

To Whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Kodiak Chapter of the National Audubon Society, we are submitting comments on the draft SEIS for the EVOS Restoration Plan.

Our mission is to conserve Alaska's natural ecosystems focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. We promote conservation of local natural resources, provide environmental education, and healthy out-door recreation with our summer hiking program and published Hiking and Bird Guide

The Kodiak Chapter of the National Audubon Society is the oldest and most active non-government conservation organization in the Kodiak area.

We appreciated the opportunity for some of our members to attend the scoping meeting here on March 18th to learn more about the Trustee Council's efforts over the years to restore our environment. We applaud your past efforts and support the direction you have laid out for the remaining restoration funds.

In particular, we support the continued use of settlement funds for habitat acquisition and restoration and strongly support the acquisition of Termination Point which was nominated for small parcel acquisition in 1994. Because of the variety of habitats including Sitka spruce forest, small lakes, coastal meadows, and beaches, and its location on our road system, Termination Point is one of the most popular hiking and recreation areas for our community. It was impacted by the EVOS and received high evaluation marks by the Trustee Council when it was originally nominated. Unfortunately, the council was not able to pursue purchase of the property due to the legal limbo of the property with the long, drawn out Strattman vs Leisnoi lawsuit.

Now that the lawsuit is settled, we encourage you to do everything possible to persuade the owner to sell it so that it can be protected from their future development plans. With so little public land on our road system, we can hardly step off the road without paying a fine. We now have to obtain permits and pay Leisnoi to hike on any of their property, which is considerable. Continued access to Termination Point is very important to our community. It would make a fine State Park.

Thanks again for your good work on behalf of Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Stacy Studebaker  
Conservation Chair  
Kodiak Audubon  
P.O. Box 970  
Kodiak, AK 99615

Cindy Trussell  
Chapter President  
Kodiak Audubon