

January-February
1998

RESTORATION

U P D A T E

Volume 5
Number 1

Trustees approve archaeology plan

Proposals to be solicited for Chugach Region repository and display facilities

The Trustee Council agreed recently to seek proposals for development of a regional archaeological repository and several local community-based display facilities in the Chugach region. The move comes after more than a year of working with communities to develop an archaeological plan for Prince William Sound and some lower Kenai Peninsula communities.

The Trustee Council allocated \$2.8 million to create archaeological facilities to serve eight communities in the Chugach region: Valdez, Cordova/Eyak, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, Seward, Seldovia, Port Graham and Nanwalek. The plan calls for each community to have display facilities for locally-significant artifacts, which would be served by a single repository in the region.

The repository would be located in one of the eight com-



PAG member Brenda Schwantes and Community Facilitator Margaret Roberts, both of Kodiak, check out the exhibits at the Alutiiq Museum.

Photo by Roy Corral

munities with funding up to \$1 million. The remaining seven communities would share \$1.6 million to establish museum-quality exhibits. Up to \$200,000 would be provided to create a traveling display.

The idea for such facilities has been discussed for the

See Archaeology Plan, Page 2

ARLIS opens, expands research horizons



Photo by Joe Hunt

Ribbon cutters to inaugurate the new ARLIS are from left to right, Mayor Rick Mystrom, Trustee Deborah Williams, Sen. Ted Stevens, Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Dave Allen, and University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor Lee Gorsuch.

Alaska's natural resources libraries contain a wealth of knowledge just waiting to be tapped, according to Sen. Ted Stevens and others who spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremonies for a new consortium of libraries in Anchorage.

Eight libraries focusing on the natural resources of Alaska have joined to become one, creating a one-stop research facility for fish, wildlife, and land-use issues in Alaska. The Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS) brings together libraries of state and federal agencies as well as the University of Alaska Anchorage to create one integrated system dedicated to natural resource information.

The new consortium is just the beginning, Sen. Stevens told a large crowd gathered for the grand opening ceremonies. ARLIS is a prototype for the nation as libraries enter a

See ARLIS, Page 3

Archaeology Plan Continued from Page 1

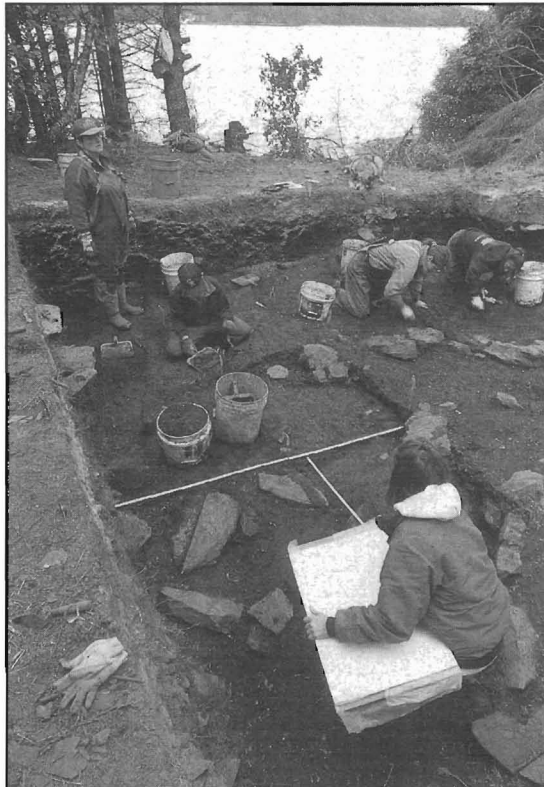


Photo by Roy Corral

An archaeological dig in the Kodiak region, sponsored in part by the Alutiiq Museum. Exhibits and a repository for the lower Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound regions could lead to similar archaeological activities for those areas.

last three years. It's hoped that good archaeological facilities could do for the Chugach and lower Cook Inlet regions what the Alutiiq Museum has done for the Kodiak Island communities. The Alutiiq Museum, funded with

\$1.5 million provided by the Trustee Council, is part of a revival in cultural awareness in the Kodiak region. Professional repository facilities allow proper care and preservation of cultural artifacts while the attached museum teaches visitors about the indigenous people of the region.

In years to come, it's hoped that visitors to Prince William Sound and the lower Kenai Peninsula will find similar facilities, teaching valuable lessons on how the earliest residents of the Chugach and lower Cook Inlet regions once lived. Ancient artifacts would be on display in each community and the climate-controlled repository, operated by trained curators, would help coordinate archaeological activities in the region.

The Restoration Office will soon begin seeking proposals for the regional repository and display facilities. A repository and the satellite display facilities must be sustainable once it's established, said Craig Tillery, trustee designate from the Department of Law. Any proposal must show that the facility can generate the funds for long-term maintenance and operation, he said.

Trustee Deborah Williams thanked the many people who have been working on this effort. "I know this has been a hard process," Williams said. "We look forward to some good proposals and we look forward to doing this."

Habitat, recreation winners in small parcel acquisitions

The Trustee Council's decision to acquire two Kodiak Island parcels has made it possible for a non-profit group to conclude acquisition of 32 additional parcels on western and southern parts of the island.

The Council agreed December 18 to acquire 5.4 acres at the mouth of the Ayakulik River and 16.34 acres on the Karluk River lagoon for the appraised amounts of \$80,000 and \$240,000 respectively. This was the last step necessary to allow The Conservation Fund to finalize a package totaling 34 properties and 430 acres, all within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

Funding for the properties was provided by a diverse group of partners, including Anheuser-Busch, Camp Fire Conservation Fund, the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust, the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, the Orvis Company, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and several others.

The coastal properties to be acquired are valued as habitat for brown bear, salmon, bald eagles, and waterfowl. They are popular areas for hunting and fishing, said Brad Meikeljohn,

Alaska representative for The Conservation Fund. "We wanted to protect the habitat values for which Kodiak is famous and ensure that people could reach these areas without trespassing," Meikeljohn said.

The Trustee Council also approved acquisition of 21 acres along the north bank of the Kenai River for the appraised value of \$183,000. The property, offered by the Salamatof Native Association, is located at River Mile 26, across the river from the 1,377-acre parcel Salamatof sold last year.

The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge plans to develop the properties as public fishing sites while protecting riverbank habitat. The plan calls for installation of light-penetrating metal gatewalks for fishing access, along with public parking and sanitation facilities.

The Trustee Council also made an offer of \$500,000 for a 90-acre parcel on the bluff overlooking Homer and the Homer Spit. The Baycrest property is adjacent to the Overlook Park property recently acquired with Trustee Council funds. Both properties would be managed by the state for habitat protection and public recreation.

new age of information services, he said. Stevens predicted that in the near future, vital information that will lead to discoveries of oil and mineral deposits will be available in every home with a computer.

"There's not another state in the union that has this concept," he said. "I hope you all see the big picture. This is not just bringing together a bunch of libraries and saving some money. This is the start of bringing together resources and the information age to change the way we do research and the way we make decisions."

Ken Thompson, president of Arco Alaska, put the exclamation point behind Sen. Steven's prediction. It was the information gathered at these resource libraries that helped uncover the Alpine oil field, he said, which was the largest land-based oil deposit discovered in the United States this decade.

Researchers found decades-old field notes, maps, aerial photos, satellite images, habitat information, critical wildlife records, and hydrological data, all used in the development of Alpine, he said. "This kind of information, literally, is invaluable, especially the way you now have it housed here," Thompson said.

ARLIS not only saves money, but opens some agency libraries to the public for the first time.

"This is a common sense move for Alaska," said Deborah Williams, special assistant to the Secretary of Interior for Alaska, who chaired the two-year planning effort. "It's what re-inventing government is all about."

Vice President Al Gore's

Hammer Award for innovation in re-inventing government was presented just prior to the grand opening ceremonies. The award recognizes new standards of excellence achieved by teams helping to re-invent government. The \$6 framed hammer symbolizes the Vice President's answer to the \$600 hammer of yesteryear's government.

"Sure it saves money, but what is really important is that it makes government work better," said Jody Kusek, Department of the Interior's representative to the government re-invention process.

Faced with tightening budgets that resulted in loss of staff and possible closure, the librarians crossed agency lines and came up with the idea of joining and consolidating in order to economize on staff and operations. The librarians organized under the motto: "Adapt, migrate or die."

"They were a group of folks with no money, no authority, no directive, and they just didn't let anything stop

them," said Barbara Sokolov, director of the UAA library.

The libraries of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, the Minerals Management Service, the Bureau of Land

ARLIS

Continued from Page 1

THEY WERE A GROUP OF FOLKS WITH NO MONEY, NO AUTHORITY, NO DIRECTIVE, AND THEY JUST DIDN'T LET ANYTHING STOP THEM.

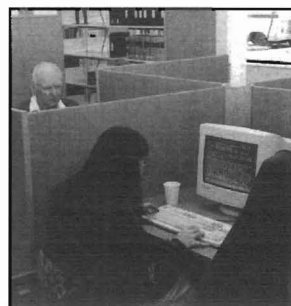
BARBARA SOKOLOV
DIRECTOR, UAA LIBRARY

Management, the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, UAA's Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, and the Oil Spill Public Information Center are now housed under ARLIS's one roof. In addition, 10 agencies that depend on the natural resources collection at the library each contributed funds.

ARLIS is located at 3150 C Street, Suite 100, in Anchorage, adjacent to Magnum Electronics.



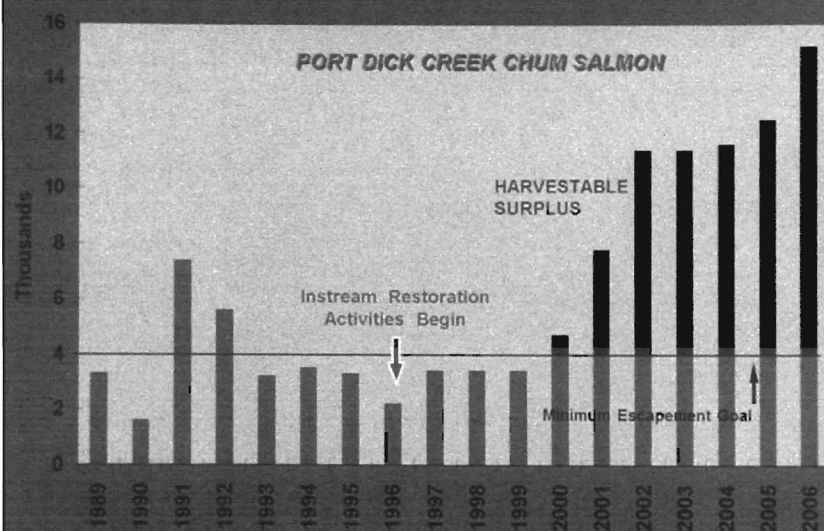
Sen. Ted Stevens played a key role in creating ARLIS and offered the keynote address during grand opening ceremonies. Seated from left to right are Errol Locker, Bureau of Land Management librarian, John Schoen, Alaska Director of the National Audubon Society, and UAA Chancellor Lee Gorsuch. Below, library patrons conduct research on Alaska's natural resources.





The revival of Port Dick Creek

PROJECTED CONTRIBUTION FROM INSTREAM RESTORATION



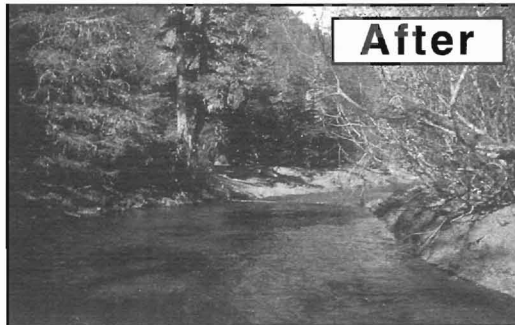
Photos courtesy of the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Above, chum salmon fill a newly excavated tributary of Port Dick Creek within weeks after the job was finished. The figure at left shows how the added spawning habitat is expected provide an increase in harvestable surplus of chum salmon by the year 2000. On the following page, before and after photos illustrate how a dry bed is transformed into usable habitat for chum and pink salmon.

Before



After



"Build it and they will come"

By Jody Seitz

Alaska Coastal Currents

More than 30 years after the 1964 earthquake destroyed some prime salmon spawning habitat, chums have returned to newly opened tributaries of Port Dick Creek.

Port Dick, on the outer coast of the Kenai Peninsula, got hit hard by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill and commercial fishing was closed for the summer. To help restore the area, biologist Nick Dudiak, who recently retired from the Department of Fish and Game in Homer, promoted an idea he had been talking about for years — the revival of Port Dick Creek.

The creek has two tributaries which were part of a system that contributed heavily to salmon runs in the '50s and '60s. Then the earthquake hit, raising the elevation of the stream, piling up rock, mud and woody debris, and wiping out the salmon spawning habitat.

Dudiak and biologist Mark Dickson felt that the two tributaries could again be good producers of pink and chum salmon, if the stream could be restored to its original state. "Build it and they will come" was Nick's motto.

They were a little concerned, however, that if they went to all the trouble and expense of scooping out the streams, Mother Nature might step in again with another earthquake or perhaps another huge flood.

Sure enough, a 1995 storm resulted in a 100-year flood on some parts of the Kenai Peninsula. While the flood took a heavy toll in some areas, Port Dick Creek remained unscathed, much to Dickson's relief. "There was no additional deposition," he said. "It gave us more confidence that the direction we were headed was the right direction."

The excavation took place in 1996. Engi-



Alaska
Coastal
Currents

Restoration and recovery following the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill

neers studied the grade and curves of the stream carefully, attempting to exactly reproduce the earlier path. Technicians laid down rocks, trees, stumps, and other natural features in places determined to match the stream's flow. Everything came from the creek itself, with the help of some heavy equipment.

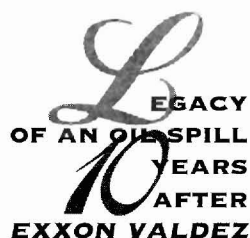
The idea was to create spawning habitat and they must have done it pretty well. Even though more than 20 years had passed, the next summer 450 pink salmon and 300 chums charged up both tributaries, as if they'd actually emerged from their egg sacs there.

The following spring there were many more fry than either of the biologists ever expected. A preliminary count showed more than 290,000 pink and chum fry in the tributaries — almost a 40 percent survival rate.

Now ADF&G is predicting a harvestable surplus of chums by the year 2000. They'll continue to monitor the stream for any changes.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program and newspaper column. The series is distributed throughout the spill region to provide information about restoration activities sponsored by the Trustee Council.

Call for papers issued for 10th anniversary



A scientific symposium to be held on the 10th anniversary of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill will highlight research related to the spill, its impacts, and the status of recovery in the spill area. *Legacy of an Oil Spill: 10 Years After Exxon Valdez* will be held March 23-27, 1999, in Anchorage.

Symposium sponsors are soliciting abstracts for oral and poster presentations, including such topics as:

- Injury and recovery, emphasizing multi-year studies

with biological, ecological or socio-economic data sets;

- Ecological and other factors that limit or influence recovery, productivity and long-term population trends;

- Management applications and restoration benefits of studies and projects;

- Syntheses and models that integrate data on Prince William Sound and Gulf of Alaska ecosystems; and

- Prevention and response (including cleanup) techniques.

The symposium is sponsored by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council and its six trustee agencies, the University of Alaska Sea Grant College Program, and the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council.

For further information, contact Brenda Baxter, coordinator, Alaska Sea Grant College Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, P.O. Box 755040, Fairbanks, AK 99775 or via e-mail at FNBRB@uaf.edu.

1998 Work Plan set at \$14 million

The 1998 Work Plan was finalized December 18 when the Trustee Council added five research and restoration projects and provided supplemental funds for five others, totalling more than \$1 million. Altogether, the Trustee Council funded 66 projects for this fiscal year, with a \$14.1 million budget.

Research projects added to the Work Plan include the monitoring of harbor seal pups, additional work on herring disease, and studies on black oystercatchers, common murre, and black-legged kittiwakes.

An experimental project to seed tiny littleneck clams on specific beaches for subsistence purposes received \$200,000. The project is in its fourth year. The Qutekca Native Tribe is in the process of taking over operation of the state shellfish hatchery in Seward, which will provide vastly improved facilities for this project.

An Elders/Youth Conference on subsistence resources, to be held in Cordova this May, received \$90,000. This conference is designed to encourage the exchange of information between Natives who have

traditional knowledge of the region and scientific researchers. It will include members from each community as well as marine biologists and other researchers.

The Trustees also provided \$139,000 to create a model of human use in Prince William Sound and how increased human use might impact injured resources.

The FY98 Work Plan is the document that sets the Trustee Council budget and identifies restoration projects, scientific studies and administrative duties for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1997.

Restoration Workshop to be held Jan. 29-30

The 1998 Restoration Workshop will be held at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage from January 29-30.

The Restoration Workshop is the annual seminar in which scientists present and review 1997 restoration work and help shape future restoration projects. It's free and open to the public.

The workshop will be preceded by three day-long reviews of each of the large ecosystem-based projects. Reviews of the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) project, the Nearshore Vertebrate Predator

(NVP) project, and the Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment (APEX) project will be held January 26-28, also at the Captain Cook.

The keynote speaker for this year's event will be Donald Boesch, of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies. Boesch will discuss the benefits of large, integrated environmental monitoring programs.

Special rates are available through the Hotel Captain Cook (800-843-1950). To pre-register, call the Restoration Office at 278-8012 before January 20.

Executive Director • Molly McCammon
Director of Operations • Eric Myers
Editor • Joe Hunt



Restoration Update is published six times each year by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Restoration Office
645 G Street, Anchorage, AK 99501
907/278-8012 FAX: 907/276-7178
Toll free: 800/478-7745 in Alaska, 800/283-7745 outside Alaska.
e-mail: JeffL@oilspill.state.ak.us
<http://www.oilspill.state.ak>

By Hugh Short

Community Involvement Coordinator

The group slowly came together on a brisk October morning. Virginia Aleck, from Chignik Lake, flew in to represent the Alaska Peninsula. Bob Henrichs, who probably travels almost as much as the Eskimo on the tail of the Alaska Airlines planes, arrives late but enthusiastic from Cordova. Charles Hughey, of Valdez and the newest member of the group, is curious and reserved, but very interested after looking at the day's agenda.

No, this is not the annual meeting of the Royal Order of Moose, but the fall meeting of the community facilitators at the Anchorage Restoration Office.

The Community Involvement Project brings together ten residents from the communities of Valdez, Cordova, Tatitlek, Chenega Bay, Seward, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Seldovia, Kodiak, and Chignik Lake. These communities are spread out along 450 miles of ocean, demonstrating the vast reach of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Each community brings its own resources to assist in the monumental process of restoring the environment.

Residents of the region de-

pend on the land and water for their sustenance and livelihood. After the spill, many realized that the marine ecosystem would never be the same and this gave rise to the Community Involvement Project in 1994.

In 1995, three community facilitators were hired. By the second year of the project nine community facilitators were on board and the project was turned over to the regional organization, Chugach Regional Resources Commission. The objectives set forth for the project from the beginning have been threefold: to increase local involvement in the restoration efforts, including the development of more community-based projects; to improve the communication of findings and results of ongoing research; and to facilitate the communication of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) from local residents to scientists, which can significantly enhance the value of Trustee Council restoration efforts.

Now in its fourth year, the Community Involvement Project has been successful in many areas. The number of community-based projects has increased, including the Clam Restoration Project, the biological sampling program

through the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission, several salmon enhancement projects, spill area wide conferences on subsistence restoration, the Youth Area Watch, and myriad others.

Projects that are in the works include a comprehensive archaeological plan, which includes a regional repository and seven display facilities throughout Prince William Sound and lower Cook Inlet, a Youth and Elder Conference on Subsistence, and continuation of several vital restoration projects that are helping understand the complex ecosystem.

If you have any questions regarding the Community Involvement Project, please contact me at the Anchorage Restoration office or through e-mail at HughS@oilspill.state.ak.us

Community Involvement makes a difference

Local residents take part in an experiment to seed Port Graham beaches with tiny clams. The project is designed to bring subsistence clamming back to some beaches which lost traditional clamming activities after the 1964 earthquake.



Alaska Regional Forester Phil Janik, who has served as a Trustee for the last four years, will be moving to Washington, D.C. to take a promotion as deputy chief of the forest service.

Janik and his staff have been instrumental in negotiations with Eyak, Tatitlek, and Chenega Native Corporations to acquire habitat within Prince William Sound. Most of the acquisitions are to be man-

aged as part of the Chugach National Forest. In announcing the promotion, Forest Chief Mike Dombeck noted Janik's skills in building partnerships and integrating science with management.

The Alaska region is one of nine regions nationwide and includes the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. As Forester, Janik was responsible for managing 22 million acres and more than 1,000 employees.



Phil Janik

Dave Gibbons, the first administrator for the Trustee Council, also received a promotion. Gibbons was

named Acting Forest Supervisor for the Chugach National Forest. He managed the Trustee Council from its inception in 1991 until Jim Ayers was named the first executive director in 1994.

Trustee Janik to take new position in D.C.

RESTORATION

U P D A T E

Notebook series tells story of recovery one species at a time

Did you know that the marbled murrelet darts through thick forest at speeds of 100 miles per hour? Or that sea otters have rebounded from near extinction in the early 1900s? Or that killer whales are spending less time in Prince William Sound and more time in the Kenai Fjords? Or that harbor seals live up to 30 years?

The Restoration Notebook series tells the natural history of each of these species, as well as the story of injury and recovery from the spill. This series is written by the biologists who work in the field with these animals. It's produced by the Trustee Council and is the ideal tool for the high school or college student reporting on Alaska's natural resources.

The first four species in this series will soon be available to the public. The series is expected to expand to include more than a dozen species on the injured resources list, as well as some human services.

To receive a free copy, contact the Restoration Office at 907-278-8012; or 1-800-478-7745 (inside Alaska); or 1-800-283-7745 (outside Alaska); or via e-mail at kerih@oilspill.state.ak.us.



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council



Bruce Botelho
Attorney General
State of Alaska

Michele Brown
Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of
Environmental Conservation

Deborah L. Williams
Special Assistant to the Secretary
US Dept. of the Interior

Phil Janik
Regional Forester
Alaska Region
US Dept. of Agriculture

Steve Pennoyer
Director, Alaska Region
National Marine
Fisheries Service

Frank Rue
Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game



A standing-room-only crowd attended the December 18 Trustee Council meeting. Lora Johnson, director of Tribal Development and Operations at Chugachmiut, and several others testified about plans to create archaeological exhibits and a repository (see Page 1) for the Chugach region. Others testified on habitat protection proposals (see Page 2) and the deferred projects from the FY 1998 Annual Work Plan (see Page 6).

Restoration Office
645 G Street, Ste. 401
Anchorage, AK 99501-3451

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1013
Anchorage, AK