaining \$10 million will come from the federal portion of the *Exxon Valdez* criminal settlement.

Kenai Peninsula

Continued from Page 1

Center, now under construction in Seward, will improve our scientific understanding of the North Pacific, educate Alaskans and visitors about the marine environment and provide an economic boost to the community.

Residents of Port Graham and Nanwalek who subsist on local resources will see enhanced runs of pink and silver salmon to nearby streams. A pilot project is underway, working with the Qutekcak hatchery in Seward, to re-establish littleneck clams on some south peninsula beaches.

In addition to Kachemak Bay State Park improvements, recreational users will find better access to lands, a new 20-unit

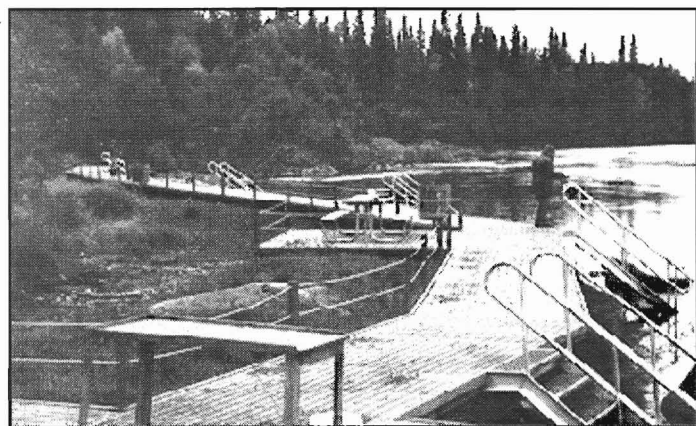
campground in the Anchor River area, and more cabins and trails along Resurrection Bay.

Many believe the real legacy of the Council's action will be our increased knowledge about our environment. The Council has funded hundreds of scientific studies throughout the spill region and has dedicated much of its funding for this purpose. The result will be better fisheries management and sustained use of our resources for generations to come.

Genetic research now allows biologists to clearly identify where the salmon passing along Cook Inlet beaches are heading. This will allow fisheries managers to open and close fisheries to ensure optimum escapement to all rivers.

Another study has provided valuable information about how overescapement affects future salmon returns.

By design, funding for administration of the Council is dwindling each year. When the money runs out, the Council will cease to exist. But as part of its legacy, it will leave behind about \$150 million (including interest) in a reserve fund to continue restoration efforts.



Kenai River habitat protection includes restoration of damaged river banks, public education and construction of fishing platforms, such as this one funded by the Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

Work Plan

Continued from Page 1

design and build a fish pass, allowing salmon to enter the center for educational and scientific purposes. The Council provided \$1.17 million to support a waste management program for Cordova, Valdez, Whittier, Chenega and Tatitlek in an effort to reduce chronic sources of marine pollution. Kodiak Island Borough received \$267,500 to support planning for a similar waste management program for island communities.

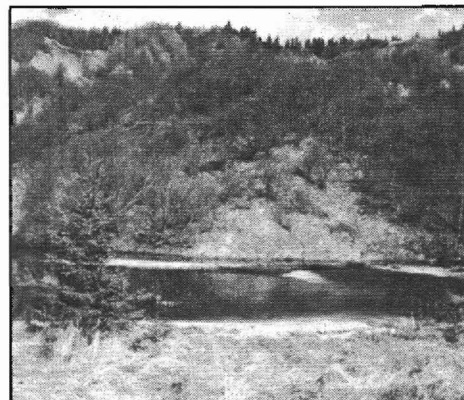
As part of the work plan, chinook salmon fry reared at the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery will continue to be released into Crab Bay near Chenega Bay to establish a subsistence fishery for that community.

Research into overescapement of sockeye salmon into Skilak and Akalura

lakes has been ongoing for three years. The Council authorized \$214,000 to finish the project during 1997 and produce a final report. The Council also approved a third year of funding for an attempt to establish subsistence clamming near Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Tatitlek. This project will receive \$365,000 in 1997 to seed juvenile littleneck clams on lower Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound beaches.

For the third consecutive year, the Council has authorized \$248,400 to fund a community involvement program which hires local residents in 10 spill-area communities to serve as liaisons between the Trustee Council, researchers, and communities.

The Council approved an additional \$12 million to go into a restoration reserve account and \$2.86 million for administration, science management and public information efforts.



Overlook Park, a 99-acre scenic overlook above Homer, includes upland ponds and rich tidal pools. This parcel is currently under consideration for protection.

In time, with the Alaska SeaLife Center, the Near Island Research Center in Kodiak, the Prince William Sound Science Center in Cordova, and the Auke Bay Laboratory in Juneau, some think Alaska will become a mecca for cold-water marine science. This wealth of knowledge will help maintain our rich fisheries and our rich marine ecosystems and buoy our two leading industries, fishing and tourism.

It's been said many times that if one can find a silver lining in the oil spill, this is it. The action of the Trustee Council translates into vital habitat protection, more recreational access to lands, better fishing success, improved subsistence harvests, and a world of scientific knowledge once thought unachievable due to funding constraints.

The Restoration Update is published six times each year by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Its purpose is to update interested members of the public about actions, policies and plans of the Trustee Council to restore resources and services injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

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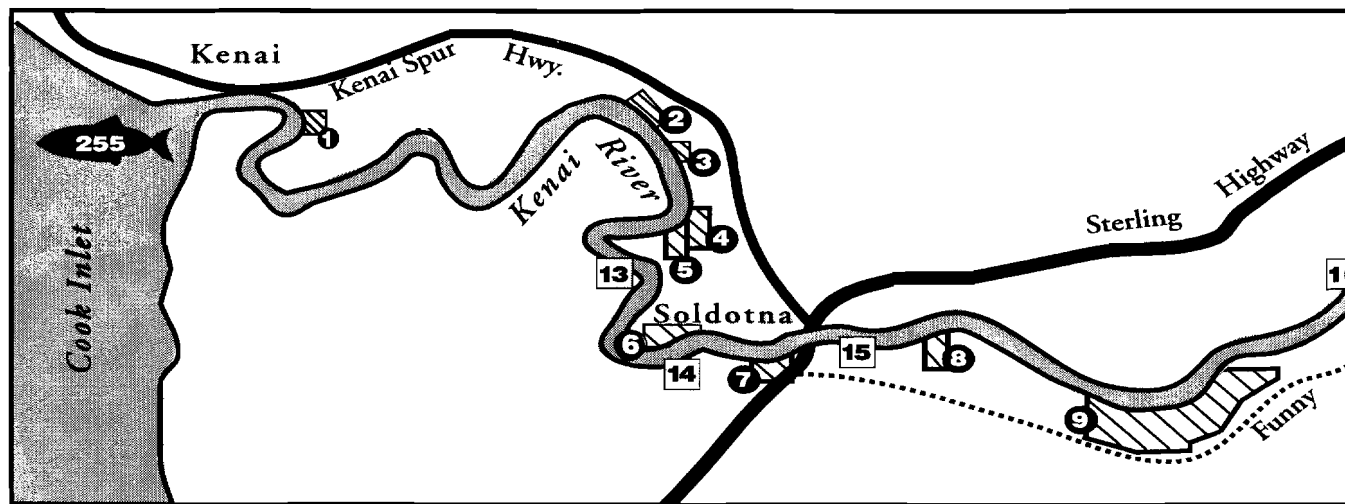
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Habitat protection, recreation and scientific research

Exxon civil, criminal penalties to provide long-term benefits for Kenai Peninsula

The following projects are in various stages of completion. Many acquisition projects depend on successful negotiations with the private land owners. Trustee Council projects (civil settlement) are in black. Projects using state or federal criminal settlement funds are shaded in gray.

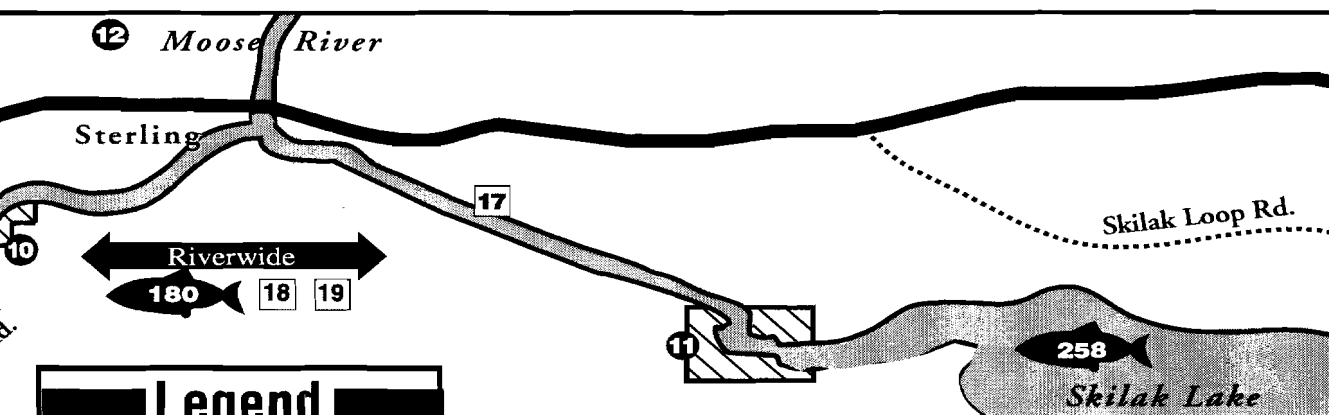
Civil Settlement

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, funded by the \$900 million civil settlement with Exxon, was created to help restore natural resources injured by the spill through habitat protection and scientific studies. This fund is limited to restoration activities in the oil spill region.

Criminal Settlement

The State of Alaska received half of the \$100 million criminal restitution resulting from the spill. This money has been designated for many uses in the spill region, including recreational facilities, interpretive programs and habitat improvements on the Kenai River. Federal agencies are also using some of their \$50 million criminal fund on Kenai Peninsula projects.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 Cone Parcel | \$600,000 | 14 Habitat Restoration | \$50,000 |
| 100 acres near the mouth of the river along the Kenai River flats. Acquisition complete. | | Contribution toward project to restore and protect severely damaged riparian habitat at Riverbend Campground. (ADF&G) | |
| 2 Oberts Parcel (The Pillars) | | 15 Soldotna Creek Park | \$300,000 |
| 30-35 acres with 1400 feet of undisturbed shoreline in vital habitat area. Appraisal under review. | | Restoration of heavily damaged park at Soldotna Creek. Includes elevated grate walk, vegetated biogrid, rootwad installation, bank revegetation. (ADF&G) | |
| 3 Oberts Parcel (Honeymoon Cove) | | 16 Morgan's Landing Access | \$50,000 |
| 4.22 acres of undisturbed shoreline in high-impact recreational area. Appraisal under review. | | Ladders and boardwalks to and along river for fishing access, interpretive displays. (ADNR) | |
| 4 Oberts Parcel (Big Eddy) | | 17 Bing's Landing Access | \$200,000 |
| 31.7 acres with about 1,200 feet of riverbank adjacent to the Kobylarz Parcel. Appraisal under review. | | Ladders and boardwalks to and along river for fishing access, interpretive displays. (ADNR) | |
| 5 Kobylarz Parcel | \$320,000 | 18 Private Waterfront Projects | \$60,000 |
| 20 acres with 1100 feet of riverbank frontage located on the Kenai River at Big Eddy. Offer accepted. | | Small-scale demonstration projects, restoration and protection of riparian habitat on Kenai River frontage parcels using elevated walks, bio-engineering, revegetation, with monitoring. (ADF&G) | |
| 6 Girves Parcel | \$1,835,000 | 19 Public Lands Protection | \$250,000 |
| 110 acres in a high use area of Soldotna. Acquisition complete. | | Restoration of public riverbank damaged by use: Endicott sonar site, Kenai Keys site, Slikok Park, Centennial Park, the Sportsman's Lodge site, Ciechanski, and various campsites. (ADF&G) | |
| 7 Schilling Parcel | | 20 Coal Creek Moorage | \$260,000 |
| 5.9 acres at confluence of the Kenai River and the Sterling Highway. Offer from landowner under consideration. | | 53 acres located at the confluence of Coal Creek and Kasilof River. Offer accepted. | |
| 8 Patson Parcel | \$375,000 | 21 Cooper Parcel | \$ 48,000 |
| 76 acres on the Kenai River by the Soldotna Airport with 1/4-mile of river frontage. Offer under consideration. | | The Ninilchik River flows through this 20 acre parcel two miles upstream from mouth. Offer under consideration. | |
| 9 Salamatof Parcel | \$2,540,000 | 22 Tulin Parcel | \$1,200,000 |
| 1,377 acres on the Kenai River with approximately 2 miles of riverbank frontage. Offer accepted. | | 220 acres with 3/4 mile of shoreline and 1/4 mile along Diamond Creek. Acquisition complete. | |
| 10 River Ranch Parcel | \$1,650,000 | 23 Overlook Park | \$244,000 |
| 146 acres with more than one mile of Kenai River Frontage. Offer under consideration. | | 97 acres just below scenic overlook, with 3/4 mile of shoreline near tidal pools. Offer under consideration. | |
| 11 Stephanka Parcel | | 24 Kachemak Bay State Park | \$7,500,000 |
| 803 acres with 2-3 miles of Kenai River frontage. Part of the KNA package below. | | Provided partial funding of \$22 million package to acquire 23,800 acres of park inholdings. Acquisition complete. Criminal fund provided another \$7 million and state's settlement with Alyeska provided \$7.5 million. | |
| 12 Kenai Native Association | \$4,000,000 | | |
| To partially fund acquisition of 15,091 acres in the Kenai River/Moose River drainage area north of the Sterling Highway. Currently under consideration by Congress. | | | |
| 13 Slikok Creek Access | \$265,000 | | |
| Ladders and boardwalks to and along river for fishing access, interpretive displays. (ADNR) | | | |



Legend

Exxon Civil (Trustee Council projects)

- 28** habitat protection
- 149** community/subsistence
- Salmon, seabird, harbor seal and clam research projects
-

For more information on these projects call the Restoration Office at 278-8012 or 800-478-7745.

Exxon Criminal (State and Federal)

- 36** Each project funded by the Exxon criminal settlement is marked with gray shaded squares. The agency responsible for each project is designated at the end of the project description.

For more information on these projects contact:

ADNR (Division of Parks)	269-8700
ADF&G (Habitat Division)	267-2277
DCRA	269-4588
USFS	271-2819

25 English Bay

Possible purchase of 33,000 acres along the south shore of the Kenai Peninsula. Discussions ongoing.

26 Port Graham

Possible conservation easements and purchase of 46,170 acres along the south shore of the Kenai Peninsula. Discussions ongoing.

27 Grouse Lake

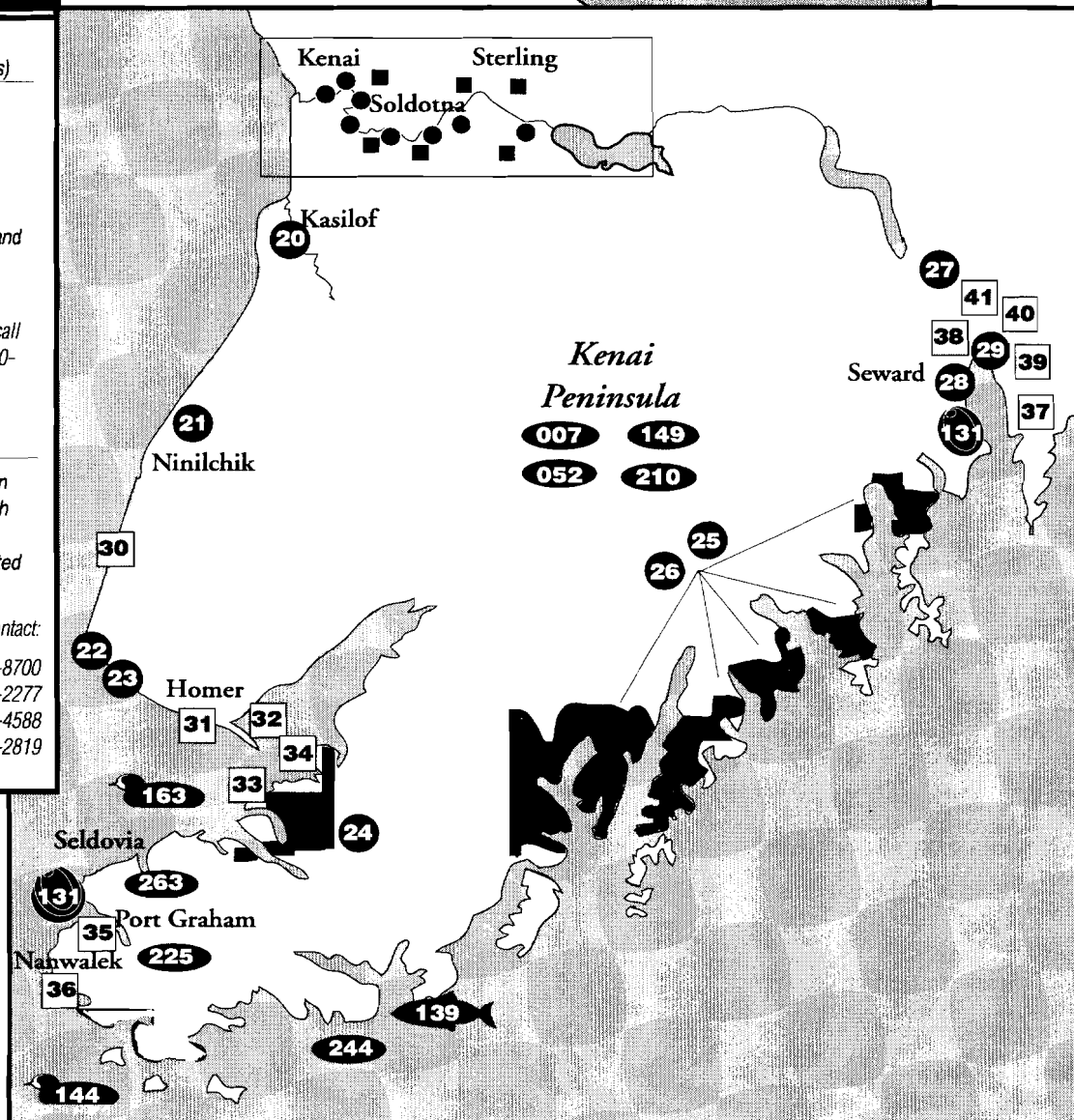
64 acre recreational site along western shore of Grouse Lake. Acquisition complete.

28 Lowell Point

19.4 acres includes 700 feet of shoreline popular for hiking, kayaking, beachcombing and fishing. Offer under review.

29 Alaska SeaLife Center

Partial funding of this \$50.5 million center in Seward, due to open in 1998. Also \$12.5 million from state criminal funds.



30 Halibut Campground

New 20-unit campground in the Anchor River area. (ADNR)

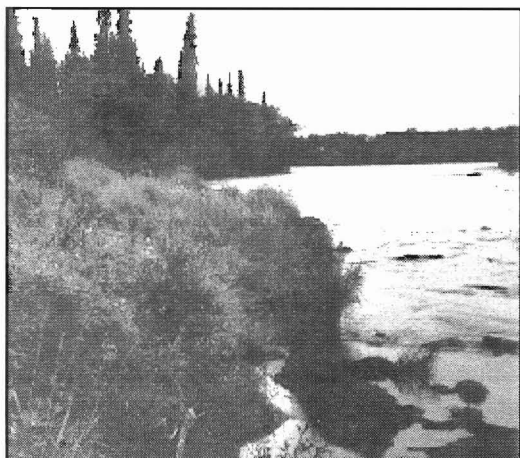
31 Beluga Slough Trail

Trail construction for wildlife viewing, interpretation, benches in Homer slough. (ADNR)

32 Mud Bay Boardwalk

Construct boardwalk and viewing decks on Mud Bay at base of Homer Spit. (ADNR)

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Trampling of the river banks due to fishing pressure results in erosion and loss of habitat.

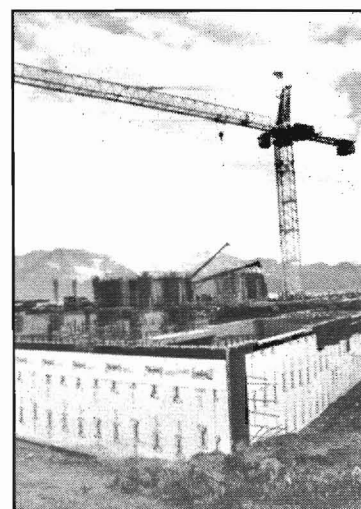
Habitat Protection and Recreation Projects, continued

- 33 Kachemak Bay State Park Improvements (ADNR)**
Campsites \$60,000
 21 new campsites throughout the park with tent platforms, food caches, fire rings and toilets.
Public Use Cabins \$200,000
 5 new public use cabins for Halibut Cove, Leisure Lake, Moose Valley, Sadie Cove.
Trail System \$310,000
 Construct hiking trails in Kachemak Bay State Park.
Mooring Buoys \$20,000
 New buoys in Tutka, China Poot, Mallard Bays and Halibut Cove areas.
Grewingk Creek Bridge \$100,000
 Suspension bridge to link popular areas of the park and the trail system.
Cabin Acquisitions \$350,000
 Acquire 5 private cabins suitable for public use.
- 34 Halibut Cove Lagoon Dock \$190,000**
 Construct public dock in Halibut Cove for access to Kachemak Bay State Park. (ADNR)
- 35 Port Graham Coho Project \$438,800**
 Restore the natural run of coho in Port Graham area stream to improve subsistence harvest. (DCRA)
- 36 Nanwalek Sockeye Project \$424,000**
 Sockeye salmon project on English Bay River provides a subsistence resource and restores a natural run. (DCRA)
- 37 Resurrection Bay Cabins \$159,000**
 Construct cabins, buoys, trails and latrines in Thumb Cove. (ADNR)
- 38 Caines Head Alpine Trail \$50,000**
 Construct hiking trail from North Beach to alpine area. (ADNR)
- 39 Resurrection Bay Trail \$200,000**
 Develop day use parking, beach trailhead and interpretive exhibits. Requires acquisition of 20 acres and is subject to negotiation with landowners. (ADNR)
- 40 Interpretive Displays \$40,000**
 Construct interpretive exhibits at Kenai Fjords Visitor Center and at SeaLife Center. (ADNR)
- 41 Darling Parcel \$35,000**
 99 acre parcel along the Snow River in the Chugach National Forest. Acquisition complete. (USFS)

Science, Subsistence and Archaeology

The following symbols represent science, subsistence and archaeology projects funded by the Trustee Council from Exxon civil funds. The numbers are the actual file numbers for each of the projects.

- 007 Archaeological Site Monitoring**
 Monitoring of archaeological sites on public land injured by vandalism and oiling.
- 052 Community Involvement/Traditional Ecological Knowledge**
 Community facilitators in Port Graham, Nanwalek, Seldovia, Seward and six other communities in spill region serve as liaisons between the Trustee Council, researchers, and communities.
- 131 Clam Restoration**
 Pilot project to establish subsistence clam populations near Native villages in the oil spill region. The Qutekack hatchery in Seward is rearing littleneck clams to be seeded near Nanwalek and Port Graham. Success could lead to similar clam seeding near other communities.
- 139 Port Dick Creek Restoration**
 Port Dick Creek restoration will increase spawning habitat to strengthen native salmon stocks.
- 144 Common Murre Population Monitoring**
 Common murre were hit hard by the oil spill. This project provides information about their recovery by counting murre at Barren Islands.
- 149 Archaeological Site Stewardship**
 Provides training and coordination for volunteers in Port Graham and Nanwalek to monitor vandalized sites in the oil spill area. Vandalism was a serious problem after the spill. Long term protection and restoration will be most successful if undertaken by local people.
- 163 APEX - Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment**
 This project compares reproductive abilities and diets of seabirds in Prince William Sound with similar data from Cook Inlet, considered a more suitable food environment.
- 180 Kenai Habitat Restoration/ Recreation Enhancement**
 Approximately 19 miles of the Kenai River's 166 miles of shoreline have serious habitat loss. Public lands have 5.4 miles of degraded shoreline. This 3-year project restores and protect salmon habitat on public lands.
- 210 Youth Area Watch**
 Involves local youth with ongoing restoration projects, giving them the skill and knowledge to participate in restoration activities now and in the future.
- 225 Port Graham Pink Salmon Subsistence Project**
 Enhances the Port Graham hatchery's ability to produce pink salmon for subsistence purposes. Because local runs of coho and sockeye salmon are at low levels, subsistence users are relying more on pink salmon.
- 244 Community Based Harbor Seal Management**
 Biological sampling of harbor seals is being done in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet. Village technicians in Port Graham, Seldovia, Nanwalek and six other communities are trained by the Harbor Seal Commission to collect samples for analysis.
- 255 Kenai River Sockeye Genetics**
 Five-year project identified genetic differences in Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. Information provided by this project is being used by fisheries managers to modify fishing areas and openings in order to improve management of Kenai River and other Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon stocks.
- 258 Sockeye Salmon Overescapement**
 Four-year project has produced scientific evidence to help evaluate the effects of overescapement.
- 263 Assessment, Protection, Enhancement of Salmon Streams**
 Provides inventory and assessment of four major salmon streams in Lower Cook Inlet with intent to improve habitat for better spawning success.



Construction of the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward got underway this summer with opening scheduled for May 1998.



Researchers save eight in rescues at sea

Science came to the rescue twice this summer when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service researchers on Trustee-funded APEX projects responded to mayday calls, saving eight people from disaster at sea.

On June 17, John Maniscalco and Bill Ostrand were collecting data from a USFWS vessel in Fish Bay off Port Fidalgo in Prince William Sound. They monitored a mayday from the *Wind Song* which was on fire near Goose

Island, about 15 nautical miles away.

Maniscalco and Ostrand were the first to reach the scene and could see smoke coming from the engine room of the 40-foot wooden boat. Four people were on board with two survival suits. All four transferred to the rescue boat.

"About a minute after we moved away, we saw flames beginning to shoot out of the engine room and the entire boat engulfed in smoke," they said in a written report on the incident. "The

Wind Song sank about an hour later."

The *Tiglax*, another USFWS vessel, was doing hydroacoustic studies July 25 near Chisik Island in Cook Inlet when researchers heard a mayday from a 20-foot Bayliner taking on water nearby. The caller reported his position as five miles north of Chisik Island before transmissions abruptly stopped, said John Piatt, lead researcher aboard the *Tiglax*.

The ADF&G vessel *Pendulus* was north of Chisik and did not see the vessel. On a hunch, *Tiglax* skipper Kevin Bell turned south toward Homer instead of north. The crew eventually spotted the capsized vessel bobbing in the waves about three miles away.

"When we got there, we found two adults and two children, wet and trying desperately to stay on the hull," Piatt said. "They're just darn lucky we happened to be in the area and then searched in the right direction." They had lifejackets but no survival suits.

The crew launched a Zodiac from the deck of the 125-foot *Tiglax* and quickly rescued all four. Piatt credited the crew for spotting the boat from so far away. A Coast Guard C-130 flew between the capsized boat and the *Tiglax* without spotting the vessel, he said.

Comprehensive book on spill injuries published

A new book documenting the injuries caused by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill has just been released providing the most comprehensive collection of Trustee-funded scientific papers published to date on the spill.

The *Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Symposium Proceedings* contains 61 scientific papers originally presented at a 1993 symposium organized by the Trustee Council. The volume is 996 pages and was edited by Bob Spies, Bruce Wright, Stanley (Jeep) Rice, and Doug Wolfe.

More than 150 authors contributed to the book and another 100 peer reviewers evaluated the sci-entific papers, making it

a significant record of effort to determine the extent of the injuries caused by the spill.

Publication costs were partially underwritten by the Trustee Council to allow a lower sale price for this volume.



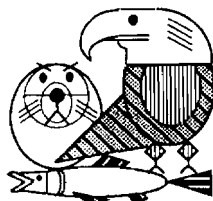
This book can be purchased by contacting the American Fisheries Society, Publication Fulfillment, P.O. Box 1020, Sewickley, PA 15143, phone: (412) 741-5700, fax: (412) 741-0609. The cost is \$35 for the book plus \$4 for shipping inside the U.S. or \$6 for shipping outside of the U.S.

Join the PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council is seeking nominations for members of the PAG

The term for all 17 members of the Public Advisory Group will end soon. Nominations for membership will be accepted until the close of business on Monday, October 14, 1996. The PAG consists of 5 members selected from the public at large and 1 member representing each of the following user groups. Nominations are being sought for all categories.

- aquaculture
- commercial fishing
- commercial tourism
- environmental
- conservation
- forest products
- local government
- native landowners
- recreation users
- sport hunting/fishing
- subsistence
- science/academic



For more information, contact the Trustee Council Restoration Office at 907-278-8012 or 800-478-7745.

Kodiak taxpayers get relief through refuge land purchase

Taxpayers in the Kodiak Island Borough received an unexpected bonus from the sale of Native corporation land to the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The Trustee-funded habitat protection program returned 109,000 acres of Native-owned land to the refuge in 1995.

In July, Refuge Manager Jay Bellinger presented the borough with a check for \$240,000 in lieu of taxes on the newly acquired land, even though the land was not taxed under Native ownership.

Federal law requires the payment in lieu of taxes when the federal government acquires land from private sources. The borough will receive similar checks each year from now on, Bellinger said.

"And the amount is only going to increase as more land is added to the refuge," he said. "This is a real boon to the borough out here and will take the pressure off the taxpayers."

This year's payment was calculated using three-fourths of one percent of the fair market value for the land.

Borough Mayor Jerome Selby said the check was a pleasant surprise that proves the land sales were a win-win situation for everyone.

Advisory group hosts town meetings on lower peninsula

Residents of Seldovia told members of the Public Advisory Group (PAG) to continue long-term funding of science in the spill area to provide a foundation for better management of all species in the North Pacific.

In Homer, city planners asked for advice on how to apply for Council funding to re-establish tidal flushing on the mud flats near Mariner Park at the base of Homer Spit.

Residents of Port Graham hosted a potlatch luncheon, complete with young dancers, and asked questions about the habitat protection program and

the process for funding restoration projects.

PAG members visited the lower Cook Inlet region September 18-19 to hear directly from those residents most affected by the oil spill. Last year, the group traveled to Prince William Sound and hosted meetings in Valdez and Chenega Bay.

A better understanding of the marine environment will help protect fisheries and wildlife and help maintain Alaska's commercial fishing and tourism industries, Seldovia residents said. One former commercial fisherman asked that the



Public Advisory Group members and agency staff walk the 220-acre Tulin parcel near Homer. The bluff property was recently acquired by the Trustee Council.

Council consider establishing a permanent fund to continue the scientific studies indefinitely

Executive Director Molly McCammon reminded residents that Trustees are creating a reserve of approximately \$150 million (including interest) and continuous financial support for science is one possible use

for that fund.

Natural flushing of the mud flats on the east side of the Homer Spit has been non-existent since a 1994 storm closed a vital channel. City Council member Jack Cushing told the PAG that without the flushing, the area will become stagnant and the natural intertidal habitat will suffer.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council



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Steve Pennoyer
Director, Alaska Region
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Frank Rue
Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game

Trustee Council Meeting Tuesday, October 15 2 p.m.

The EVOS Trustee Council will meet for approximately two hours via teleconference, primarily to discuss the Small Parcel habitat protection program.

The public is invited to participate in Anchorage at 645 G Street, 4th Floor Conference Rm or in Juneau at the US Forest Service Conference Room, Federal Building, Room 541A. For information on how to participate from other locations contact Rebecca or Cherri at 278-8012.

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