



**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:** 25220508

**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 (retired)

**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:** Late Submission: March 9, 2026, Revised May 10, 2026

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

Additional relevant data access points include:

- [USFWS Wetlands Mapper](#)
- [USGS National Hydrography Products](#)
- [Alaska LiDAR Status Map](#)

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

**Project progress is on schedule.**

**Project progress is delayed**

**There is no anticipated change to the overall project completion date.** However, delivery of the interim lidar products has been delayed due to weather-related data acquisition challenges across multiple field seasons, which resulted in cascading schedule impacts. The dataset is



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currently undergoing quality control review, and the vendor has been instructed to resolve the remaining compliance items identified during review prior to final acceptance.

**Budget reallocation request.**

**Personnel changes.**

Brian Wright, USGS, has retired from Federal Service. A new PI from USGS has not been identified. Coordination with USGS continues through various personnel.

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### **1. Summary of Work Performed:**

This project is a continuation of 21210129.

The team is continuing to coordinate closely with Axiom Data Science to ensure effective data management, documentation, and long-term accessibility of project deliverables.

Work associated with the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP), and lidar acquisition and processing remains underway and is progressing. These components are on track for completion prior to the project end date, with ongoing coordination and quality oversight to ensure all final products meet required standards and specifications.

#### **Previous work Highlights:**

The National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) for the Kodiak Island and Shelikof Strait Hydrologic Unit (HU8) watersheds (19020701 and 19020702) has been completed and is publicly available for download through 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). In addition, these datasets are currently undergoing USGS technical review for future integration into the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP), ensuring alignment with national hydrography standards and elevation-derived specifications.

Contracts to complete National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) mapping across the spill zone were awarded to NV5, Dewberry and AK Biomap. All NWI data have successfully completed internal quality assurance and quality control review and were released prior to, or as part of the November 2025 update to the [USFWS Wetlands Mapper](#).

The State of Alaska formally accepted the Copper River lidar dataset following successful completion of final Quality Assurance and Quality Control review. A copy of the approved dataset has been provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and to NWI data producers to



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support wetlands mapping and hydrography integration. The Principal Investigators will coordinate with Axiom Data Science to ensure transfer of the lidar dataset into the designated data management repository in accordance with project data stewardship requirements.

A no-cost extension and authorization to apply project funds toward expansion of the 3DHP data footprint were approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council on January 26, 2024. This approval enables production of a broader geographic extent of 3DHP data than originally proposed, thereby increasing the overall value and applicability of project deliverables.

The Cook Inlet 3DHP and final expanded PWS LiDAR data are in progress.

All project funds have been fully obligated. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State of Alaska in-kind contributions will continue through the duration of the project to ensure completion of all contractual obligations and data management requirements in compliance with EVOSTC and respective agency policies.

A contract fund carryover request was submitted and approved on February 7, 2024, ensuring financial continuity to support completion of the expanded scope of work.

**New work this quarter:**

As of November 2025, all National Wetlands Inventory data has been posted to the public facing Wetlands Mapper and is available for download.

Project management activities related to reporting, data stewardship, invoicing, and final data production remain ongoing. Coordination among partners continues to ensure compliance with contractual, financial, and technical standards, as well as alignment with agency policies and trustee expectations.

There is continued advancement of final deliverables associated with the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP) products within the greater Cook Inlet region, led collaboratively by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Concurrently, final lidar processing, quality assurance, and delivery efforts for the State of Alaska are progressing to support integration with hydrography and wetlands mapping datasets.

All remaining technical, administrative, and data management deliverables are on schedule for completion by the end of calendar year 2026. Formal project closeout activities, including final reporting and financial reconciliation, remain on track for completion by January 31, 2027.

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**2. Abstract:**



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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.

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### **3. Coordination and Collaboration:**

Coordination and collaboration between project partners centered around dataset deliveries and quality assurance reviews. This includes standard communication on NWI and NHD/3DHP status through the Alaska Geospatial Council Wetlands and Hydrography working groups.

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

NA

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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 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. Three budget scenarios are provided for



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clarity. This includes the total project combined as well as separate screen shots of the individual Alaska DNR and USFWS budgets.

**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	\$ 2,601	\$107,531
Travel		\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -	\$0
Contractual		\$1,650,000	\$3,316,380	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,966,380	\$ 292,713	\$4,632,980
Commodities		\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment		\$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	\$0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,650,000</b>	<b>\$3,346,583</b>	<b>\$30,203</b>	<b>\$30,203</b>	<b>\$30,203</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,087,192</b>		<b>\$4,740,512</b>

**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	\$2,601	\$ 60,188
Travel		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Contractual		\$924,762	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$924,762	\$0	\$ 818,912
Commodities		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Equipment		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Indirect Costs	Rate = 18%	\$2,818	\$2,818	\$2,818	\$2,818	\$0	\$11,271	\$0	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$943,234</b>	<b>\$18,472</b>	<b>\$18,472</b>	<b>\$18,472</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$998,650</b>	<b>\$2,601</b>	<b>\$879,100</b>

**USFWS Budget**

Budget Category:		FY 21	FY22	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	\$ -	\$ 47,343
Travel		\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -	\$0
Contractual		\$1,650,000	\$2,391,618	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,041,618	\$ 292,713	\$ 3,814,069
Commodities		\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment		\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indirect Costs	Rate = 0%	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,650,000</b>	<b>\$2,403,349</b>	<b>\$11,731</b>	<b>\$11,731</b>	<b>\$11,731</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,088,542</b>		<b>\$3,861,412</b>



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	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
<b>Milestone/Task</b>	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Milestone: Lidar</b>																				
Contract Lidar	X	X			X	X	X	X												
Collect Lidar			X	€						C	C			C	C					
Process and Deliver Lidar					X	X	€					€	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Milestone: NWI and NHD</b>																				
Contract NWI areas	X	X	X	C																
Contract NWI/NHD areas	X	X	X	C																
NWI field work					X	X	X	C												
NWI/NHD draft									X	X	X	C								
NWI/NHD QC													X	X	X	C				
NWI/NHD QA														X	X	C				
Contract NHD/3DHP areas (req. 11/21/23)*								X	X											
NHD/3DHP QA/QC (req 11/21/23)*															X	X	X	X	X	C
<b>Reporting:</b>																				
Annual progress report					X				X				X							
FY work plan			X				X				X				X					
Final report/Project results													X	X	X	€	X	X	X	C
<b>Deliverables:</b>																				
QL1 Lidar – batch 1						€						€				C				



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Milestone/Task	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
QL1 Lidar – batch 2												€				
Report on process and attributes																€
Field data Package																€
NWI Geodatabase																C
NHD Geodatabase																€
Outreach materials																€

**\*NHD/3DHP work was new work in light of 11/21/23 request to the EVOSTC to add additional deliverables to this project.**

Milestone chart key

- X – initial or subsequently reviewed and approved milestones showing task work period
- C – initial or subsequently reviewed and approved completion milestone
- X – adjusted milestones showing task work period based on narrative in this quarterly report
- C – adjusted milestone completion date based on narrative in this quarterly report
- X – missed/revise milestone for task work period
- C – missed/revise milestone for completion milestone

Milestone/Task	FY21				FY22				FY23			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Milestone-Contracting</b>												
Announce contract(s)	x											
Award contract(s)		x										
<b>Milestone-Premapping</b>												
Data gathering			x									
Desktop Data Creation				x								
<b>Milestone-Field work</b>												
Site Identification					x							
Data Collection								x				
Data Synthesis								x				
<b>Milestone-Data Production</b>												



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Geodatabase population											X		
QA/QC												X	
<b>Reporting</b>													
Interim (quarterly) reports	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
FY work plan	X				X				X				
Final Project report													X
<b>Deliverables</b>													
Field Data package													X
Final attribute report													X
NHD gdb													X
NWI gdb													X
Project Outreach				X					X				X