

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Purchase Deep Creek Properties

FY2020 Request: \$500,000
Reference No: 62524

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Kenai Peninsula (Homer/South Kenai) **House District:** Homer/South Kenai (HD 31)
Impact House District: Homer/South Kenai (HD 31) **Contact:** Fabienne Peter-Contesse
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2024 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council proposed the purchase of an 88.3 acre parcel containing half a mile of Deep Creek frontage plus 3.5 to 5 acres in portions of subdivision lots immediately adjacent to the Deep Creek parcel to secure public access to the riverine property. Legislative approval is required to access funds from the EVOS Investment Trust Fund for the purchase of the properties. This acquisition would ensure long-term management and protection of threatened habitat for salmon and other spill-affected fish species and provide managed access for sport and commercial fishing, passive use recreation, and tourism.

Funding:	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Total
1018 EVOSS	\$500,000						\$500,000
Total:	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input 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:

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

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

The EVOS Trustee Council has focused on acquiring properties on the Kenai Peninsula, including within the Deep Creek watershed, to facilitate public use and protection of riverine, riparian and wetland habitat since 1994. The Deep Creek watershed includes the Ninilchik River, Kasilof River, and Anchor River.

The Deep Creek properties include the Raemaker /Ryherd parcel, which is located approximately two miles south of Ninilchik, upstream of the Deep Creek State Recreation Area and portions of subdivision lots owned by Simonds. The Simonds lots are immediately adjacent to the Deep Creek parcel and would secure public access to the riverine property, which is currently not road accessible. The properties are considered to be under threat for non-compatible development.

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The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (DFG) manages an onsite fish weir, which is the key infrastructure necessary for management of the Deep Creek fisheries. The fish species here are important food sources for nearshore populations of sea otters, sea lions, and orca whales.

DNR would hold title of the property. While DNR is making no commitment for property improvements or active management, the requested funding from the EVOS Investment Trust Fund would support due diligence activities such as property value appraisal conducted by an authorized third-party, final purchase price with closing costs, and initial enhancements prior to the property being transferred to DFG for management. A conservation easement would be conveyed to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for the property following acquisition. Public ownership of this parcel would support fisheries management, conserve habitat, and enhance sport and commercial fishing, passive use recreation, and tourism.