

**Exxon Valdez Oil Spill - Parcel Purchase on Kenai River
Mile 11**

**FY2012 Request: \$1,100,000
Reference No: AMD 54666**

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Parks / Recreation

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Kenai

House District: Kenai/Soldotna (HD 33)

Impact House District: Kenai Areawide (HD 33-35)

Contact: Jean Davis

Estimated Project Dates: 04/15/2012 - 06/30/2016

Contact Phone: (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Civil settlement funds from the Exxon Valdez oil spill will be used to purchase approximately 52 acres on the Kenai River located at River Mile 11. The parcel would provide public access and a safe boat launch. The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOS) determined this parcel contributes to the restoration of resources and services injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Acquisition of this parcel will enhance access to public lands, assist in resource management, and provide benefits to the local communities. This activity is consistent with Objective III of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's Ten-Year Strategic Plan, to pursue new state park lands and access to meet current and future demand.

Funding:	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
EVOSS	\$1,100,000						\$1,100,000
Total:	\$1,100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,100,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	1,100,000	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	1,100,000	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

No prior funding history.

Project Description/Justification:

The small parcel that has been approved for purchase with settlement funds by the Trustee Council is a 52 acre parcel (known as the Poore parcel) located at Kenai River Mile 11. If acquired the Poore parcel will provide public access to a safe boat launch on the lower river where the recreational, fishing, hunting and subsistence activities have the greatest concentration. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will manage the parcel.

The acquisition of this parcel is intended to promote natural recovery of spill-injured resources and services by removing the threat of additional development impacts, while providing recreational, sportfishing, and subsistence access to a popular location. The small parcel process was revised and reaffirmed by the Trustee Council in August 2005 and is currently open and accepting nominations from willing sellers. The small parcel process considers parcels less than 1,000 acres in areas injured by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill (EVOS), and evaluates their anticipated benefit to resources and services such as recreation, tourism, sportfishing, subsistence and commercial fishing. The small parcel program also considers the unique benefits that small parcels can provide in relation to the

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surrounding environment, management units, and local communities. From the State's perspective, the small parcel program has, in addition to benefiting EVOS injured resources and service, provided unique benefits and opportunities to facilitate public access, addressed resource management issues, and provided benefits to local communities.

To ensure fairness and due diligence on the part of the state and federal governments, the small parcel program pays no more than fair market value for parcels acquired, as determined by an EVOS adopted appraisal process. All parcels are appraised by a contract appraiser adhering to the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) as adopted by the Appraisal Standards Board of the Appraisal Foundation and the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (UASFLA). In addition, the EVOS appraisal process requires an independent review of the appraisal. This is done via contract to ensure objectivity.

Habitat protection has been a major component of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration process since its inception. The concept of habitat protection enjoyed strong public support during the development of the Environmental Impact Statement and resulting Restoration Plan. Habitat protection is consistent with the terms of the settlement with Exxon and the Memorandum of Agreement that defines how the three State and three Federal trustees will administer settlement funds. Trustee Council and congressional action in 1999 established a research and restoration sub-account and a habitat sub-account from which funds for this acquisition will be drawn. No general funds will be used.

Should these funds not be authorized, the acquisitions will likely not go forward. Landowners will find other interested buyers and these opportunities to address access issues along the Kenai River will be lost. The public's ability to access parklands using traditional access routes diminishes as communities and populations grow and expand. Taking steps to address access issues now will likely be more cost effective as settlement funds are available now and land continues to appreciate.

Acquisition of these parcels is not estimated to increase annual ongoing operating or maintenance costs. All parcels are located adjacent to state owned lands and will be managed consistent with and in concert with the adjacent state lands.

Project support is generally locally based for the small parcel program. In addition conservation minded organizations such as The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy, as well as other hunting and fishing interest groups are supportive of projects providing additional access to and opportunities to enjoy state lands and resources.

Specific Spending Detail:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION (text)
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,100,000	Parcel acquisition