

**RESOLUTION 02-02 OF THE
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL
CONCERNING
PROTECTION OF LANDS IN PERENOSA BAY**

WHEREAS the Trustee Council has invested nearly \$156 million to acquire and protect habitat on and near northern Afognak Island that is critical for several species injured by the oil spill, consisting of 41,549 acres along Seal Bay and Tonki Cape acquired from the Seal Bay Timber Company in 1993, 26,665 acres acquired on Shuyak Island from the Kodiak Island Borough in 1996, and 41,750 acres acquired on northern Afognak Island from the Afognak Joint Venture (AJV) in 1998;

WHEREAS the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust, American Lands Conservancy, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation are proposing to seek private foundation dollars to leverage public funds to further the habitation protection and restoration efforts begun by the Trustee Council on northern Afognak Island;

WHEREAS the first phase of the effort is focused on 18,000 acres of coastal habitat in Perenosa Bay currently held by AJV;

WHEREAS the AJV lands lie within and near the lands purchased by the Trustee Council that are now within Afognak Island State Park and Shuyak Island State Park, and include timber rights on 2,000 acres of land east of Pauls and Laura Lakes on which the Trustee Council acquired surface title, and their protection would help preserve the integrity of the Trustee Council's investment in the area;

WHEREAS the Trustee Council sought to acquire these additional lands in order to provide contiguity in protection, land management strategies, and ownership but had insufficient funds available to purchase them;

WHEREAS protecting contiguous tracts of land provides further protection of wildlife movement corridors, consistency in land management strategies, and facilitates public recreational use in concert with protection of injured species and supporting habitats;

WHEREAS the AJV lands, as well as the timber reservation near Pauls and Laura Lakes, are among the lands most highly ranked for restoration value and biological significance by the Trustee Council's habitat protection process and support critical habitat for several species injured by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill including pink salmon, Dolly Varden, Pacific herring, bald eagles, black oystercatchers, harbor seals, harlequin ducks, marbled murrelets, pigeon guillemots, river otters, and sea otters;

WHEREAS the Sitka spruce within the timber reservation represents some of the most valuable habitat for wildlife, particularly marbled murrelets and bald eagles, as well as providing stable riparian zones for pink and sockeye salmon and Dolly Varden;

WHEREAS this area has many documented anadromous streams which support populations of pink salmon, coho salmon, sockeye salmon, rainbow trout and steelhead which have significant importance to commercial fishing, subsistence fishing, sportfishing, guiding, as well as bears, eagles, and marine mammals;

WHEREAS Pacific herring spawn in Perenosa Bay and feed in nearshore waters;

WHEREAS six species of birds injured by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill -- marbled murrelet, pigeon guillemot, black oystercatcher, harlequin duck, bald eagle, and common murre -- use northern Afognak and the protected offshore waters for all or parts of their lifecycles;

WHEREAS the adjacent marine waters are highly productive and are inhabited by northern sea lions, northern fur seals, harbor porpoises, and several species of whales, with the nearshore waters of Perenosa Bay offering feeding, pupping, and calving habitat for many species of marine mammals including harbor seals and sea otters;

WHEREAS in addition to injured species, elk, deer and brown bear utilize the habitats proposed for protection and the resources they support;

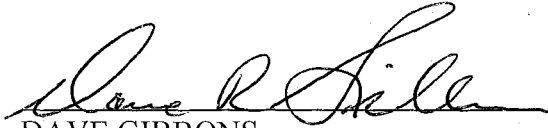
WHEREAS the AJV lands in this general area contain significant archaeological and cultural resources, with some sites listed as Important by the State Historic Preservation Office;

WHEREAS protection of this area will further the Trustee Council's restoration objectives by maintaining water quality and riparian habitat for anadromous fish, river otters, and harlequin ducks; maintaining nesting opportunities for bald eagles, marbled murrelets and pigeon guillemots; minimizing disturbance to nearshore and intertidal habitat used by a variety of species; and maintaining opportunities for recreational use by Alaskans and tourists alike;

WHEREAS the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust, American Lands Conservancy, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation bring together knowledge of Alaska, successful experience in completing large and complex land acquisitions, private foundation support, and a significant national constituency;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustee Council strongly supports and encourages the efforts underway by the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust, American Lands Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and others to seek funds for protection of the coastal habitat in Perenosa Bay.


Approved by the Council at its meeting of December 11, 2001 held in Anchorage, Alaska, as affirmed by our signatures affixed below:



DAVE GIBBONS
Alaska Region
USDA Forest Service



CRAIG TILLERY
Assistant Attorney General
State of Alaska



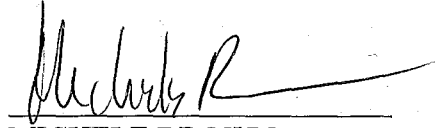
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