12.6.15e

12.6.15 e

October 6, 1994

Dear Interested Citizen,

You will find below a corrected page of text for the recently released Final Environmental Impact Statement for the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Restoration Plan. A typographical error occurred in the conclusion to the marbled murrelet environmental consequence analysis in Chapter 4 on page 126. The conclusion should have read as shown below. The analysis was correct and supports this revised conclusion. Thank you for your participation in this process.

Sincerely yours,

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

4 Environmental Consequences

A breakdown of the ranking to marbled murrelets in the large parcel process illustrates the high overall value of habitat acquisition to marbled murrelets. Assuming a relatively low cost per acre that would allow purchase of all 81 parcels, 21 were ranked high, 42 were ranked moderate, 18 were ranked low value for marbled murrelets. Two additional scenarios were used to evaluate habitat protection to marbled murrelets under the large parcel process. Assuming 50% of the settlement funds are available for habitat acquisition, 14 parcels were ranked of high value to marbled murrelets, 15 moderate, and 5 low. By assuming 45% of the settlement funds are available for habitat acquisition, the last scenario changes only slightly, with 13 parcels ranked of high value, 13 moderate, and 4 of low value to marbled murrelets.

Conclusions

Short-term effects: High Benefits. Through prevention of imminent logging of prime murrelet nesting habitat, the short-term effects of land acquisition could be of high benefit.

Long-term effects: Low Benefits. This alternative would give a low overall benefit to marbled murrelet population restoration due to less emphasis on habitat acquisition, and greater chances of nesting habitat loss from logging.

Impacts on Fish

Pink Salmon

Alternative 5 would provide comprehensive restoration actions to assist natural recovery of wild-stock pink salmon populations. Actions that may be implemented as part of this alternative include habitat protection and acquisition, migration corridor improvements, egg incubation boxes, net-pen rearing, hatchery rearing, habitat improvement, and relocation of hatchery-produced runs and other methods (EVOS Trustee Council, April; November 1993).

Habitat Protection and Acquisition

The criteria for parcels that may benefit pink salmon wild-stocks include ratings of high for parcels with a high density of pink salmon streams or streams known to have exceptional value, moderate for parcels with an average density of pink salmon streams or streams with average production, and low for parcels with few or no pink salmon streams or streams with no production (EVOS Restoration Team, November 1993).

Habitat protection that may benefit wild-stock pink salmon populations according to Alternative 5 would depend on the average cost per acre and the final budget allocation. Therefore, the maximal number of parcels that may be purchased includes all 81 parcels that are available and the minimal number that may be purchased ranges between 31 and 34 parcels.

If all habitat parcels are protected, approximately a moderate benefit for the pink salmon resource is expected and 53 per cent would be rated as moderate or high value (Table 4-10) (Appendix A). If between 31 and 34 parcels can be purchased, the expected protective value would also be rated as moderate (Appendix A.). Of these parcels that may be purchased, 71 percent are rated as moderate or high value (Table 4-10).

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
645 G Street, Suite 401
Anchorage, AK 99501-3451