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APR 12 2010

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL
TRUSTEE Council

Leadership in Conservation Thought, Policy and Action

March 31, 2010

Laurel Jennings
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Jennings,

This letter is to offer constructive comments on the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill (EVOS) Trustee Council's proposal to narrow and refine the scope of its future work to more effectively utilize remaining settlement funds.

The EVOS Trustee Council has achieved enormously valuable conservation results under the EVOS Restoration Plan. The permanent conservation of forested and non-forested coastal habitats of oil spill-impacted fish and wildlife species in Prince William Sound, the Kenai Peninsula and in the Kodiak Archipelago is a major achievement by the EVOS Trustee Council. The 650,000 acres of lands purchased for public ownership or conserved through easements in the spill region are an outstanding legacy of scientifically focused mitigation and cooperative conservation in the wake of a devastating man-made disaster. The EVOS Trustee Council had to operate in a highly challenging political environment, and the Council is to be congratulated for finding a broadly supported consensus-based outcome.

Having personally visited EVOS Trustee Council conserved lands on Afognak and Shuyak islands, I can attest to the remarkable outcomes the Council has achieved, and offer my own heartfelt personal thanks for what you have accomplished there.

With regard to the Trustee Council's future habitat conservation efforts utilizing the remaining \$24 million in the habitat account, the Pinchot Institute urges the Council to:

- Take a flexible approach to allocating funds between the large *and* small parcel categories,
- Utilize all land conservation tools including fee acquisition and long-term conservation easements
- Prioritize future habitat investments based on the highest quality lands and natural resources available to the Council for conservation
- Seek to leverage EVOS restoration funds with other funding sources, both public and private, as a means to expand the impact of your remaining funds and as a means to continue to involve individuals, corporations and foundations in the restoration effort

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The Pinchot Institute's mission is to advance conservation and sustainable natural resource management by developing innovative, practical, and broadly-supported solutions to conservation challenges and opportunities. We accomplish this through nonpartisan research, education and technical assistance, and by fostering rational and civil dialogue on key issues in natural resource conservation. So we know how challenging your work has been, and we congratulate the EVOS Trustee Council on all that it has accomplished to date. We hope that the Council will continue to take this kind of strategic, long-term approach to determining its future conservation priorities and utilizing the remaining settlement funds.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Alaric Sample". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping tail.

V. Alaric Sample, Ph.D.
President