

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects Quarterly Project Reporting Form

*Detailed instructions for each section below are given in Section II. Quarterly Project Reports in the Reporting Policy on the website, <u>https://evostc.state.ak.us/policies-</u> procedures/reporting-procedures/

Project Number: 23220602

Project Title: Kenai Peninsula Streambank Rehabilitation and Protection Project

Principal Investigator(s): Jessica Johnson, ADF&G

Reporting Periods and Due Dates:

Reporting Period	Due Date
February, March, April	June 1
May, June, July	September 1
August, September, October	December 1
November, December, January	March 1

Submission Date: December 1, 2023

Project Website: N/A

Please check <u>all</u> the boxes that apply to the current reporting period.

⊠ Project progress is on schedule.

□ Project progress is delayed

□ Budget reallocation request for this reporting period.

□ Personnel changes.

1. Summary of Work Performed:

After doing site visits in October, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) partners called some landowners and discussed changing a few things regarding their proposals. In a couple of instances, we ended up calling landowners and letting them know that their proposals were not something that we could fund. In the end there were 26 proposals that we ended up ranking.



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ADF&G staff and USFWS staff spent a couple of days evaluating and ranking projects. ADF&G and USFWS evaluated each proposal using a rating criteria to assess, score, and prioritize the projects. Each project was rated based upon:

Current Bank Conditions: Quality of Fish Habitat, Current Vegetation Conditions, Currently Using Best Management Practices, and Detrimental Structures Present.

Proposed Project Will: Protect Natural Vegetation, Protect Fish Habitat, Remove Harmful Structures, Provides Native Vegetation, Provides Fish Habitat, Educational Opportunity, Reasonable Project Solution, Project Success Potential, Reasonable Project Cost, Uses Multiple Techniques, and Benefits Adjacent Property.

Fit within the overall objectives: Remove structures that are detrimental to juvenile salmon, example bulkheads, gabions and rip rap; conserve and sustain healthy nearshore fish habitat and riparian vegetation; rehabilitate and enhance human impacted nearshore Pacific salmonid habitat and riparian vegetation; will provide Pacific salmonid habitat conservation and rehabilitation education in the form of specific instruction in bioengineering techniques and on-the-ground demonstrations, including landowners and professional engineers, contractors and landscapers. This will allow participants to undertake effective conservation and restoration projects using proven techniques.

Based on the funding availability ADF&G and USFWS are able to fund 10 projects this year. Using the decision metric we selected the top 10 projects. These landowners were contacted in January and sent each landowner a next steps document. The next step document lays out a timeline of when things need to be done and what the responsibilities are of the landowners.

Each project will have a private landowner agreement (PLA) which the landowners will sign. The PLA will lay out what work is to be done, the importance of doing this work, what the responsibilities are for the landowner, ADF&G and USFWS, a budget breakdown, and finally some pre-project photos. By the end of January, a handful of PLAs had been drafted.

For the 2024 Streambank Rehabilitation Workshop ADF&G and USFWS have been working with the City of Soldotna Parks and Recreation to figure out the logistics of having the Workshop at Centennial Park. This is an ideal location for the Workshop as there is room for parking and there are vaulted toilets on site. The other main reason to have the workshop there is because Trout Unlimited (TU) is planning to have their community planting day at the same location.

2. Abstract:



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During this reporting period, staff used a weighted metric, which looks at current streambank conditions and how the proposed project will help protect and enhance fish habitat, to help determine which projects to fund. Based on the weighted metric and available funds, we will be able to fund 10 projects in 2024. All 10 of these landowners have been and the next steps document has been sent to them. For some of the projects private landowner agreements have been drafted.

ADF&G and USFWS are coordinating with the City of Soldotna Parks and Recreation to figure out the logistics of having the Workshop at Centennial Park. This location is also going to be used for TU's Community Planting Day. While the 2024 Streambank Workshop will stabilize the streambank, TU's Community Planting Day will help plant up with riparian area.

3. Coordination and Collaboration:

Alexa with Tout Unlimited (TU), and Sam with the River Center, and myself discussed the planting day at Centennial Park with the steering committee of the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership (KPFHP). Adam with the U.S. Forest Service indicated that he might be able to help with the planting day or even locating some plants to use for the planting day. Alexa and Maura (USFWS) reached out to the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) along with the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD) to get some guidance with what plant species would be best to use at this location. This was a great discussion with both of the HSWCD and ASWCD and Alexa was able to come up with a plant list and where to purchase some plants.

During this time, I had also reached out to the Plant Materials Center in Palmer and a Fairbanks USFWS, who has been involved with numerous plants working groups throughout Alaska. There was great feedback from both individuals, and they agreed that we were heading in the right direction for planning that area. Also, both of these individuals pointed us in the direction of the HSWCD.

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

N/A

5. Budget:



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects

Quarterly Project Reporting Form

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