

11.13.04

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

441 W. 5th Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, AK 99501-2340 • 907 278 8012 • fax 907 276 7178



To DRAFT AGENDA
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL - teleconference
March 9, 2007 10:30 a.m.
Anchorage, Alaska

DRAFT 3/5/07

DRAFT

Trustee Council Members:

TALIS COLBERG
Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law

JAMES BALSIGER
Administrator, Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service

LARRY HARTIG
Commissioner
Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation

HANS NEIDIG
Special Assistant to the Secretary
for Alaska
U.S. Department of the Interior

DENBY S. LLOYD
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish
and Game

JOE MEADE
Forest Supervisor
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Meeting in Anchorage, Trustee Council Office, 441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Teleconference number: 800.315.6338 (contact EVOS for code)

Federal Chair

1. Call to Order – 10:30 a.m.
2. Consent Agenda
- Approval of Agenda*

Federal Trustees
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

State Trustees
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Alaska Department of Law

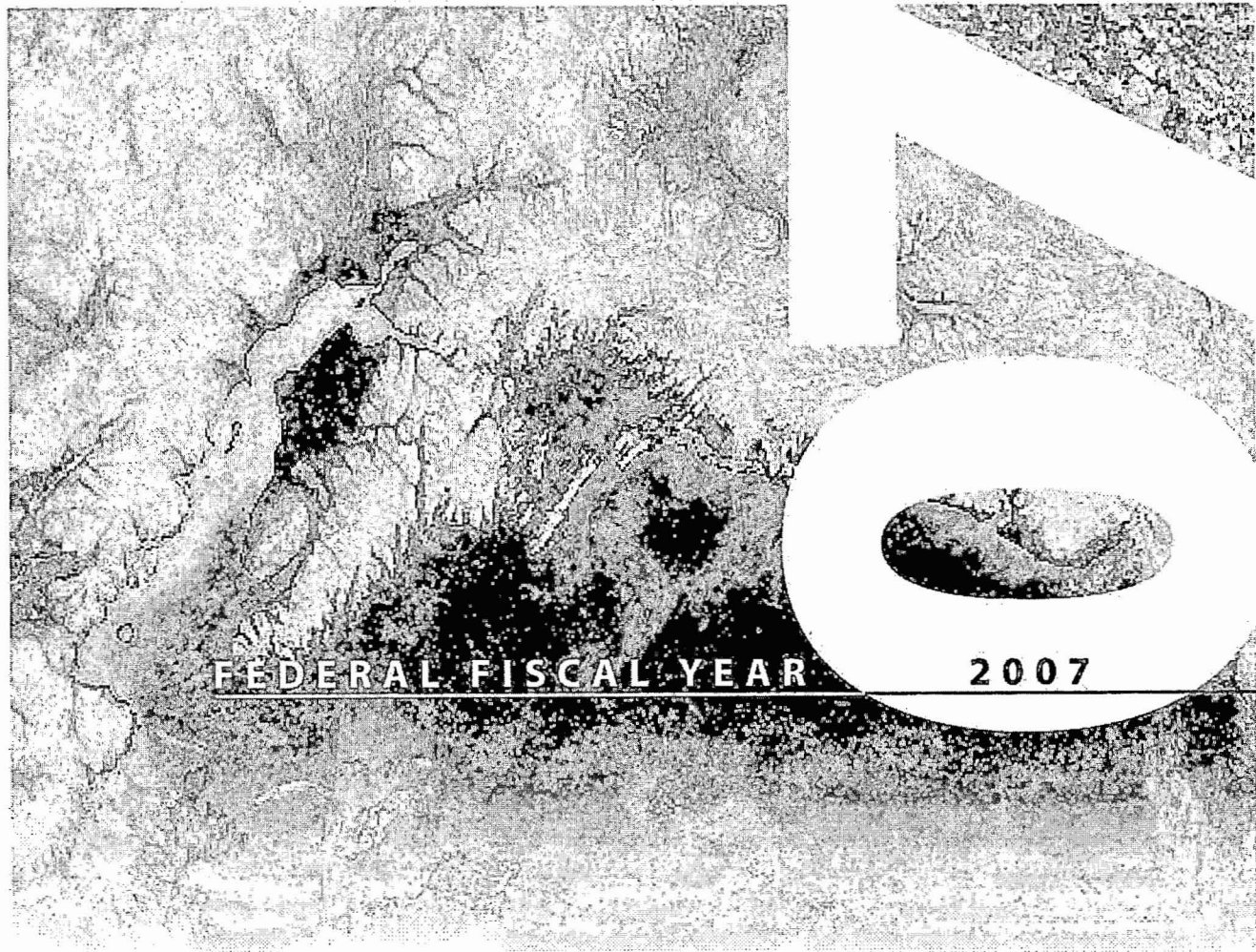
3. Public Advisory Committee comments
 4. Public comment (no reopener comments accepted) – 10:45 a.m. (3 minute per person)
 5. FY 07 Draft Work Plan, pre-proposals*
 - 070836 Boufadel
 - 070853 Irons
 - 070854 Konar
 - 070752 Degeneres, Mineral Creek
- Kimberly Trust
Science Director

Executive Session if necessary

6. Adjourn

* Indicates action items

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL



FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR

2007

DRAFT WORK PLAN ADDENDUM

Issued January 19, 2007
Revised March 5, 2007



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501-2340
tel 907 278 8012 / fax 907 276 7178
www.evostc.state.ak.us

FISCAL YEAR 2007

DRAFT WORK PLAN ADDENDUM

**January 19, 2007
Revised March 5, 2007**

Prepared by:
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

DENBY LLOYD
Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

LARRY HARTIG
Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation

JOE MEADE
Supervisor
Chugach National Forest
US Department of Agriculture

TALIS COLBERG
Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law

JIM BALSIGER
Director, Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service

HANS NEIDIG
Special Assistant to the Secretary
for Alaskan Affairs
US Department of the Interior

Notice

The abstract of each proposal submitted in response to the FY07 Invitation for Proposals was written by the authors of the proposals to describe their projects. To the extent that the abstracts express opinions about the status of injured resources they do not represent the views of the Executive Director, the Science Director or other staff of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, nor do they reflect policies or positions of the Trustee Council.

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If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:

- ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526.
- The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers: (VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203
- Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

Dear Reviewer,

The following draft work plan, entitled "**FY07 Draft Work Plan, Addendum**", contains proposal information and funding recommendations for proposals that were reviewed after the Trustee Council's funding decisions of its November 2006 meeting. The Trustee Council received proposals in response to the FY07 Invitation for Proposals, which were contained in FY07 Draft Work Plan. Check our website, www.evostc.state.ak.us, periodically for updates.

Each year, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council funds activities to restore the resources and services injured by the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. Public input is critical to the Council's decision making process and this draft work plan has been prepared to solicit your comments on which projects to fund in Fiscal Year 2007.

In this FY07 Draft Work Plan Addendum, the Trustee Council has endorsed a comprehensive, balanced approach to the restoration of injured resources and services which is reflected in this draft work plan. This approach recognizes the importance of research to determine why resources are not recovering, or are recovering slowly, and recognizes the need for monitoring to track the status of recovery. It provides for cost effective general restoration activities, especially those that help the resources upon which communities and industries depend.

I am interested in your thoughts and ideas in regard to this draft work plan, as well as our restoration plan in general. Please see the "Please Comment" section prior to the Table of Contents for more information regarding how to submit comments.

Michael Baffrey
Executive Director

PLEASE COMMENT

You can help the Trustee Council by reviewing this draft work plan and letting us know your priorities for Fiscal Year 2007. You can comment by:

Mail: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501
Attn: Draft Fiscal Year 2007 Work Plan

Telephone: 1-800-478-7745 (within Alaska)
1-800-283-7745 (outside of Alaska)
Collect calls will be accepted from fishers and boaters who call through the marine operator.

Fax: 907-276-7178

E-mail: projects@evostc.state.ak.us

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Acknowledgements

We are pleased to acknowledge Trustee Council staff members Carrie Holba, Michael Schlei, Cherri Womac, Barbara Hannah, Catherine Boerner, and Shane St. Clair whose hard work and dedication made the Draft Work Plan possible. Special thanks to the anonymous scientists who peer reviewed the proposals received this year and thanks also to the principal investigators and their collaborators for giving us so many fine proposals from which to choose in building our program. Many thanks to those scientists from Trustee Council agencies that provided help, and in particular we offer special thanks to Dede Bohn, Carol Fries, Pete Hagen, Hans Neidig, Heather Brandon, Jenifer Kohout, Jennifer Thomson, Larry Dietrick, and Steve Zemke. We also owe our thanks for their expert program guidance and peer review efforts to the members of the Science Panel (Steve Braund, Ron O'Dor, Gary Cherr, Tom Dean, Robert Spies, Charles (Pete) Peterson and Leslie Holland-Bartels). Finally, we appreciate the participation and comments on this plan provided to us by the Public Advisory Committee (PAC).

Michael Baffrey, Executive Director

Kimberly A. Trust, Science Director

Overview of the FY07 Work Plan Addendum

This addendum of the FY07 Draft Work Plan, enclosed here, presents proposals that focus on the restoration and monitoring of injured resources and services. The total requested funding for these projects in FY07 is \$960,700.

The Trustee Council has an open, competitive contracting process that is designed to allow proposals from any source to be considered for funding as an external project. The system works well for this purpose as demonstrated by the fairly even distribution of funding across the home institutions of the principal investigators of external projects.

FY07 Proposal Funding Recommendations

Project Number	Principal Investigator	Project Title (abbr.)	Total Requested	FY07 Requested	Total Approved	Science Panel	Science Director	PAC	Executive Director	Trustee Council
070836	Boufadel	Factors Limiting the Degradation Rate of EVOS Oil in PWS Beaches	\$1,253,900.00	\$434,800	\$0.00	Fund Reduced	Fund	Not Reviewed	Fund Reduced	Pending
070752	Degernes	Mineral Creek Restoration	\$1,384,600.00	\$118,000	\$0.00	Not Reviewed	Not Reviewed	Not Reviewed	Do Not Fund	Pending
070853	Irons	Pigeon Guillemot Restoration	\$649,700.00	\$317,000	\$0.00	Fund Reduced	Not Reviewed	Not Reviewed	Fund Reduced	Pending
070	Konar	Recovery of Shallow Subtidal Communities	\$90,900.00	\$90,900	\$0.00	Do Not Fund	Do Not Fund	Not Reviewed	Do Not Fund	Pending
Total Funds Requested and Approved			\$3,379,100.00	\$960,700.00	\$0.00					

Descriptions of New FY07 Proposals

Project Number: 070836

Project Title: **Factors Responsible for Limiting the Degradation Rate of Exxon Valdez Oil in Prince William Sound Beaches-Submitted under the BAA**

Principal Investigator: Michel Boufadel

Affiliation: Non AK University

Disbursing Agency: N/A

Project Location: Prince William Sound

Project Type: New

Funding Requested by Fiscal Year:

FY07: \$434,800.00	FY08: \$552,500.00	FY09: \$266,600.00
FY10: \$0.00	FY11: \$0.00	FY12: \$0.00

Total Funding Requested: \$1,253,900.00

Abstract:

This proposal will provide important data to develop a detailed rationale for explaining the cause of the lingering oil in many of the Prince William Sound beaches affected by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Several factors may have contributed to the persistence of oil, including: (1) beach hydraulics, which might have created a zone of relatively stagnant water around the remaining oil patches, (2) oil-water interfacial area, which is the site at which several important weathering processes occur, and (3) oxygen or nutrient limitations that are not conducive to microbial degradation of the residual hydrocarbons. The objective of the proposed research is to develop a thorough understanding of the factors that contribute to hydraulic stagnation. If water stagnates in the subsurface, it results in anaerobiosis and low nutrient availability, which are considered to be the factors that ultimately limit the rate of oil biodegradation. The proposed research will provide important inputs to an overall understanding of the factors that cause stagnation and how to alleviate the effects of said stagnation.

Science Panel Comments:

This proposal will examine and attempt to explain the cause of the lingering oil on PWS beaches. The proposal is well written and would give us information that is needed to determine why EVOS oil continues to linger in PWS. However, there is concern that the proposers have no experience working in the PWS environment and may need to adjust their methods as the project proceeds. We recommend that they proposal be funded for FY07 only at this time and reviewed in FY08 to determine the need for continuing funding.

Science Panel Recommendation: Fund Reduced

Science Director Comments:

This project is technically sound and will provide answers related to the feasibility of implementing bioremediation activities in areas with lingering oil. The Science Panel and the Science Director raised several questions about the original proposal and asked the PIs to address them and provide revisions. Issues raised by the Science Panel included, 1) Small sample size (only two beaches) and related concerns with geographic scale of inference and statistical power; 2) Lack of temporal replication (summer only sampling) and possible differences in measured variables among seasons; and 3) Evaluation of previous EVOS studies which may have provided similar information. The PIs were very responsive to the requests and produced a tighter, more focused proposal which will provide the

information needed to determine if environmental conditions in areas with lingering oil will support a cost-effective bioremediation project. The Science Panel requested that the PIs provide a more robust study design and increase the number of sampling sites across several seasons. The changes that the PIs suggested, not surprisingly, increased the cost of the study.

The Science Panel recommended that one year of the study be funded, and future funding be reviewed in FY08. While I agree that the results of the FY07 field season should be evaluated and the study modified to incorporate results as they are learned, I don't agree with the Science Panel that only one year of funding should be provided. In order for the PIs to have a complete picture of the environmental conditions present in PWS, and data collected from enough sites to have a broad geographical scale of inference, the study should be funded in its entirety. If the Trustee Council is interested in pursuing bioremediation of areas with lingering oil as part of the restoration program, this project will provide information that will be necessary in determining whether bioremediation on a large-scale in PWS is feasible.

Science Director Recommendation: Fund

Public Advisory Committee Comments:

Not Applicable

Public Advisory Committee Recommendation: Not Reviewed

Executive Director Comments:

This proposal will provide an explanation of the cause of lingering oil and the feasibility of implementing bioremediation activities in areas with lingering oil. Because biodegradation of oil occurs at the oil-water interface, limitations occurring in the vicinity of that interface are hypothesized to be the primary reason for the lingering oil. However, I recommend only funding a one-year study with a much reduced scope that specifically addresses these limitations and whether bioremediation is a feasible alternative for removing lingering oil. If feasible, the Trustee Council can invite the PIs to submit a future proposal that builds on the findings of this proposal which integrates direct restoration.

Executive Director Recommendation: Fund Reduced

Trustee Council Comments:

Not Available

Trustee Council Decision: Pending

Project Number: 070853
Project Title: Pigeon Guillemot Restoration Research in Prince William Sound
Principal Investigator: David Irons
Affiliation: DOI
Disbursing Agency: USGS
Project Location: Prince William Sound
Project Type: New

Funding Requested by Fiscal Year:

FY07: \$317,000.00	FY08: \$284,300.00	FY09: \$48,400.00
FY10: \$0.00	FY11: \$0.00	FY12: \$0.00

Total Funding Requested: \$649,700.00

Abstract:

This proposed study would investigate the efficacy of direct restoration techniques for the Pigeon Guillemot population in Prince William Sound. This seabird is the only EVOS injured species that has failed to show any signs of recovery. The post-EVOS guillemot population in PWS is only 15% of the pre-EVOS population; about one-third of PWS guillemots nested on Naked Island pre-EVOS. Post-EVOS, mink predation was identified as a limiting factor for recovery of Naked Island guillemots. We propose testing the hypothesis that mink were introduced to the Naked Island Archipelago by fur trappers and, if not, determine if the mink population on the Naked Island Archipelago a distinct population segment. We also propose investigating the feasibility and efficacy of removing mink from the Naked Island Archipelago as a restoration activity for Pigeon Guillemots. In addition, we propose testing the hypotheses that (1) nest predation by mink continues to be a major limiting factor for guillemot recovery at Naked Island, and (2) the availability of key prey resources does not limit guillemot nesting success at Naked Island. A final report will be prepared upon completion of the two years of field and lab work that will propose the most effective and justifiable plan for management action to restore Pigeon Guillemots in the Naked Island Archipelago.

Science Panel Comments:

This proposal investigates the efficacy of direct restoration techniques for the pigeon guillemot population in PWS. They will genetically sample mink that reside on Naked Island Archipelago to determine if the population was introduced or native and make recommendations for a recovery plan for pigeon guillemots based on the findings. Pigeon guillemots are one of two non-recovered species and this project represents one of the few restoration based proposals that have been submitted. The genetic sampling of mink and studies examining the relative contribution of mink vs. other predators to pigeon guillemot survival and reproduction are important in evaluating mink removals as a potential restoration activity. However, there is some concern that removal of mink may not be an appropriate restoration activity if the mink are in fact native. Also, food limitation studies may be difficult to interpret with respect to restoration and are perhaps premature. Mink removal may still prove an effective restoration tool even if food quality is poor. Furthermore, given the likely annual variation in food supply, a lack of food in one year may not be a reasonable predictor of future food limitation. We recommend funding the initial year of this proposal and suggest that efforts be made to provide genetic evidence on mink at the end of that year so that reasoned decisions can be made regarding future funding

Science Panel Recommendation: Fund Reduced

Science Director Comments:

The Science Director is on a long-term detail from the FWS and must therefore, recuse herself from making recommendations on FWS proposals. The PI on this proposal is employed by the FWS.

Science Director Recommendation: Not Reviewed

Public Advisory Committee Comments:

Not Applicable

Public Advisory Committee Recommendation: Not Reviewed

Executive Director Comments:

Salaries and logistics are the major expenses of this proposal. Assuming mink predation on pigeon guillemots, any direct restoration will likely involve controlling the mink population on Naked Island. Before this can be undertaken a determination must be made whether the mink population is indigenous or introduced. Therefore, I only recommend funding the minimum mink capture and genetic testing program necessary to determine where the population is indigenous or introduced. I further recommend local trappers and logistics be utilized in this effort to reduce expense.

Executive Director Recommendation: Fund Reduced

Trustee Council Comments:

Not Available

Trustee Council Decision: Pending

Project Number: 070854
Project Title: Recovery of Shallow Subtidal Communities 18 Years After the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.
Principal Investigator: Brenda Konar
Affiliation: Alaskan University
Disbursing Agency: N/A
Project Location: Prince William Sound
Project Type: New

Funding Requested by Fiscal Year:

FY07: \$90,900.00	FY08: \$0.00	FY09: \$0.00
FY10: \$0.00	FY11: \$0.00	FY12: \$0.00

Total Funding Requested: \$90,900.00

Abstract:

Eighteen years ago the Exxon Valdez oil spill resulted in almost 42 million liters of crude oil being discharged in Prince William Sound. Approximately half of the oil came ashore and an estimated 13% was deposited in subtidal sediments. Impacts of the spill on abundant nearshore subtidal habitats have been examined over the years (see Peterson 2001 for review), however the recovery and current status of these communities still remain unknown.

This study will examine multiple sites from three habitats (soft-sediment eelgrass beds, coarse textured substrates, and rocky substrate kelp beds) that were previously oiled and not oiled to determine if subtidal communities vary between oiled and reference sites. Parameters that will be examined include algal and invertebrate cover, kelp size and biomass, and fish composition and abundance. While it is believed that there is little remaining lingering oil, the long-term effects of oil on subtidal habitats is unknown.

Science Panel Comments:

This proposed project would examine soft-sediment eelgrass beds, coarse textured substrates, and rocky substrate kelp beds in PWS to determine the recovery status of shallow subtidal communities. Dr. Konar is promising young scientist and the proposal is technically sound. However, it seems unlikely that detectible injuries still exist in the subtidal given the lack of an indication of elevated hydrocarbon concentrations. Furthermore, given the lack of pre-spill data, it is unlikely that differences between oiled and unoiled sites could conclusively be attributed to lingering oil. Finally, even if continued injury was suggested, it is unlikely that this would lead to direct restoration activities.

Science Panel Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Science Director Comments:

Concur with Science Panel

Science Director Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Public Advisory Committee Comments:

Not Applicable

Public Advisory Committee Recommendation: Not Reviewed

Executive Director Comments:

This proposal does not lead to restoration and is questionable whether the findings will add to our existing knowledge

Executive Director Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Trustee Council Comments:

Not Available

Trustee Council Decision: Pending

Project Number: 070752
Project Title: Mineral Creek Restoration, Enhancement, and Education Project
Principal Investigator: Chris Degernes
Affiliation: State Of Alaska
Disbursing Agency: ADNR
Project Location: Mineral Creek - Valdez
Project Type: New

Funding Requested by Fiscal Year:

FY07: \$118,000.00	FY08: \$1,266,600.00	FY09: \$0.00
FY10: \$0.00	FY11: \$0.00	FY12: \$0.00

Total Funding Requested: \$1,384,600.00

Abstract:

In response to the City of Valdez Resolution No. 06-09, adopted 1/17/2006, and consistent with the results of a community wide survey and community supported conceptual plan for the Mineral Creek parcel, Alaska State Parks proposes to restore filled wetlands, remove existing roads and develop a boardwalk and trail system with interpretive signage with minimal support facilities to restore habitat, to educate and direct human use, both motorized and non-motorized, away from sensitive wildlife habitat and riparian areas along and at the mouth of Mineral Creek and the Port Valdez intertidal. A monitoring project implement by local students will increase community involvement and stewardship.

The Valdez State Parks Citizens Advisory Board, City of Valdez, Valdez Parks and Recreation Commission, and Valdez City Council have approved the plan for this project and the City of Valdez requests Alaska State Parks to pursue grant funding to develop the lands at the mouth of Mineral Creek consistent with the submitted and approved plan. The Mineral Creek Parcel concept plan was developed jointly by Alaska State Parks, the City of Valdez and the local State Parks Advisory Board through an open public process.

The primary objective of this project is to restore habitat at Mineral Creek. The project will also establish public use patterns compatible with the protection of resources and services that are listed as recovering or not recovering as the result of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Finally, this project will provide opportunities for students and park users to learn about the natural and cultural resources in the Prince William Sound ecosystem impacted by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill as well as site-specific resources.

Conceptual Development Plan includes: Removal of fill in wetlands and old road beds, willow revegetation, native seeding, and approximately 1,400 linear feet of trail, boardwalk, and viewing decks, interpretive signage, park benches, and a latrine.

Science Panel Comments:

Not Applicable

Science Panel Recommendation: Not Reviewed

Science Director Comments:

Not Applicable

Science Director Recommendation: Not Reviewed

Public Advisory Committee Comments:

Not Applicable

Public Advisory Committee Recommendation: Not Reviewed

Executive Director Comments:

I do not recommend funding this proposal because it is very expensive, based on a conceptual plan, does not address regulatory or NEPA compliance, and does not include financial partnering with other funding sources. While the Valdez State Parks Citizens Advisory Board, City of Valdez, Valdez Parks and Recreation Commission, and Valdez City Council have approved the conceptual plan, they all chose not to provide joint funding for this proposal. The Trustee Council acquired this site in 2000 for \$626,800 and the City of Valdez donated 50 additional adjacent acres. The site is spawning habitat for pink and red salmon—both recovered. This proposal intends to restore habitat and to educate and direct human use, both motorized and non-motorized, away from sensitive wildlife habitat and riparian areas. Though not referenced directly in the narrative, this proposal provides property value enhancement to the adjacent subdivision by controlling ORV use on the site.

Executive Director Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Trustee Council Comments:

Not Available

Trustee Council Decision: Pending

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

The PAC met on March 2nd in a work session to discuss our vision for the future of EVOS restoration work and to get a briefing on the science related FYO7 pre-proposals. Unfortunately, our meeting had to be a work session since it was not noticed in the Federal Register within the regulated time frame.

To start the visioning session, we reviewed, discussed, and edited the mission statement from the 1994 Restoration Plan with the intent of making it more reflective of the present restoration program and where we hope to go in the future. We offer these suggestions to you and hope you will consider them at them during your own retreat and visioning session in April.

"The mission of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee council is to restore the environment injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill to healthy, productive ecosystem able to contribute to sustainable human uses."

The following draft assumption was added by the group:

"Restoration and full recovery may take decades."

The following draft text was discussed by the group as a preamble to the Restoration Plan policies, which were not discussed in detail:

"Restoration of injured resources and services will be accomplished by implementing activities that incorporate ecologically meaningful time frames specific to individual species and their habitat. This will be accomplished through the development and implementation of a comprehensive, interdisciplinary recovery and rehabilitation program that includes:

- Natural recovery
- Monitoring and research
- Resource and service restoration
- Habitat acquisition and protection
- Resource and service enhancement
- Replacement
- Meaningful public participation
- Fiscal accountability
- Efficient administration
- Education and outreach
- Resource management

We then brainstormed a wide-ranging list of possible guiding principles and/or questions to consider for the future of the restoration program which may feed into a re-write of the Restoration Plan. We prioritized them by placing red dots by an item. Each person had 10 red dots to distribute among the items on the list. The list was also distributed to PAC members not in attendance so they could also place their dots on the list.

The entire list is in the minutes from our meeting for your review.

The 4 items that scored as the highest priorities had 7 or more dots in the following order:

1. Measurable recovery criteria should be established for those injured resources and services that remain Not Recovered or Recovering. (12)
2. Keep the priority of restoration of non-recovered (including recovering) resources and services. (10)

3. Work at public awareness and outreach of the lessons learned from the spill and its restoration. (8)
4. Hold off on issuing the FY2008 invitation for proposals until there is a clear vision of where the restoration program is going (7)

There were various reasons why some of the items on the list scored low.

Some items were considered administrative and givens, so no one wanted to waste their dots on them:

- Participate in the annual Marine Science Symposium
- Include a public component to the Marine Science Symposium (recommendation of the Education and Outreach Committee)
- Ensure the Trustee Council operates consistently within the public process and listens to PAC input
- Implement the Education/Outreach Committee recommendations through future invitations for proposals.

Other items were considered bad ideas, inappropriate use of EVOS funds and not supported by the PAC.

- Fund upgrades of sewer and water projects in the spill-impacted region
- Fund upgrades for harbor facilities in the spill-impacted region
- Provide for community preparedness to know what to do if there is another spill. (this is a function of other organizations such as the RCACs.
- Brick and mortar projects.
- Reinstate the Large Parcel habitat protection program.

The rest you can evaluate yourselves.

In the afternoon, Kim Trust briefed us on 4 proposals remaining to be decided on for the FY07 work plan and noted the Science Panel and her own recommendations for each proposal. The general sense of the PAC in discussing the addition of yet more projects to the FY07 Work Plan is one of great reservation. Our resolution of last October stated a unanimous preference for keeping the annual spending within the interest earned on the restoration account. We are committed to fiscal responsibility and feel we should not even be reviewing projects that would be funded by the principal. The PAC doesn't like being put in this position again and again and encourages the Trustee Council to avoid this piecemeal work plan approach, stick with dead lines and establish a clear limit for future annual funding. In addition, the infamous Oiled Mayor's letter last year raised many false expectations in the spill region communities that opened a flood gate to many inappropriate proposals.

Since our meeting was a work session and not an official meeting, we could not make recommendations as we did the last time, based on the merit of the projects. Instead, I offer our comments.

- Konar proposal - There were no PAC comments.
- Irons proposal – Baker noted that there still were people in PWS who trapped mink as part of their living, and she wondered what the economic impact might be of eradicating the population of mink on Naked Island. Fandrie said he liked the proposal although it seemed expensive. Robards said it was a good project, but thought they could contract with local trappers to obtain the mink. Studebaker and Kopchak said the focus of removal should be only on introduced mink, not native ones. Kopchak said predation seems like a separate topic than feeding patterns. Eilo thought that the project could be put off for a year since we were already spending more than the interest-earned budget level. Trust said that this would have been a top proposal if it had been submitted last fall because it included planning for direct restoration of an injured resource.
- Boufadel proposal – Kopchak said he would not fund this project at this time – how does it relate to other crews working in the field. Baker asked about piggy-backing this with other projects.

The Mineral Creek proposal was discussed but since it will be deferred, you can read our comments in the summary of our meeting.

The PAC encourages you to spend the time necessary at your April retreat to develop a clear, focused, and balanced set of priorities for the restoration program that is not subject to political whim, that is transparent, supported by the public, and practical for our great staff to follow. We look forward to working with you on a more collaborative relationship.

Thank you.

Stacy Studebaker
PAC Chair