

Native Village of Eyak Written Comments

- Native Village of Eyak (NVE) has no interest in supporting further habitat acquisition, and instead would like to see EVOSTC efforts and funding focused on injured resources, specifically those that are not recovering or recovery is unknown. Up to 50% of Native lands were lost due to previous land acquisitions, essentially destroying the subsistence way of life for many Natives. Native Corporations at the time of spill were financially poor and the EVOS land acquisition program gave the corporations the opportunity to make money. It was mostly shareholders living outside of the spill affected region that agreed to sell off the land. It is the long standing position of the Eyak Traditional Tribal Council that EVOS buyback lands should be returned to the Tribe for management.
- NVE would like to see the species of concern remain a priority and a focal point of future RFP's. Specifically, those species whose recovery remains unknown, and which are important to the Tribe include:
 - Murrelets
 - Cutthroat trout- ADF&G previously submitted proposal to do relative abundance
 - Rock Fish
 - Subtidal communities
- Even without previous baseline data (i.e. cutthroats), data needs to be collected to establish a current baseline before the next oil spill or human caused disaster. It may be possible to gain an idea of pre-EVOS abundance of some species through interviews, TEK, and review of historical commercial fish bycatch data. The point is to focus on monitoring, even if it is to just establish baseline data. It could be valuable information to help understand the dynamics of the PWS ecosystem and better protect it.
- NVE would like to see the remaining funds be focused in Cordova/PWS and awarded to local organizations, groups, etc. for the direct oversight of EVOS clean-up and recovery.

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