

Dear Sirs, I am writing to encourage and support the use of EVOS funds to purchase land and/or easements along that Kodiak road system that will allow the public to recreate. I am specifically interested in preserving public use on the American and Olds Rivers. These rivers have supported large angling effort for Dolly Varden, pink, chum and coho salmon. Recently a return of king salmon has also been developed by ADFG. I believe the use of EVOS funding is allowed to preserve recreational opportunities in areas that were damaged by the oil spill.

EVOS funding was used for the Karluk River Conservation Easement, which protects a large area of habitat as well as allows angler access to the Karluk River sport fisheries. The Karluk River is very expensive to access and as a result only receives a fraction of the angling effort that the American and Olds Rivers have annually supported. Land transfers have recently occurred, which now places the river banks and uplands in private ownership. Purchasing the lands (or easements) along the American and Olds Rivers will allow a large numbers of ordinary residents to continue to use the fisheries resources close to the town of Kodiak.

Many people I have talked support the idea of keeping the American and Olds Rivers open for public use, however the anglers in Kodiak are not organized and I do not think many people know you are taking comments on the issue. I am glad that I just learned comments were due and had a change to send you my ideas. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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