

EVOS Trustee Council Final Report

Project Number: 01535

Restoration Category: Public Information

Proposer: Restoration Office, *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council

Lead Trustee Agency: Restoration Office (ADFG)

Cooperating Agencies: None

Alaska SeaLife Center: No

Duration: 1st year of a 2-year project

Cost FY 01: \$91,200

Cost FY 02: \$46,750

Cost FY 03: \$0

Geographic Area:

Injured Resource/Service: All injured resources and services

ABSTRACT

This project will provide a final report for the activities of the Trustee Council, starting with the earliest damage assessment efforts and ending with the FY 02 Work Plan and disbursements of the final payment from Exxon. It will also include a complete history of the litigation leading to the civil settlement, which funds the Trustee Council. This project will increase public awareness and understanding of EVOS restoration activities, policies, and procedures. It will provide agencies and groups (facing a similar trustee situation) with a detailed history of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Restoration process, including highlights and pitfalls, so that others can benefit from lessons learned in the EVOS groundbreaking effort. This published history will include references and an index.

INTRODUCTION

This project arises from the need to provide a single source documenting 12 years of litigation, damage assessment, and EVOS restoration activities, policies, and procedures. It is appropriate to issue such a final report after the Trustee Council decides on its final work plan (FY 02), all the payments from Exxon are received and disbursed, and long-term programs for monitoring/research and habitat protection are in place.

The final report would cover:

Introduction

Chapter One: Litigation and the Settlements

Chapter Two: Damage Assessment

Chapter Three: Early Trustee Council

Chapter Four: Re-organization of Restoration Office and the Restoration Plan

Chapter Five: Research, Monitoring, and Restoration

- including the Work Plan process

Chapter Six: Habitat Protection

- including the nomination, evaluation, appraisal, and negotiation processes

Chapter Seven: Restoration Reserve, Investments, GEM, Long-term Habitat Protection

Chapter Eight: Public Advice and Public Information

Chapter Nine: Recovery Status

References

Index

Appendices

- Final and Annual Reports
- Bibliography
- Settlement

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

A. Statement of the Problem

The scope of EVOS litigation and restoration is unprecedented in U.S. environmental history. Although there were laws and regulations in place to guide the process, there was no manual available for a combined federal-state trustee council with such an enormous task ahead of it, guaranteed financial resources available to it, and a varied constituency taking part every step of the way. Much of what the Trustee Council did broke new ground and the entire process needs to be synthesized into a documented, readable history available to the public, government agencies, and any group that might face similar circumstances.

Over the years, the Trustee Council has received dozens of inquiries from other trustee groups and hundreds of inquiries from college students wanting to report on different aspects of the EVOS process. This final report would provide a single referenced source for these needs and others that might arise in the future.

B. Rationale/Link to Restoration

This effort provides vital information to the public, government agencies, and private groups concerning processes of litigation, damage assessment, and restoration efforts.

C. Location

No field work is planned for this project.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

This project will help document community involvement and TEK efforts, providing an argument for such efforts in future trustee situations.

PROJECT DESIGN

A. Objectives

Research, write, and publish a readable, documented history of EVOS litigation and Trustee Council activities from March 1989 to October 2001.

B. Methods

Research for the book will rely mostly on the public record. A thorough review will be conducted of EVOS documents, including Trustee Council minutes and transcripts, agenda packets, policies and procedures, restoration frameworks, planning documents, work plans, scientific reports, habitat protection packages, and more. In addition, court records, litigation-based scientific studies, settlement language, and any publicly available Alaska Department of Law and U.S. Department of Justice documents relating to the case will be scrutinized, along with legislative and Congressional records related to the settlement. A review of media articles from 1989-present will also help focus on public concerns and attitudes about the settlement, damage assessment, and Trustee Council activities.

Interviews of major players will be conducted to fill in gaps in the documentation, particularly as part of the litigation and damage assessment processes. Other interviews will provide personal assessments of the Trustee Council process.

The final report will be researched, written, and designed by the communications coordinator for the Trustee Council. To help ensure objectivity and make sure all essential topics are covered and documented thoroughly, an editor specializing in non-fiction historical writing will be identified and contracted as a consultant/editor. An effort will be made to find an outside publisher to provide peer-review, editing and design for the finished product (with financial assistance from the Trustee Council). If no publisher is willing to take on the project, then the final report will be published by the Trustee Council.

C. Cooperating Agencies, Contracts, and Other Agency Assistance

None

SCHEDULE

A. Measurable Project Tasks for FY 01

October - December, 2000

- a. Research EVOS administration files
- b. Research litigation records
- c. Research legislative and Congressional records and Office of the Secretary records for Department of Transportation and Department of the Interior
- d. Interview key parties
- e. Organize documents

March 1, 2001

First Drafts of Chapters 1, 2 & 3 completed

June 1, 2001

First Drafts of Chapters 4, 5, & 6 completed

September 1, 2001

First Drafts of Chapters 7, 8, & 9 completed

September 30, 2001

Complete references, appendices

B. Project Milestones and Endpoints

The final report should be printed during the winter of 2001-2002. Publication date will depend on the schedule of a publisher. The Restoration Office will seek to have the publication available around March, 2002.

C. Completion Date

March 2002

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

The final report will be published and an as-yet-undetermined number of copies will be made available to the public, stakeholders, PIs and agencies.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

Participation in professional conferences is not anticipated.

NORMAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT

This project would not fall under normal agency management.

COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF RESTORATION EFFORT

Research for this project is underway in FY 00 with funds from the 00100 budget.

PROPOSED PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Joe Hunt, Communications Coordinator
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
645 G Street, Suite 401
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-278-8012
907-276-7178 (fax)
<joe_hunt@oilspill.state.ak.us>

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Joe Hunt has 17 years of experience in Alaska in communications, journalism, public relations, publications, and advertising. He has been communications coordinator of the Trustee Council since 1996. Joe's role will be to conduct all research and interviews, write the final report, work with an outside consultant/editor, rewrite the report (as needed), coordinate activities with the Restoration Office and Trustee Council for review and final approval of the text, arrange for photographs and artwork (as needed), and design and publish the final report (or work with a publisher to design and publish the report).

OTHER KEY PERSONNEL

Outside consultant/editor
- to be determined_

2000 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000

Budget Category:	Authorized FY 2000	Proposed FY 2001					
Personnel		\$60.0					
Travel		\$4.5					
Contractual		\$0.0					
Commodities		\$0.0					
Equipment		\$0.0	LONG RANGE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS				
Subtotal	\$0.0	\$64.5			Estimated FY 2002		
General Administration		\$9.0					
Project Total	\$0.0	\$73.5			\$46.8		
Full-time Equivalentents (FTE)		0.7					
Dollar amounts are shown in thousands of dollars.							
Other Resources							
Comments:							

FY01

Prepared:

Project Number:
 Project Title: EVOS Trustee Council Final Report
 Agency: Dept. of Fish & Game, EVOS Restoration Office

2000 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000

Personnel Costs:		GS/Range/ Step	Months Budgeted	Monthly Costs	Overtime	
Name	Position Description					
Joe Hunt	writer/researcher		8.0	7.5		
Subtotal			8.0	7.5	0.0	
Personnel Total						
Travel Costs:		Ticket Price	Round Trips	Total Days	Daily Per Diem	
Description						
Anchorage-Juneau-Seattle	research/interviews	1.2	1	10	0.1	
Anchorage	research/interviews	0.8	1	5	0.1	
rental cars				15	0.6	
Travel Total						

FY01

Prepared:

Project Number:
 Project Title: EVOS Trustee Council Final Report
 Agency: Dept. of Fish & Game, EVOS Restoration Office

2000 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000

Contractual Costs:		
Description		
When a non-trustee organization is used, the form 4A is required.		Contractual Total
Commodities Costs:		
Description		
		Commodities Total

FY01

Project Number:
 Project Title: EVOS Trustee Council Final Report
 Agency: Dept. of Fish & Game, EVOS Restoration Office

Prepared:

2000 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000

New Equipment Purchases:		Number of Units	Unit Price	
Description				
Those purchases associated with replacement equipment should be indicated by placement of an R.			New Equipment Total	
Existing Equipment Usage:		Number of Units		
Description				

FY01

Project Number:
 Project Title: EVOS Trustee Council Final Report
 Agency: Dept. of Fish & Game, EVOS Restoration Office

Prepared: