

## ALASKA RESTORATION ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

### INTRODUCTION

The President has charged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate long range planning for the restoration of areas affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill. To ensure proper cooperation and coordination a Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) will be instituted among the trustee agencies and EPA. Under the MOA, EPA and the State of Alaska will share coordination responsibilities. Specifically:

EPA and Alaska shall co-chair the Trustee Council's Restoration Planning Work Group (RPWG) in carrying out the seven responsibilities of the MOA.

EPA, the Department of Justice (DOJ), Alaska Department of Law (DOL), are advisors to the Trustee Council which is subject to the supervision and direction of the Trustees.

All decisions are made by agreement of the Trustees, acting through the Trustee Council and in consultation with EPA's Administrator and the Governor of Alaska or their designees.

### THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The Memorandum of Agreement lists the following seven specific responsibilities for EPA and the State of Alaska:

1. Generally advise the Trustees as to the progress of the restoration process.
2. Establish the long-term goals and objectives for achieving full and expeditious restoration of the affected natural resource;
3. Develop a restoration framework and plan to implement the long term goals and objectives;
4. Develop a framework and plan for replacement or acquisition of equivalent resources as appropriate;
5. Monitor progress in restoring Prince William Sound and the Western Gulf of Alaska and other areas affected by the Oil Spill on an ongoing basis and

Alaska Restoration Task Force  
Draft - June 1, 1990

advise on changes in restoration activities or additional activities that would further restoration;

6. Advise the Trustee Council on individual restoration-related projects to ensure they are consistent with the expeditious achievement of the long-term goals and objectives;
7. Recommend implementation to the Trustee Council of appropriate restoration-related projects that will most effectively achieve long-term goals and objectives.

## ALASKA RESTORATION TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

EPA established an Alaska Restoration Task Force (ARTFO) in the Office of Water to ensure EPA's responsibilities are implemented. This paper details the activities for which ARTFO [is] will be responsible under the Memorandum of Agreement.

In carrying out these responsibilities, ARTFO will work in close cooperation with RPWG and the State of Alaska.

### MOA Task 1. Generally advise the Trustees as to the progress of the restoration process.

- o Communicate progress of the restoration process to the Trustees following established communication system (see flowchart under MOA Task #2).

#### Products

- o Biennial progress reports to the Trustees covering damage assessment plans and results, restoration feasibility study plans and results, public participation in the planning process, and progress towards the development of the Restoration Methodology/Restoration Plan.  
Completion dates: Every six months  
starting July 1990.

### MOA Task 2. Establish the Long-term Goals and Objectives for Achieving Full and Expeditious Restoration of the Affected Natural Resources

Note: EPA understands that the long-term goal of the restoration is to ensure the ecologically balanced restoration of the Gulf of Alaska

and of Prince William Sound to pre-spill condition. EPA recognizes a secondary goal to understand public expectations and promote public awareness of the issues surrounding restoration.

- o Develop a communication system agreed upon by all trustee agencies and EPA.
- o Track all restoration feasibility study plans and results.
- o Track all damage assessment plans and results.
- o Prepare and review draft statement of goals and objectives.
- o Submit draft statement to review process as established in communication system.
- o Revise statement accordingly.
- o Prepare final statement on goals and objectives.
- o Adjust and redefine objectives based on results of pilot projects.

#### Products

- o Flowcharts illustrating communication process--include review and decision points for budget, policy, reports, outreach, and restoration pilot projects.  
Completion date: July 30, 1990.
- o Report to the Trustees on long-term goals and objectives for full restoration using a whole ecosystem approach.  
Completion date: January 31, 1991.

#### MOA Task 3. Develop a Restoration Framework and Plan to Implement the Long-term Goals and Objectives

- o Identify responsibilities, schedules and activities to carry out objectives.
- o Conduct literature reviews of restoration methods.
- o Assess public expectations and solicit public expertise through symposia, local public meetings and focus groups.

- o Develop educational programs on the complex issues surrounding restoration. Tentatively on schedule, support travelling museum exhibit on the Exxon Valdez oil spill.
- o Support conduct of technical workshops.
- o Review damage assessment reports.
- o Identify potentially applicable restoration techniques based on the literature review and experience gained from the feasibility studies conducted in the 1990 and 1991 field seasons. Focus on the identification of marine and coastal habitat restoration techniques and species repopulation.
- o Analyze the benefits and costs of restoration by means of natural recovery, direct restoration, replacement and/or acquisition of equivalent resources. Consider degree of difficulty of implementation, effectiveness, permanence, direct costs and incidental costs and benefits of various techniques.

#### Products

- o Restoration Methodology/Restoration Plan  
Completion date: July 1992.
- o Ancillary educational program for travelling exhibit.  
Completion date: February 1991.

#### MOA Task 4. Develop a Framework and Plan for Replacement or Acquisition of Equivalent Resources as Appropriate

- o Identify potentially applicable techniques for replacement and/or acquisition of equivalent resources based on literature review and feasibility studies.
- o Set criteria for analysis of benefits and costs of restoration by replacement and/or acquisition of equivalent resources. Consider degree of difficulty of implementation, effectiveness, permanence, direct costs and incidental costs and benefits of various techniques.
- o Review for consistency with the goals and objectives of restoration.

### Product

- o A framework for selecting and implementing alternative restoration techniques based on replacement or acquisition of equivalent resources for each field season.  
Completion dates: March 1991 and March 1992.

MOA Task 5.      Monitor Progress in Restoring Prince William Sound and the Western Gulf of Alaska and Other Areas Affected by the Oil Spill on an Ongoing Basis and Advise on Changes in Restoration Activities or Additional Activities that Would Further Restoration

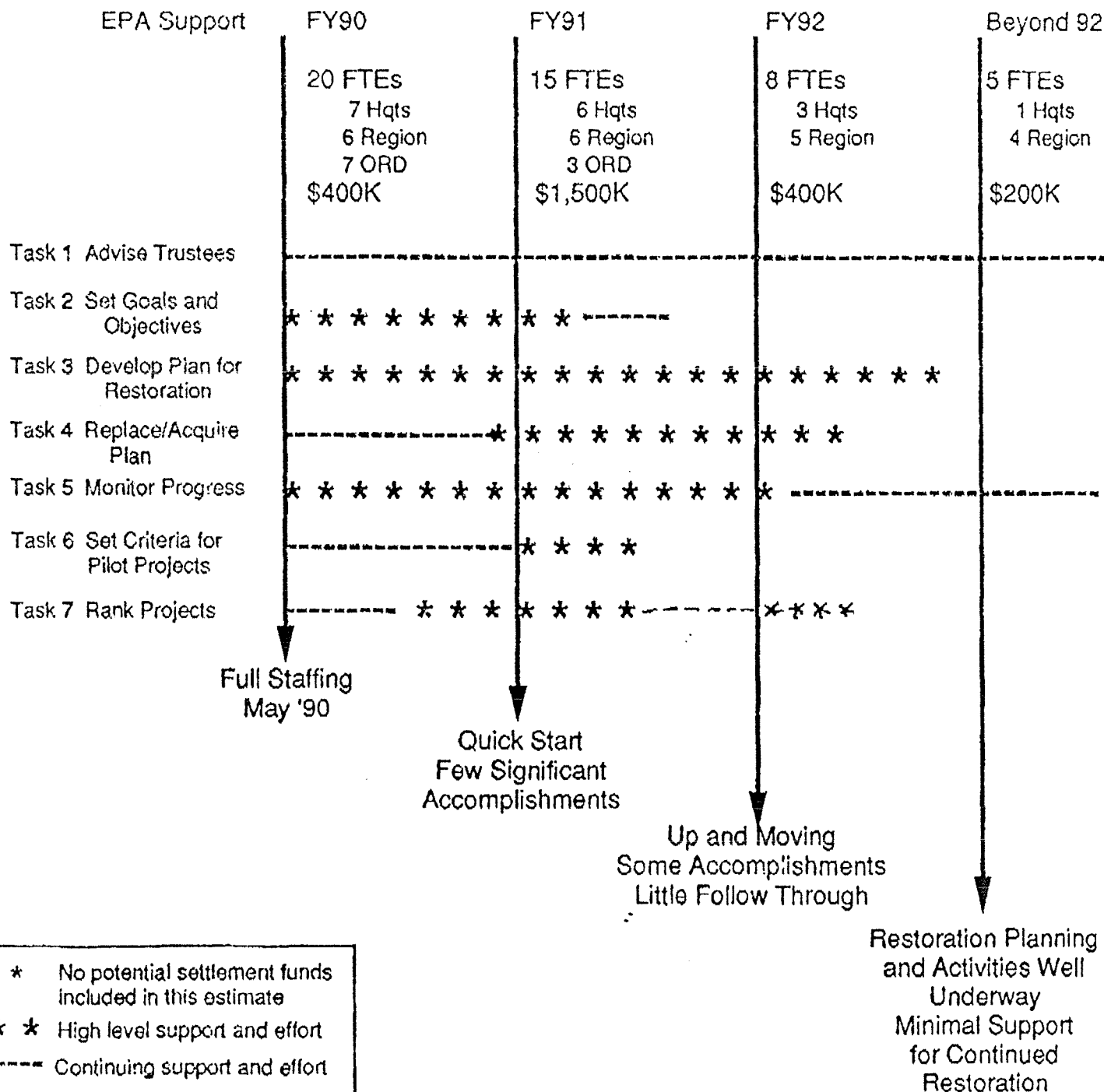
- o Obtain best available environmental baseline data in order to measure progress towards restoration.
- o Set criteria for monitoring programs for pilot projects and long-term implementation of Restoration Plan.
- o Monitor pilot projects each field season.
- o Re-evaluate monitoring criteria for pilot projects based on results.
- o Summarize findings on pilot projects for inclusion in biennial report to Trustees.
- o Monitor long-term implementation of Restoration Plan.
- o Summarize findings on long-term restoration for inclusion in biennial reports to Trustees.

### Products

- o A set of criteria for monitoring pilot projects.  
Completion date: July 1991.
- o A set of criteria for measuring long-term restoration.  
Completion date: July 1992.
- o Summaries of findings in biennial reports to the Trustees.

# EPA Resources,\* Accomplishments and Level of Effort to Support Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

From FY90 Onward



MOA Task 6. Advise the Trustee Council on Individual Restoration-related Projects to Ensure they are Consistent with the Expeditions Achievement of the Long-term Goals and Objectives

- o Develop a set of selection criteria for individual projects maintaining a focus on ecologic restoration of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska.
- o Establish a project selection process.
- o Maintain focus on an ecologic restoration of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska.
- o Review pilot restoration projects.
- o Advise Trustees on selection of pilot restoration projects.

Products

- o A set of selection criteria for individual projects.  
Completion date: January 1991.
- o Flowchart illustrating process for selection of pilot projects.  
Completion date: October 1990.
- o Report to Trustees on proposed projects.  
Completion date: April 1991.

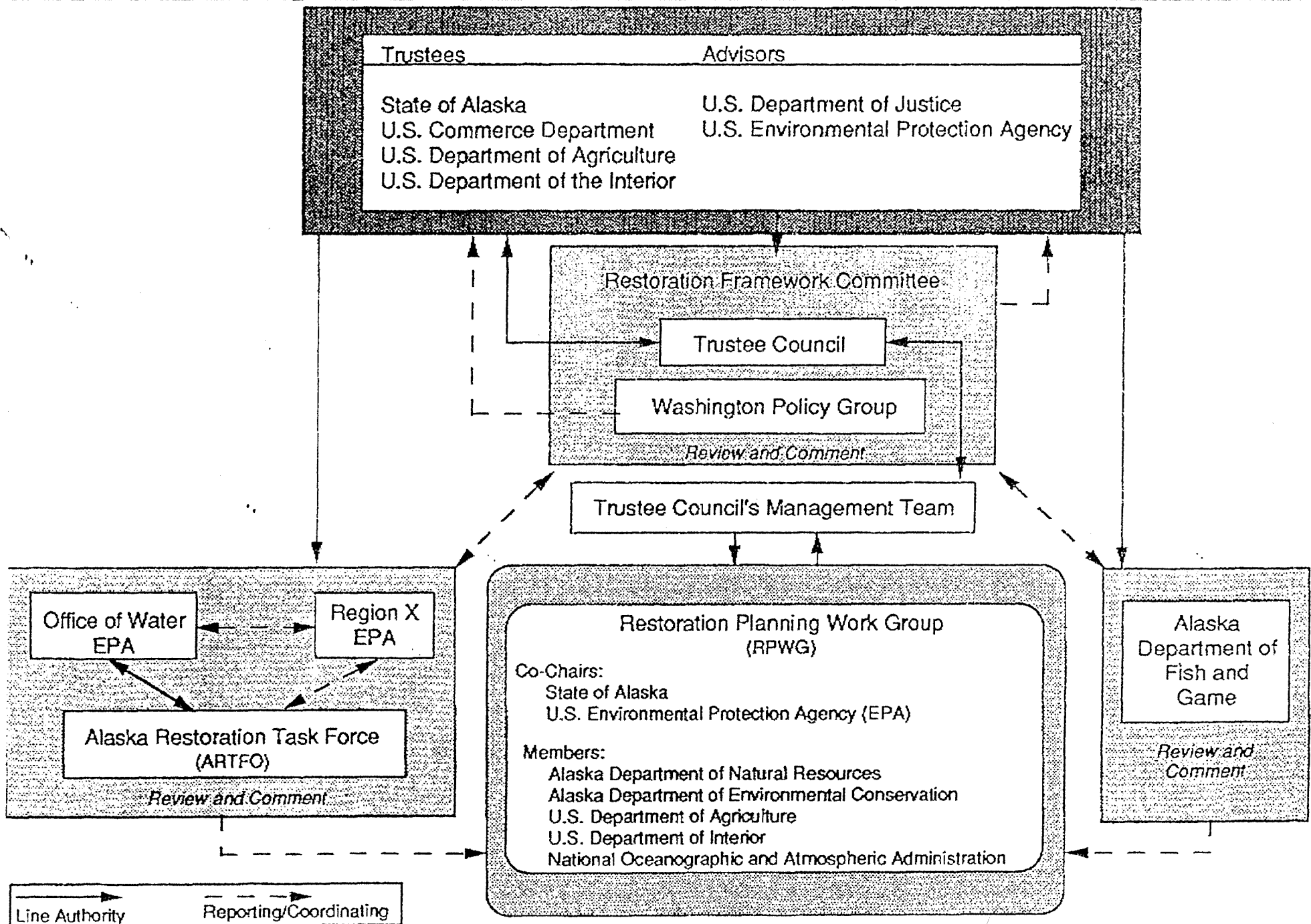
MOA Task 7. Recommend Implementation to the Trustee Council of Appropriate Restoration-related Projects that will most Effectively Achieve Long-term Goals and Objectives

- o Apply selection criteria in a review of individual projects and make recommendations.

Products

- o Ranked lists of recommended projects for each field season.  
Completion dates: April 1991 and April 1992.

# Alaska Restoration Progress Report Process







US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER  
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

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TO

Brian Ross

Brian- Any comments  
you have would be  
appreciated.

OFFICE/PHONE

Thanks

Susan

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