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Karluk IRA Tribal Council

April 5, 2010

Ms. Laurel Jennings
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Trustee Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Trustee Council's desire to refine your marine research and habitat protection aims. The Karluk Tribal Council hereby restates our willingness to work with the EVOS Trustee Council to secure permanent conservation for our 1,860 acres in the lower Karluk River.

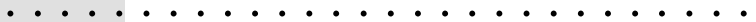
We are pleased that every EVOS assessment of the habitats within the oil spill region shows that the Karluk River ranks near the very top of your conservation priority list. We know your biologists recognize that the Karluk River's wild salmon bounty is critical for the Kodiak archipelago's populations of oil spill impacted fish and wildlife species including many birds and marine mammals. Additionally, Karluk salmon returns account for as much as a third of the total annual commercial salmon value on Kodiak Island and that healthy freshwater riparian areas are key to future wild salmon abundance.

Although the Karluk River's salmon resources are legendary, they are also fragile, as shown by this year's closure of the Chinook salmon sport fishing season, even for catch and release anglers. While action is deeply disturbing for what it means to the Karluk River's Chinook salmon population, the health of the Gulf of Alaska, the availability of Chinook salmon for subsistence and for Karluk village-based fishing guides, we sincerely hope that EVOS marine ecosystem research can seek explanations for the crash of the Karluk and Ayakulik river Chinook runs.

The Karluk Tribal Council is confident that past questions about our fee title ownership of the 1,860 acres will soon be demonstrated with legal clarity and the Karluk Tribal Council's small parcel nomination can proceed toward a successful transaction with the EVOS Trustee Council securing a permanent non-development, non-motorized access conservation easement on our lower Karluk River lands.

Sincerely,
Alicia L. Reft

Alicia Reft
President
Karluk Tribal Council



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Tribal Voice=Tribal Sovereignty