

EVOS Purchase of Interest in Land - Thorsheim Drainage, Northern Afognak Island **FY2018 Request: \$7,000,000**
Reference No: 61667

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Kodiak **House District:** Kodiak/Cordova/Seldovia (HD 32)
Impact House District: Kodiak/Cordova/Seldovia (HD 32) **Contact:** Fabienne Peter-Contesse
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2017 - 06/30/2022 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council is proposing to fund the purchase of approximately 1,960 acres of surface estate on Afognak Island, which includes the outlet of Thorsheim Lake, almost the entirety of the Thorsheim Creek Drainage, the lands surrounding the productive waters of its mouth on the southern shore of Paramanof Bay, and adjacent forested coastal habitat. Funds would be drawn from the EVOS Trust Fund to accomplish this purchase

Funding:	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	Total
1018 EVOSS	\$7,000,000						\$7,000,000
Total:	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000,000

<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 type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

No prior funding history.

Project Description/Justification:

Northern Afognak Island is ranked among the most productive fish and wildlife habitats in the Gulf of Alaska region. The Thorsheim Drainage is an exceptionally ecologically rich and productive salmon system on the shore of Paramanof Bay that also provides essential habitat for herring and other fishes, marine mammals, land mammals including brown bears and elk, and multiple species of sea and shore birds that were injured by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill. The waters adjacent to the parcel's coastline are known for their extensive eel grass beds, which provides rich habitat for juvenile salmon and other species. The parcel is also heavily forested and has significant intertidal and riparian wetlands. Adjacent lands to the south have already been logged and a logging road has been constructed to the edge of the parcel with the owner's intention of commencing logging if this purchase is not concluded. Purchase of the property would permanently protect this important salmon habitat from the impacts of logging and also ensure that the public is afforded open access for hunting, fishing and other recreational activities. Legislative approval to expend the Trust Fund monies is needed in order to complete the purchase.

Line Item	Amount
1000 – Personal Services	\$0.0
2000 – Travel	\$0.0
3000 – Services	\$0.0
4000 – Commodities	\$0.0
5000 – Capital Outlay	\$7,000,000
7000 – Grants	\$0.0
Total Project	\$7,000,000