March 31, 2010

Natives Of Kodiak, Inc.

Laurel Jennings

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Jennings,

Natives of Kodiak, Inc. (NOK) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the EVOS Trustee Council's (Council) desire to narrow and refine the scope of their marine research program. NOK wishes to go on record in support of the Council's intended flexible approach to those marine research investments. We trust that the Council will study the marine ecosystem in the entire spill region including Kodiak archipelago.

The four marine restoration categories identified in the Federal Register Notice of Intent: herring, lingering oil, long term monitoring of marine conditions, and harbor protection and marine restoration appear to be very worthwhile focus areas.

With regard to habitat acquisition and restoration, NOK wishes to comment that it is still interested in discussing a sale of the 743-acre Buskin Beach Forest property adjacent to Buskin River State Park on the Kodiak road system. As you know, there is great interest among Kodiak residents for open space recreational areas on the Kodiak road system. NOK believes the Buskin Beach Forest property can provide visitors of all ages a unique outdoor experience minutes from downtown and from the Kodiak Municipal Airport.

We were pleased to be able to show Alaska State Parks Director, James King; Kodiak State Parks Director, Kevin Murphy and EVOS Public Advisory Committee Chairwoman, Stacy Studebaker this property in 2008.

We are also pleased that State Parks Director, James King subsequently expressed interest in state ownership of the oceanfront portion of the property that has a beautiful stand of Sitka spruce, an extensive trails network, a serviceable road system and the World War II era 'Artillery Hill' Harbor Defense Command Post Bunker and 'Buskin Hill,' with an important gun emplacement battery and several remnant steel and concrete magazine and searchlight buildings.

Given Kodiak's importance in World War II as the U.S. North Pacific Theatre Naval Station headquarters and the State Park system's ownership of Fort Abercrombie, the addition of this property would greatly complement Kodiak's considerable 'history tourism' attractions. Looking back over the twenty-one years since the disastrous *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, the growth of tourism has been one of the most visible changes in Kodiak's economy and the EVOS investments in the Archipelago have certainly been a net plus aiding that transformation.

While the larger inland parcel in NOK's Buskin Beach ownership away from the saltwater coast was not desired by State Parks, we are pleased that the Kodiak Island Borough has expressed an interest in taking ownership if this land were also purchased for public benefit, hiking trails, perhaps ATV trails, and open space.

We understand from discussions with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) that the presence of WW II era contaminated soils and groundwater on some of the property makes this entire property's acquisition somewhat more challenging for EVOS funding. However, we do hope that the Council would keep an open mind about playing at least a partial funding role, if full EVOS restoration funding is not feasible.

In closing, this letter is my last official NOK communication with the Trustee Council, because it is my last day as President of NOK. I hope the preparatory steps described above will provide a basis for ongoing discussions about possible preservation of the Buskin Beach Forest property. In the future your point of contact with NOK will be Michael Kelly, the incoming President of NOK.

Sincerely,

Anthony Drabek, President/CEO

cc: American Land Conservancy