

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council: 2013 Annual Report
Rev. 11/12/15

Since its inception in 1991, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (Council) has worked in three major areas: Restoration, Habitat, and Administration. At its September 14, 2012 meeting, the Council shifted its administrative funding cycle from the federal October 1st cycle to a February 1st cycle. To that end, FY13 was 16 months long: October 1, 2012 – January 31, 2014. 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 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 helps 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 Administration, Scientific Management, and Public Information, below.

Habitat Protection costs are expended through the Habitat Investment Sub-Account of the Investment Trust Fund. In late 2002, a Koniag Sub-Account was created to provide payments for

a conservation easement on Koniag, Inc. lands. Those payments ended in February 2014 and the Konaig Sub-Account funds were returned to the Habitat Sub-Account.

Administration, Science Management, and Public Information

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

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.

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 January 31, 2014:

Total Revenue	\$1,081.5
Exxon Payments.....	\$900.8
Settlement Fund Interest/Earnings (Minus Fees / Plus Recoveries).....	\$180.7
Reimbursements for Damage Assessments & Response	\$216.4
Governments (includes Litigation & Clean-up).....	\$176.5
Exxon (Clean-up during 1991 and 1992).....	\$39.9
Research, Monitoring & General Restoration (FY92 – FY13)	\$238.9
FY92 - FY12 Work Plans –Restoration Program Projects.....	\$232.2
FY13 Work Plan –Restoration Program Projects.....	\$6.5
Habitat Protection (FY92 – FY13)	\$394.3
FY92 - FY12 Large Parcel Acquisition.....	\$339.2
FY13 Large Parcel Acquisitions.....	\$0.0
FY92 - FY12 Small Parcel Acquisition.....	\$26.5
FY13 Small Parcel Acquisition.....	\$0.6
FY03 - FY12 Koniag Conservation Easement.....	\$5.4
FY13 Koniag Conservation Easement.....	\$0.8
FY92 - FY12 Due Diligence & Trust Agency Habitat Support Activities.....	\$21.8
FY13 Due Diligence & Trust Agency Habitat Support Activities.....	\$0.6
Administration, Science Management, & Public Information (FY92 – FY13)	\$54.5
FY92 - FY12 Annual Program Development & Implementation.....	\$52.7
FY13 Annual Program Development & Implementation.....	\$1.8
Investment Trust Fund Balance (as of January 31, 2014)	\$206.8
Research Investment Sub-Account.....	\$100.3
Habitat Investment Sub-Account.....	\$43.8

Koniag Investment Sub-Account.....\$62.7

*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 \$43.3M.