EVOS Purchase of Interest in Land - Thorsheim Drainage, Northern Afognak Island

FY2018 Request: $7,000,000
Reference No: 61667

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Kodiak

Project Type: Renewal and Replacement
House District: Kodiak/Cordova/Seldovia (HD 32)
Contact: Fabienne Peter-Contesse

Impact House District: Kodiak/Cordova/Seldovia (HD 32)
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.

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

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.
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<thead>
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<th>Line Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td><strong>Total Project</strong></td>
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