

Bright Future

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) oversees projects that will benefit Alaska's spill-area ecosystems for years to come.

The court settlement in 1991 fueled the creation of the state and federal partnership, EVOSTC. Thirty years later, the Council continues to fund projects such as habitat restoration and protection, wildlife research, and lingering oil monitoring.

A Sound Ecosystem

Supporting Injured Ecosystems

EVOSTC funds focus on spill-area ecosystems, supporting scientific research and habitat protection and enhancement. Protections include conserving priority habitats for various species. Enhancements include replacing road culverts with fish-friendly passages and constructing boardwalks along riverbanks for public access. Typically, these lands are managed by federal or state agencies and are available for public and subsistence uses.



Immediately following the spill, concerned citizens did much of the initial cleanup. Many continued to help long after government workers appeared.



EVOSTC field scientists gather information needed to protect and support spill-affected areas.

Knowledge is Power

Prior to the spill, there was little data on the area's resources. After the settlement, EVOSTC-funded restoration and research projects began accumulating long-term scientific data within the spill area. The data enhances our understanding of injured species and the affected ecosystems. This information is available for those who use, rely on and enjoy the spill-area marine and river ecosystems. Targeted studies in areas such as Prince William Sound have developed baseline knowledge of spill-affected species such as killer whales, sea otters, sea ducks, and herring. Resource managers will use this data into the future to support these delicate ecosystems and species.

A New Generation of Stewards

As decades pass and memories of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill fade, lingering oil and species yet to recover remind a new generation of stewards to support and enhance this world-class ecosystem. Their efforts into the future will ensure that Alaskans and visitors alike can continue to enjoy unique areas such as Prince William Sound.



Researching and documenting the effects of the spill on injured species enables development of sound, long-term resource management plans.



For more information about EVOSTC: <http://www.evostc.state.ak.us/>
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