

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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2012 EVOSTC Annual Status Report

Rev. 08/31/13

Since its inception in 1991, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (Council) has worked in three major areas: Restoration, Habitat, and Administration. The following is a general guide to the activities included under these headings.

Research, Monitoring, and General Restoration

Restoration forms the core mission of the Council. Spending in this area includes hundreds of scientific research projects that address a broad variety of subject areas. Surveys and other monitoring of fish and wildlife in the spill region provide information to determine population trends, productivity, and health. Research increases knowledge of the biological needs of individual species and how each contributes to the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem. This work also provides new information and better tools for effective management of fish and wildlife and is used to study the long-term impact of hydrocarbon exposure on affected species. The Council's support has developed modeling, surveys, mapping of lingering oil, and furthered science in the spill area. General restoration includes projects to protect and improve archeological, subsistence, and recreational resources. Restoration has also been pursued through projects such as Kenai stream bank restoration, Port Graham hatchery, waste disposal facilities, the Alaska SeaLife Center and archeological site restoration.

Public outreach is an integral part of Restoration and includes public meetings, exhibits, reports, films, lectures, scientific symposiums, publications, and outreach by individual projects and through Trustee Council office activities.

Restoration expenses include and overlap with Scientific Management, Public Information, and Administration for management of restoration efforts, such as staff support, data management; scientific meetings, oversight and management; project planning and development; public outreach efforts and publications. For these reasons, delineating spending among these categories is somewhat subjective.

Research, Monitoring, and General Restoration costs are expended through the Research Investment Sub-Account of the Investment Trust Fund.

Habitat Protection

Habitat protection has provided the Council with a lasting legacy which supports the species and ecosystems injured by the spill. These efforts include both small and large parcels and help prevent additional injury to species due to loss of habitat. The Council accomplishes this by providing funds to government agencies to acquire title or conservation easements on land important for the restoration of resources injured by the spill. The majority of spending in this area is attributed to the actual cost to identify and acquire habitat. Other expenses in this area include staff support, due diligence costs, NEPA reviews, habitat purchase negotiation support, and data management. These costs overlap with Scientific Management, Public Information, and Administration, below.

Habitat Protection costs are expended through the Habitat Investment Sub-Account of the Investment Trust Fund. Additionally, the Koniag Sub-Account is contractually obligated at this time for a conservation easement on Koniag, Inc. lands.

Science Management, Public Information, and Administration

This component of the budget includes annual program implementation, development, and management of the Council's habitat, work plans and science programs. It also includes scientific oversight of research, monitoring and restoration projects, project planning and management, data management, scientific meetings and symposiums.

Administration for the habitat program includes funding NEPA reviews, agency coordination, habitat purchase negotiations, data management, and acquisition support.

Administrative spending includes Council office staff, designated trust agency staff, infrastructure costs, agency coordination, and other contractual and administrative overhead. It also includes the cost of public meetings, publications and other means of public outreach, studies regarding Council activities, and the support and administration of the Council's Public Advisory Committee. Administrative funds also supported the construction of the Cordova Center, which houses space for EVOS- and Council-related meetings, a library, museum exhibits and displays.

Science Management, Public Information, and Administration costs are expended through the Research Investment Sub-Account of the Investment Trust Fund.

How the Settlement Has Been Used (in millions) as of **September 30, 2012:**

<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>\$1,046.9</u>
Exxon Payments.....	\$900.8
Settlement Fund Interest/Earnings (Minus Fees / Plus Recoveries).....	\$146.1
<u>Reimbursements for Damage Assessments & Response</u>	<u>\$216.4</u>
Governments (includes Litigation & Clean-up).....	\$176.5
Exxon (Clean-up during 1991 and 1992).....	\$39.9
<u>Research, Monitoring & General Restoration (FY92 – FY12)</u>	<u>\$232.2</u>
FY92 - FY11 Work Plans –Restoration Program Projects.....	\$223.6
FY12 Work Plan –Restoration Program Projects.....	\$8.6
<u>Habitat Protection (FY92 – FY12)</u>	<u>\$392.9</u>
FY92 - FY11 Large Parcel Acquisition.....	\$339.2
FY12 Large Parcel Acquisitions.....	\$0.0
FY92 - FY11 Small Parcel Acquisition.....	\$26.5
FY12 Small Parcel Acquisition.....	\$0.0
FY03 - FY11 Koniag Conservation Easement.....	\$4.7
FY12 Koniag Conservation Easement.....	\$.7
FY92 - FY11 Due Diligence & Trust Agency Habitat Support Activities.....	\$21.6
FY12 Due Diligence & Trust Agency Habitat Support Activities.....	\$.2
<u>Administration, Science Management, & Public Information (FY92 – FY12)</u>	<u>\$52.7</u>
FY92 - FY11 Annual Program Development & Implementation.....	\$51.2
FY12 Annual Program Development & Implementation.....	\$1.5
<u>Investment Trust Fund Balance (as of 09/30/12)</u>	<u>\$188.8</u>
Research Investment Sub-Account.....	\$97.4
Habitat Investment Sub-Account.....	\$38.2
Koniag Investment Sub-Account.....	\$53.2

*Previously allocated, lapsed, unencumbered funds and any interest earnings on the joint trust funds are reallocated by the Council. This practice ensures the funds are spent efficiently, but also contributes somewhat to the ambiguity regarding spending totals, as it is difficult to track re-allocations by line item within state and federal agency budget records. To date the Council has reallocated approximately \$41.2M.