

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Habitat Protection Program

PURPOSE OF HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM

- To contribute to the restoration of resources and services injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill by promoting natural recovery by removing the threat of additional injury by development activities.
- Resources and services injured by the spill include:
 - Sockeye Salmon
 - Pink salmon
 - Dolly Varden
 - Cutthroat Trout
 - Pacific Herring
 - Bald eagle
 - Black Oystercatcher
 - Wilderness
 - Harlequin Duck
 - Intertidal/Subtidal
 - Marbled Murrelet
 - Pigeon Guillemot
 - River Otter
 - Sea Otter
 - Common Murre
 - Harbor Seal
 - Recreation
 - Tourism
 - Subsistence
 - Archaeological Resources

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS – EVOS Threshold Criteria

- Property must be in the spill affected area (see Blue Line map)
- Willing seller
- The parcel must contain key habitats that are linked to, replace or provide the equivalent of, or substitute for injured resources or services based on scientific data or other relevant information
- The seller acknowledges that the governments can purchase the parcel or property rights only at or below fair market value.
- Recovery of the injured resource or service would benefit from protection in addition to that provided by the owner and applicable laws and regulations, and
- The acquired property rights can reasonably be incorporated into public land management systems.

INITIAL SCREENING CRITERIA

Landowners are required to submit a nomination form containing the following information in addition to the previously described threshold criteria to a sponsoring (managing) agency.

(http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/commis/reclands/SmallParcel_process.pdf)

- Landowner information – address, phone, co-owners
- Subsurface owner
- Location of property and legal description
- Approximate acreage of parcel
- General description of property
- Description of any improvements on the parcel
- Hazardous materials on the parcel
- Why are you nominating this parcel
- Additional information such as plats, deeds, etc.
- Maps and color photographs

SMALL PARCEL CRITERIA

Nominations are then evaluated against a series of criteria designed to determine the extent to which a parcel provides restoration benefits to injured resources and/or services. Nominations are reviewed by the sponsoring (or managing) agency. Specific criteria can be found in the nomination form packet.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND FUNDING PROCESS

State prioritization and submission:

- Proposals are received by the managing agency and forwarded to the EVOS Restoration Office.
- If proposals meet Threshold Criteria, they are then evaluated against the State's Initial Screening Criteria (<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/commis/reclands.htm>), the appropriate small or large parcel program criteria, and subjected to initial due diligence screening.
- EVOS project manager for sponsoring agency in consultation with the managing agency and the restoration office will submit a proposal to the Trustee Council for consideration.

Trustee Council Review

- The proposal is noticed with the Trustee Council meeting agenda to provide for public review and comment.
- The Trustee Council will consider the proposal and in many instances if the proposal is of interest, funds will be authorized for due diligence efforts such as appraisals, title review and hazardous materials surveys.

- Upon completion of the appraisal process, the parcel will be brought back before the Trustee Council for final consideration.
- Should the Council choose to fund the purchase and authorize the expenditure of trust funds, the sponsoring agency will work to secure permission to receive and expend EVOS funds for that particular purpose from the Legislature.
- A parcel will need to be included in the Capital Budget and funding if approved by the Legislature and the Governor will be available after July 1 of the calendar year.

SCHEDULE

- Proposals may be submitted at any time.