



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

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

**Project Number:** 24220602

**Project Title:** Kenai Peninsula Streambank Rehabilitation and Protection Project

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

**Reporting Periods and Due Dates:**

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

**Submission Date:** February 21, 2025

**Project Website:** N/A

Please check all 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.**

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**1. Summary of Work Performed:**

In early November a couple of 2024 funded landowners reached out asking about reimbursement payments. Followed up with the Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District to see where payments were at and to ensure they got the last couple sent out in a timely manner.



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After doing site visits in October, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) worked with some landowners and discussed changing a few things regarding their proposals. One particular property owner had a challenging project that both ADF&G Staff and USFWS staff spoke with internal staffing for some guidance along with a contractor and permitters. Due to the unique challenges and uncertainties, we ended up calling and letting the landowners know that this was not a project that we could help them with. We talk with them about pursuing standalone funding and perhaps getting an engineer to help design the restoration. Also, there was one project that the overall cost was just going to be far too much for our program help fund. In the end there were 16 proposals that we ended up ranking.

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 can fund 9 projects this year. Using the decision metric we selected the top 9 projects. Some of 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.



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For the 2025 Streambank Rehabilitation Workshop ADF&G and USFWS have been working with a private landowner who applied for funding in summer of 2025. This is an ideal location for the workshop as there is room for parking and it is in a heavy boat traffic area so it will be very visible to anyone who is on the river.

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**2. Abstract:**

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 9 projects in 2025. Some of the 9 landowners have been and the next steps document has been sent to them. Also, for all of the projects private landowner agreements have been drafted. ADF&G and USFWS are coordinating with a private landowner to figure out the logistics of having the 2025 Streambank Workshop on their property.

Staff have been active on the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership which has helped connect partners with common interests work on projects. One such connection is with Trout Unlimited's new outreach coordinator for the Kenai Peninsula, on developing another area for a community riparian planting day this coming spring.

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**3. Coordination and Collaboration:**

ADF&G sits on the steering committee for the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership. This Partnership is a diverse group of representatives from non-governmental organizations, private industry, local government, state and federal agencies and Alaska Native Tribes. The mission is to protect, maintain, restore, and enhance fish habitat. Because of this Partnership the new Trout Unlimited (TU) person reached out to ADF&G about doing another planting day come this spring. As of right now there is one potential site, however, the land manager is new and as of yet neither one of us has had the opportunity to reach out to this person.

Finally, a contractor that works closely with the program reached out asking if ADF&G could review a streambank restoration grant proposal that they are submitting with a local tribe. ADF&G was able to help them with wording and help them answer some of questions that grant was asking for.

**4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:**



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EVOSTC notice that on the personnel line that we were off by \$1.20. On March 20, 2025, staff had an admin run an audit report on the whole grant. ADF&G staff went through line by line and saw that some of the personnel numbers that were previously reported were inaccurate. In order to rectify this, we updated the excel spreadsheet from 3.1.2024 through 3.1.2025 and will resubmit them. In order to keep this from happening again, staff will only be using the audit trail report that comes out as it shows the exact dates of when charges hit the grant. Also, staff has a secondary spreadsheet that will keep a running accumulative total down to the penny so that there are no more rounding errors.

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**FY22-FY23 Biennial Review**

Science Panel	Executive Director	PAC
Not applicable	No concerns	No concerns

**Executive Director Comments**

**Date: October 2024**

Although funds were requested for FY23, the PI intends to do related project work for three years total, and this work is ongoing and progressing as planned. The PI, Jess Johnson, has successfully located and prioritized restoration and rehabilitation sites. The PI is easy to work with, communicative, and appears to efficiently implement project goals. Quarterly reports were generally submitted on time, and any expected delay and the reason for that delay is communicated to staff by the PI. Reports are well-organized and comprehensive. If any edits are needed, PI responds promptly. Funding for this project is managed by ADF&G. This project is approved for one year (FY23), but funding was not fully spent at the end of EVOS FY and was carried forward to the next FY until funding is exhausted. Staff do not have any concerns at this time.

**PAC Comments**

**Date: October 2024**

Vice Chair Stekoll asked about the installation of cabled spruce trees. Johnson explained the spruce cable protects the restoration project from wave action due to boat traffic. The spruce lasts about three years, which is enough time for planted vegetation to take hold and protect itself. Stainless steel cables are attached and permitted. If cable spruce sheets become silted over, they suggest landowners leave them in place and not disturb the bank. If the cable spruce remains exposed over time, they recommend landowners cut cables down close to the streambank or river bottom and leave the rest in place.



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Tiffany Stephens asked whether the cable spruce reflected wave energy and caused erosion. Johnson stated they instruct people to install the cable spruce as tight as possible against the shore, which works well. They often cannot find them afterwards because they are silted in.

Borer asked about meandering rivers and what happens over time if the stainless steel cables do not silt over and get entangled with boat propellers and debris. He expressed concerns as a boat operator and asked about using biodegradable material such as rope. Johnson was not aware of other materials that are as capable of tightly holding earth anchors into the ground and would not biodegrade after one season. Whissel suggested regular steel could be an option and would degrade after 10 years. Johnson stated they tell landowners to pay attention to exposed cables and snip them down.

Stekoll asked about the percentage of project completion and remaining funds. Johnson noted they have about \$55,000 left to conduct one more summer of field work, pick up and complete projects in 2025, and possibly cover some travel costs. There is also \$5,000 for a spring workshop and some additional funds left. Wang added the total EVOS funding for this project was almost \$400,000.

Whissel introduced a motion to move forward with no concerns. Stekoll seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

*No PI response required/provided.*

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## **5. Budget:**



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Budget Category:	Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	Quarterly Expenditures	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	\$0	\$90,586	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,586	\$6,540	\$45,180
Travel	\$0	\$23,580	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,580	\$569	\$2,726
Contractual	\$0	\$242,850	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$242,850	\$0	\$121,522
Commodities	\$0	\$6,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,100	\$0	\$136
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indirect Costs (report rate here)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$363,116</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$363,116</b>	<b>\$7,109</b>	<b>\$169,564</b>
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$0	\$32,680	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$32,680	\$0	N/A
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$395,796</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$395,796</b>	<b>\$55,473</b>	
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)	\$0	\$209,840	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$209,840		
<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> This summary page provides a five-year overview (FY 22-26) of proposed funding and actual cumulative spending which includes the non-trustee agency and trustee agency worksheets. <b>This Summary Page should automatically populate as the formulas reference the cells in the non-trustee agency and trustee agency worksheets. Please make sure the totals given are correct.</b> The column titled 'Actual Cumulative' will be updated each fiscal year and included in the annual report (include information on the total amount actually spent for all completed years of the project). On the Project Annual Report Form, if any line item exceeds a 10% deviation from the originally-proposed amount; provide detail regarding the reason for the deviation.</p>								
<p><b>COMMENTS:</b></p>								