THE CONSERVATION FUND

July 13, 2010

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Laurel Jennings
NEPA Coordinator
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 W. 5th Ave., Suite 500
Anchorage, AK
99501

Dear Ms. Jennings:

The Conservation Fund supports the draft supplemental environmental impact statement for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Plan released in May 2010. The draft SEIS provides a more discrete and efficient funding mechanism by which to direct the remaining EVOS settlement funds.

Refining the scope of the Council's restoration efforts to five defined restoration categories: herring; lingering oil; long-term monitoring of marine conditions and injured resources; harbor protection, marine restoration, and lessons learned/outreach; and habitat acquisition and protection should allow for a much more focused restoration program. The SEIS, if fully implemented, should produce a program that is best suited to restoring the resources injured by the EVOS and most effectively using the limited restoration funds that remain.

We encourage the EVOS Trustee Council to continue to keep options open to accomplish its habitat restoration goals by partnering with non-profit organizations as has been done in the past. The non-profits may be able to bring matching funds to some of the habitat restoration projects, thereby increasing the benefits of the EVOS funds. The non-profits can be a very cost effective and timely option to accomplish important restoration projects.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the SEIS.

Sincerely yours,

Glenn Elison

Alaska State Director

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EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL
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