



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, <https://evostc.state.ak.us/policies-procedures/reporting-procedures/>*

Project Number: 24220508

Project Title: Standardized High-Resolution Wetlands and Hydrography Data across the EVOS Region

Principal Investigator(s): Sydney Thielke, USFWS
Dr. Leslie Jones, State of Alaska
Brian Wright, USGS

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 25, 2025

Project Website: Although this project does not have a website, we have been working with the State of Alaska to produce [this storymap](#) to support stewardship and outreach of the datasets

Please check all the boxes that apply to the current reporting period.

☒ **Project progress is on schedule.**

Project is on schedule. A no-cost extension along with contract fund carryover request was submitted and approved by the EVOS Trustees on January 26, 2024. An additional contract fund carryover request was made and approved on Feb 7, 2024. We recognize this was after the official end of quarter one but wanted to have that documented. Given the extension of funds, the project is on pace to meet the newly established schedule.

☐ **Project progress is delayed**

☐ **Budget reallocation request.**



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☐ **Personnel changes.**

1. Summary of Work Performed:

This project is a continuation of 21210129. Data development for both the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and 3 Dimensional Hydrography Program (3DHP), formerly National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) is continuing on schedule.

Previous work Highlights:

The National Hydrography Dataset for the Kodiak Island and Shelikof Strait Hydrologic Units is complete and available for download on the [USGS staged products download site](#) (2023-02-09T21:13:56.000Z 54.4 MB NHD_H_19020701_HU8_GDB.zip, 2023-02-09T21:13:57.000Z 41.2 MB NHD_H_19020702_HU8_GDB.zip). This data is also undergoing USGS review for future inclusion in the 3 Dimensional Hydrography Data Program (3DHP) dataset.

The contract for the NWI across the Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound regions was awarded on May 19th, 2023 to AK Biomap. A no-cost extension and approval of use of funds to expand the footprint of 3DHP data was approved by the Trustee Council on January 26, 2024. This approval will allow for even more data to be produced under this project proposal than originally anticipated.

Preparations were made for the Summer 2024 field season with contractors, AK Biomap and Dewberry and included acquiring necessary land access and permit authorizations from USFS, State of Alaska and USFWS.

New work this quarter:

The State of Alaska officially accepted the Copper River LiDAR data after it passed through final Quality Control and Quality Assurance review. A copy of the data was provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the NWI data producers. The PIs will work with Axiom Data Science in order to transfer the data into the data management repository.

The initial 100% NWI geodatabase for the Bering Glacier watershed was submitted to USFWS for quality control review.

The initial WBD 100% geodatabase for the Bering Glacier watershed was submitted to the USGS Water and Science center for quality control review.



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The initial 3DHP 100% geodatabase for the Bering Glacier watershed was submitted to the USGS NGTOC for quality control review.

Each of these datasets will now undergo quality control and quality assurance checks and reviews prior to being returned to the agencies for completion.

2. Abstract:

This is an extension of the project 21210129, Standardized High-Resolution Wetlands and Hydrography Data across the EVOS Region, funded by the EVOSTC for FY2021 to produce wetland and hydrologic data for EVOS region watersheds. Continuous coverage of high-resolution NWI and 3DHP (formerly NHD) products do not exist for the EVOS region, yet these data are critically important for continued management and recovery of injured resources and services. This proposal requests will update wetlands mapping across 17 million acres (including the lower Copper River and Bering Glacier watersheds), update hydrography mapping on the Bering River watershed, and collect LiDAR data to enhance wetland mapping in the Copper River region. The final products will be integrated into statewide databases, compliant with national standards, and publicly available.

The NWI provides the location, characteristics and extent of wetlands, intertidal, and nearshore marine habitats. The NHD characterizes water drainage networks, including features such as rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, glaciers, and watersheds. The NWI and 3DHP are used, where available in Alaska, for habitat management, species assessments (including anadromous waters), and to make informed decisions about development activities. The data serve as baseline geospatial information needed to monitor aquatic and wetland dependent species, including those that move between freshwater and marine habitats such as salmon and migratory birds. This includes providing information about coastal wetlands and the contribution of freshwater inputs to estuarine and nearshore habitats. This proposal will provide geospatial data that can be used to assess intertidal systems, from the headwater inputs to marine interface, that support habitat for injured species and injured subsistence and recreation activities.

3. Coordination and Collaboration:

Coordination and collaboration between project partners centered around dataset deliveries and quality assurance reviews.

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:



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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

This project is progressing as planned. The PI is easy to work with, communicative, and appears to efficiently implement project goals. Quarterly reports are submitted on time and are well-organized and comprehensive. If any edits are needed, PI responds promptly. Funding for this project is managed by ADNR and USFWS. PI is responsive to budget questions. During the last quarter of FY23, PI submitted a Proposal Amendment to use excess funding to continue their work in developing hydrography and wetlands data across the EVOS region. Due to the amount requested for reallocation (>25% of the budget), the Proposal Amendment was reviewed and approved by the Trustee Council at its January 26, 2024 meeting. Staff do not have concerns at this time.

PAC Comments

Date: October 2024

Stekoll asked how they use LiDAR. Thielke stated LiDAR data helps them understand how very small changes in elevation change the type of wetlands on the landscape. They looked at breaks from estuarine to riverine or to freshwater as well as break points between their wetland mapping system. In very flat landscapes like the Copper River Delta and Western Alaska, there was a huge transition area in those zones. LiDAR data is an ancillary data source that directly informs where they draw the wetland breaks in their maps. Borer asked how much more does the LiDAR data inform their maps? Thielke suggested there is much more detail and described the pulse density and vertical accuracy requirements.

Whissel introduced a motion to continue with no concerns. Borer seconded, and there was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

No PI response required/provided



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5. Budget:

A comprehensive review of quarterly expenses over the life of this project was completed in Q4 of FY23.

The budget presented here is a combination of two projects in order to provide cumulative totals for the entire scope of the mapping project in a single spreadsheet. Please notice a column for FY21 has been added and the total represents six years, not five. Also, new for this quarter of reporting, three budget scenarios are provided for clarity. This includes the total project combined as well as separate screen shots of the individual Alaska DNR and USFWS budgets.

The Alaska DNR budget includes cost overruns for personnel that have been accounted for over previous quarterly reports. There has been no reallocation of line-item expenditures. The ADNR is working to reconcile the overrun for FY22 and FY23 personnel expenses throughout the life of the project and only total proposed expenditures are anticipated at the culmination of the project.

USFWS completed on a request to the EVOS office regarding expanding the coverage for new hydrography data using remaining contractual resources. The request did not include any reallocation of budget categories.

Combined Budget

Budget Category:	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	6-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	Quarterly Expenditures	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel		\$27,385	\$27,385	\$27,385	\$27,385	\$0	\$109,541	\$ -	\$84,586
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -	\$0
Contractual	\$1,650,000	\$3,316,380	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,966,380	\$ -	\$4,966,198
Commodities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indirect Costs (report rate here)	\$0	\$2,818	\$2,818	\$2,818	\$2,818	\$0	\$11,271	\$0	\$8,891
									\$0
SUBTOTAL	\$1,650,000	\$3,346,583	\$30,203	\$30,203	\$30,203	\$0	\$5,087,192		\$5,059,675

Alaska DNR Budget

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	\$15,654	\$15,654	\$15,654	\$15,654	\$0	\$62,617	\$0	\$49,393
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual	\$924,762	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$924,762	\$0	\$924,762
Commodities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indirect Costs	Rate = 18%	\$2,818	\$2,818	\$2,818	\$0	\$11,271	\$0	\$8,891
SUBTOTAL	\$943,234	\$18,472	\$18,472	\$18,472	\$0	\$998,650		\$983,046

USFWS Budget



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Budget Category:		FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	6-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	Quarterly Expenditures	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel			\$11,731	\$11,731	\$11,731	\$11,731	\$0	\$46,924	\$ -	\$ 35,193
Travel		\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -	\$0
Contractual		\$1,650,000	\$2,391,618	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,041,618	-	\$ 4,041,436
Commodities		\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Equipment		\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Indirect Costs	Rate = 0%	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
SUBTOTAL		\$1,650,000	\$2,403,349	\$11,731	\$11,731	\$11,731	\$0	\$4,088,542		\$4,076,629