


ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE Division of Legislative Finance



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 6, 2022
TO: Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
FROM: Alexei Painter, Director 
SUBJECT: Preparation for the July 14, 2022 LB&A Meeting

OMB submitted the following FY23 RPLs for consideration at the July 14, 2022 Legislative Budget and Audit Committee meeting. These RPLs, along with Legislative Finance comments, are posted on our website at <http://www.legfin.akleg.gov>.

RPL#	Agency	Allocation/Program	Amount	Fund Source
11-2023-0001	DFG	EVOS Port Graham Corporation General Restoration & Habitat Protection	\$3,271,353	Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Settlement (1018 EVOS) Operating
11-2023-0002	DFG	EVOS Kenai Peninsula Stream Watch	\$151,871	EVOS Settlement (1018 EVOS) Operating
11-2023-0003	DFG	EVOS Status and Trends of EVOS Injured Seabirds	\$354,871	EVOS Settlement (1018 EVOS) Operating
11-2023-0004	DFG	EVOS Chugach Regional Ocean Monitoring Program	\$892,950	EVOS Settlement (1018 EVOS) Operating

11-2023-0005	DFG	EVOS Prince William Sound Kelp Mariculture Development for Habitat Restoration and Local Economy	\$1,064,505	EVOS Settlement (1018 EVOS) Operating
11-2023-0006	DFG	EVOS Social, Cultural, and Economic Assessment of Kelp Mariculture Opportunities for Coastal Villages Within the EVOS Spill Zone	\$1,108,199	EVOS Settlement (1018 EVOS) Operating
11-2023-0007	DFG	EVOS Community Organized Restoration and Learning [CORaL] Network	\$3,543,600	EVOS Settlement (1018 EVOS) Operating
11-2023-0008	DFG	EVOS Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium	\$32,729	EVOS Settlement (1018 EVOS) Operating
11-2023-0009	DFG	EVOS Culture Camp Funding for the Chugach Region	\$719,251	EVOS Settlement (1018 EVOS) Operating

If you have any questions that you want an agency to address at the meeting, please call us so we can help ensure the agency has a response prepared.

**Department of Fish & Game
Statewide Support Services
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**

Subject of RPL: EVOS Port Graham Corporation General Restoration & Habitat Protection	ADN/RPL #: 11-2023-0001
Amount requested: \$3,271,353	Appropriation Authority: Sec1 Ch 11 SLA2022 Pg18 Ln17
Funding source: EVOS (1018) FY2023 Operating	Statutory Authority: AS 37.14.405

PURPOSE

The Port Graham Corporation (PGC) General Restoration & Habitat Protection is a five-year project that will create the tools and infrastructure necessary for PGC to protect subsistence areas, restore resources and services, and protect and enhance critical habitats injured by the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS). Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.

This project is one of forty projects approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) in meetings held on October 13, 2021, and January 18, 2022. This year's EVOSTC approved projects consists of 70% more projects than over the last five years.

This project aligns with the EVOSTC's restoration mission through research and monitoring, habitat protection and general restoration. Funding for this project is through the Exxon civil settlement funds, and the total includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency. Annual funding will be spent during FY2023.

The mission of the EVOSTC is to work toward restoring and enhancing the environment injured by the EVOS to a healthy and productive ecosystem through the use of the EVOS settlement. The core services of the EVOSTC includes:

- EVOSTC was formed to oversee the 1991 joint civil settlement funds to restore, replace, enhance, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources injured as a result of the oil spill and reduced or lost services provided by such resources. EVOSTC consists of three State of Alaska trustees and three Federal trustees.
- The program is funded through the civil settlement fund and investment earnings of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Investment Joint Trust Fund. These funds are considered joint trust funds of the State and Federal governments. Guidelines for the use of the funds were approved by the U.S. District Court in 1991, as well as being subject to other applicable court orders, and state and federal law. The U.S. District Court retains jurisdiction to review and approve all expenditures from the joint trust funds.
- EVOSTC approves and oversees projects and programs that focus restoration activities on supporting the resources affected by EVOS; scientific research regarding natural recovery and monitoring; habitat enhancement and protection; public participation; project oversight and evaluation; and efficient management and administration of the joint trust funds.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION

There are no prior legislative considerations for this project.

TIMING ISSUES

In order to gather more detailed project-specific information, the project was held for inclusion in the Legislative Budget and Audit process.

The funding for this project has been released from the EVOSTC Investment Accounts managed by Alaska Department of Revenue and is available for immediate disbursement to Project Investigators (PIs) pending approval of budget authority to process project contracts. The approval is required expeditiously for the PI to start work in this year's field season (summer 2022) as planned. Additional delay will cause the project to be far behind its original schedule, with potential additional costs, loss of efficiencies from coordination with other simultaneously approved projects and will possibly require further action to extend the term of the project.

BUDGETARY ISSUES

Full funding for the entire life of the project was approved by the EVOSTC, but funds are released to PIs annually to preserve investment returns and based on review of annual project performance. An EVOS fiscal year runs from February 1st – January 31st, which does present a challenge when lining up authority with the State fiscal year (July 1st- June 30th) budget process, but future receipt authority requests for this multiyear project will be included within the annual State budget process.

Legislative Fiscal Analyst Comment: This RPL expands existing authority for EVOS remediation efforts, appropriated in FY23 under the Department of Fish and Game, Statewide Support Services appropriation. This is a multi-year project, and the RPL approves one year of funding for FY23. Ideally this would have been included in the regular appropriations process as a capital project proposal, but the RPL process would allow the work to be initiated in FY23, and the agency could propose to move it to capital in the FY23 supplemental budget request.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trust fund is a joint State and federal trust, as established under the 1991 Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree between the United States and the State of Alaska. It is recognized in statute under AS 37.14.400. The fund is classified as a Trust/Fiduciary fund and categorized as Other due to restrictions on expenditure. Because this is a joint State and federal fund, the EVOSTC may approve the expenditure of EVOS funds for projects managed by certain federal agencies without legislative approval. State agencies require specific legislative authorization as well as EVOSTC project approval to expend EVOS funds.

**Department of Fish & Game
Statewide Support Services
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**

Subject of RPL: EVOS Kenai Peninsula Stream Watch	ADN/RPL #: 11-2023-0002
Amount requested: \$151,871	Appropriation Authority: Sec1 Ch 11 SLA2022 Pg18 Ln17
Funding source: EVOS (1018) FY2023 Operating	Statutory Authority: AS 37.14.405

PURPOSE

The Kenai Peninsula Stream Watch is a five-year project that will implement five seasons of protecting, restoring, and enhancing critical riparian habitat on the Southern Kenai Peninsula, laying a foundation for future success of the program in the area, and provide meaningful service, leadership, and educational opportunities in local communities. Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.

This project is one of forty projects approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) in meetings held on October 13, 2021, and January 18, 2022. This year's EVOSTC approved projects consists of 70% more projects than over the last five years.

This project aligns with the EVOSTC's restoration mission through research and monitoring, habitat protection and general restoration. Funding for this project is through the Exxon civil settlement funds, and the total includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency. Annual funding will be spent during FY2023.

The mission of the (EVOSTC) is to work toward restoring and enhancing the environment injured by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) to a healthy and productive ecosystem through the use of the EVOS settlement. The core services of the EVOSTC includes:

- EVOSTC was formed to oversee the 1991 joint civil settlement funds to restore, replace, enhance, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources injured as a result of the oil spill and reduced or lost services provided by such resources. EVOSTC consists of three State of Alaska trustees and three Federal trustees.
- The program is funded through the civil settlement fund and invested earnings of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Investment Joint Trust Fund. These funds are considered joint trust funds of the State and Federal governments. Guidelines for the use of the funds were approved by the U.S. District Court in 1991, as well as being subject to other applicable court orders, and state and federal law. The U.S. District Court retains jurisdiction to review and approve all expenditures from the joint trust funds.
- EVOSTC approves and oversees projects and programs that focus restoration activities on supporting the resources affected by EVOS; scientific research regarding natural recovery and monitoring; habitat enhancement and protection;

Agency Contact: Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, (907) 267-2591
LFD Contact: Morgan Foss, Fiscal Analyst, (907) 465-5410

public participation; project oversight and evaluation; and efficient management and administration of the joint trust funds.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION

There are no prior legislative considerations for this project.

TIMING ISSUES

In order to gather more detailed project-specific information, the project was held for inclusion in the Legislative Budget and Audit process.

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BUDGETARY ISSUES

Full funding for the entire life of the project was approved by the EVOSTC, but funds are released to PIs annually to preserve investment returns and based on review of annual project performance. An EVOS fiscal year runs from February 1st – January 31st, which does present a challenge when lining up authority with the State fiscal year (July 1st- June 30th) budget process, but future receipt authority requests for this multiyear project will be included within the annual State budget process.

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**Department of Fish & Game
Statewide Support Services
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**

Subject of RPL: EVOS Status and Trends of EVOS Injured Seabirds	ADN/RPL #: 11-2023-0003
Amount requested: \$354,871	Appropriation Authority: Sec1 Ch 11 SLA2022 Pg18 Ln17
Funding source: EVOS (1018) FY2023 Operating	Statutory Authority: AS 37.14.405

PURPOSE

The Status and Trends of Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Injured Seabirds is a five-year project that will explain trends in abundance and productivity of three injured seabird species that are not recovering from the oil spill, or whose recovery status is unknown, in two regions impacted by the spill: Kenai Peninsula Coast and Kachemak Bay, thus supporting the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) in assessment of their recovery status. Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.

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This project aligns with the EVOSTC's restoration mission through research and monitoring, habitat protection and general restoration. It contributes to the long-term research and restoration mission of the EVOSTC. Funding for this project is through the Exxon civil settlement funds, and the total includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency. Annual funding will be spent during FY2023.

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PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION

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**Department of Fish & Game
Statewide Support Services
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**

Subject of RPL: EVOS Chugach Regional Ocean Monitoring Program	ADN/RPL #: 11-2023-0004
Amount requested: \$892,950	Appropriation Authority: Sec1 Ch 11 SLA2022 Pg18 Ln17
Funding source: EVOS (1018) FY2023 Operating	Statutory Authority: AS 37.14.405

PURPOSE

The Chugach Regional Ocean Monitoring Program is a 10-year Tribally led initiative to monitor baseline oceanic conditions and phytoplankton dynamics for safe shellfish harvest in the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill-affected areas of Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet, Alaska. Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.

This project is one of forty projects approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) in meetings held on October 13, 2021, and January 18, 2022. This year's EVOSTC approved projects consists of 70% more projects than over the last five years.

This project aligns with the EVOSTC's restoration mission through research and monitoring, habitat protection and general restoration. It contributes to the long-term research mission of the EVOSTC. Funding for this project is through the Exxon civil settlement funds, and the total includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency. Annual funding will be spent during FY2023.

The mission of the EVOSTC is to work toward restoring and enhancing the environment injured by the EVOS to a healthy and productive ecosystem through the use of the EVOS settlement. The core services of the EVOSTC includes:

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- The program is funded through the civil settlement fund and investment earnings of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Investment Joint Trust Fund. These funds are considered joint trust funds of the State and Federal governments. Guidelines for the use of the funds were approved by the U.S. District Court in 1991, as well as being subject to other applicable court orders, and state and federal law. The U.S. District Court retains jurisdiction to review and approve all expenditures from the joint trust funds.
- EVOSTC approves and oversees projects and programs that focus restoration activities on supporting the resources affected by EVOS; scientific research regarding natural recovery and monitoring; habitat enhancement and protection; public participation; project oversight and evaluation; and efficient management and administration of the joint trust funds.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION

There are no prior legislative considerations for this project.

TIMING ISSUES

In order to gather more detailed project-specific information, the project was held for inclusion in the Legislative Budget and Audit process.

The funding for this project has been released from the EVOSTC Investment Accounts managed by Alaska Department of Revenue and is available for immediate disbursement to Project Investigators (PIs) pending approval of budget authority to process project contracts. The approval is required expeditiously for the PI to start work in this year's field season (summer 2022) as planned. Additional delay will cause the project to be far behind its original schedule, with potential additional costs, loss of efficiencies from coordination with other simultaneously approved projects and will possibly require further action to extend the term of the project.

BUDGETARY ISSUES

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**Department of Fish & Game
Statewide Support Services
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**

Subject of RPL: EVOS Prince William Sound Kelp Mariculture Development for Habitat Restoration and Local Economy	ADN/RPL #: 11-2023-0005
Amount requested: \$1,064,505	Appropriation Authority: Sec1 Ch 11 SLA2022 Pg18 Ln17
Funding source: EVOS (1018) FY2023 Operating	Statutory Authority: AS 37.14.405

PURPOSE

The Prince William Sound Kelp Mariculture Development for Habitat Restoration and Local Economy is a five-year project that aims to enable Native Alaskan and coastal communities in the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Area to play a significant role in building a regenerative ocean farming economy and establishing sustainable kelp farming industry in Prince William Sound based on best practices that fulfill long-term restoration goals for the ecosystem. Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.

This project is one of forty projects approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) in meetings held on October 13, 2021, and January 18, 2022. This year's EVOSTC approved projects consists of 70% more projects than over the last five years.

This project aligns with the EVOSTC's restoration mission through research and monitoring, habitat protection and general restoration. Funding for this project is through the Exxon civil settlement funds, and the total includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency. Annual funding will be spent during FY2023.

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- EVOSTC approves and oversees projects and programs that focus restoration activities on supporting the resources affected by EVOS; scientific research

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LFD Contact: Morgan Foss, Fiscal Analyst, (907) 465-5410

regarding natural recovery and monitoring; habitat enhancement and protection; public participation; project oversight and evaluation; and efficient management and administration of the joint trust funds.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION

There are no prior legislative considerations for this project.

TIMING ISSUES

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The funding for this project has been released from the EVOSTC Investment Accounts managed by Alaska Department of Revenue and is available for immediate disbursement to Project Investigators (PIs) pending approval of budget authority to process project contracts. The approval is required expeditiously for the PI to start work in this year's field season (summer 2022) as planned. Additional delay will cause the project to be far behind its original schedule, with potential additional costs, loss of efficiencies from coordination with other simultaneously approved projects and will possibly require further action to extend the term of the project.

BUDGETARY ISSUES

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**Department of Fish and Game
Statewide Support Services
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**

Subject of RPL: EVOS Social, Cultural, and Economic Assessment of Kelp Mariculture Opportunities for Coastal Villages Within the EVOS Spill Zone	ADN/RPL #: 11-2023-0006
Amount requested: \$1,108,199	Appropriation Authority: Sec1 Ch 11 SLA2022 Pg18 Ln17
Funding source: EVOS (1018) FY2023 Operating	Statutory Authority: AS 37.14.405

PURPOSE

The Social, cultural, and economic assessment of kelp mariculture opportunities for coastal villages within the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) zone is a five-year project that will assess how Indigenous kelp mariculture operations within the spill zone would be socially beneficial, economically viable and compatible with local cultural values of coastal communities. Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities

This project is one of forty projects approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) in meetings held on October 13, 2021, and January 18, 2022. This year's EVOSTC approved projects consists of 70% more projects than over the last five years.

This project aligns with the EVOSTC's restoration mission through research and monitoring, habitat protection and general restoration. Funding for this project is through the Exxon civil settlement funds, and the total includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency. Annual funding will be spent during FY2023.

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**Department of Fish & Game
Statewide Support Services
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**

Subject of RPL: EVOS Community Organized Restoration and Learning [CORaL] Network	ADN/RPL #: 11-2023-0007
Amount requested: \$3,543,600	Appropriation Authority: Sec1 Ch 11 SLA2022 Pg18 Ln17
Funding source: EVOS (1018) FY2023 Operating	Statutory Authority: AS 37.14.405

PURPOSE

The Community Organized Restoration and Learning [CORaL] Network is a five-year project that will create and maintain an ongoing framework that builds the capacity of existing resources within the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) impacted region to ensure that current scientific information, skills, and activities are publicly accessible and serve ongoing needs as identified by local communities. Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.

This project is one of forty projects approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) in meetings held on October 13, 2021, and January 18, 2022. This year's EVOSTC approved projects consists of 70% more projects than over the last five years.

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The mission of the EVOSTC is to work toward restoring and enhancing the environment injured by the EVOS to a healthy and productive ecosystem through the use of the EVOS settlement. The core services of the EVOSTC includes:

- EVOSTC was formed to oversee the 1991 joint civil settlement funds to restore, replace, enhance, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources injured as a result of the oil spill and reduced or lost services provided by such resources. EVOSTC consists of three State of Alaska trustees and three Federal trustees.
- The program is funded through the civil settlement fund and investment earnings of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Investment Joint Trust Fund. These funds are considered joint trust funds of the State and Federal governments. Guidelines for the use of the funds were approved by the U.S. District Court in 1991, as well as being subject to other applicable court orders, and state and federal law. The U.S. District Court retains jurisdiction to review and approve all expenditures from the joint trust funds.
- EVOSTC approves and oversees projects and programs that focus restoration activities on supporting the resources affected by EVOS; scientific research regarding natural recovery and monitoring; habitat enhancement and protection;

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public participation; project oversight and evaluation; and efficient management and administration of the joint trust funds.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION

There are no prior legislative considerations for this project.

TIMING ISSUES

In order to gather more detailed project-specific information, the project was held for inclusion in the Legislative Budget and Audit process.

The funding for this project has been released from the EVOSTC Investment Accounts managed by Alaska Department of Revenue and is available for immediate disbursement to Project Investigators (PIs) pending approval of budget authority to process project contracts. The approval is required expeditiously for the PI to start work in this year's field season (summer 2022) as planned. Additional delay will cause the project to be far behind its original schedule, with potential additional costs, loss of efficiencies from coordination with other simultaneously approved projects and will possibly require further action to extend the term of the project.

BUDGETARY ISSUES

Full funding for the entire life of the project was approved by the EVOSTC, but funds are released to PIs annually to preserve investment returns and based on review of annual project performance. An EVOS fiscal year runs from February 1st – January 31st, which does present a challenge when lining up authority with the State fiscal year (July 1st- June 30th) budget process, but future receipt authority requests for this multiyear project will be included within the annual State budget process.

Legislative Fiscal Analyst Comment: This RPL expands existing authority for EVOS remediation efforts, appropriated in FY23 under the Department of Fish and Game, Statewide Support Services appropriation. This is a multi-year project, and the RPL approves one year of funding for FY23. Ideally this would have been included in the regular appropriations process as a capital project proposal, but the RPL process would allow the work to be initiated in FY23, and the agency could propose to move it to capital in the FY23 supplemental budget request.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trust fund is a joint State and federal trust, as established under the 1991 Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree between the United States and the State of Alaska. It is recognized in statute under AS 37.14.400. The fund is classified as a Trust/Fiduciary fund and categorized as Other due to restrictions on expenditure. Because this is a joint State and federal fund, the EVOSTC may approve the expenditure of EVOS funds for projects managed by certain federal agencies without legislative approval. State agencies require specific legislative authorization as well as EVOSTC project approval to expend EVOS funds.

**Department of Fish & Game
Statewide Support Services
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**

Subject of RPL: EVOS Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium	ADN/RPL #: 11-2023-0008
Amount requested: \$32,729	Appropriation Authority: Sec1 Ch 11 SLA2022 Pg18 Ln17
Funding source: EVOS (1018) FY2023 Operating	Statutory Authority: AS 37.14.405

PURPOSE

The Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium is a 10-year project that provides the latest science, research, and heritage news by experts from throughout the Prince William Sound region to the recreation/tourism industry and the public through an annual, open to the public symposium. Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.

This project is one of forty projects approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) in meetings held on October 13, 2021, and January 18, 2022. This year's EVOSTC approved projects consists of 70% more projects than over the last five years.

This project aligns with the EVOSTC's restoration mission through research and monitoring, habitat protection and general restoration. Funding for this project is through the Exxon civil settlement funds, and the total includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency. Annual funding will be spent during FY2023.

The mission of the EVOSTC is to work toward restoring and enhancing the environment injured by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) to a healthy and productive ecosystem through the use of the EVOS settlement. The core services of the EVOSTC includes:

- EVOSTC was formed to oversee the 1991 joint civil settlement funds to restore, replace, enhance, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources injured as a result of the oil spill and reduced or lost services provided by such resources. EVOSTC consists of three State of Alaska trustees and three Federal trustees.
- The program is funded through the civil settlement fund and investment earnings of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Investment Joint Trust Fund. These funds are considered joint trust funds of the State and Federal governments. Guidelines for the use of the funds were approved by the U.S. District Court in 1991, as well as being subject to other applicable court orders, and state and federal law. The U.S. District Court retains jurisdiction to review and approve all expenditures from the joint trust funds.
- EVOSTC approves and oversees projects and programs that focus restoration activities on supporting the resources affected by EVOS; scientific research regarding natural recovery and monitoring; habitat enhancement and protection; public participation; project oversight and evaluation; and efficient management and administration of the joint trust funds.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION

There are no prior legislative considerations for this project.

TIMING ISSUES

In order to gather more detailed project-specific information, the project was held for inclusion in the Legislative Budget and Audit process.

The funding for this project has been released from the EVOSTC Investment Accounts managed by Alaska Department of Revenue and is available for immediate disbursement to Project Investigators (PIs) pending approval of budget authority to process project contracts. The approval is required expeditiously for the PI to start work in this year's field season (summer 2022) as planned. Additional delay will cause the project to be far behind its original schedule, with potential additional costs, loss of efficiencies from coordination with other simultaneously approved projects and will possibly require further action to extend the term of the project.

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**Department of Fish & Game
Statewide Support Services
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**

Subject of RPL: EVOS Culture Camp Funding for the Chugach Region	ADN/RPL #: 11-2023-0009
Amount requested: \$719,251	Appropriation Authority: Sec1 Ch 11 SLA2022 Pg18 Ln17
Funding source: EVOS (1018) FY2023 Operating	Statutory Authority: AS 37.14.405

PURPOSE

The Culture Camp Funding for the Chugach Region is a 10-year project that will restore Chugach Region Cultural Camps that were disrupted as a result of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS). The goals of this program (cultural camps) are to help people continue teaching the Alaska Native subsistence and cultural lifestyle in the Chugach Region, which is vital for future generations of Alaska Natives and the economy in the Chugach Region to come. Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.

This project is one of forty projects approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) in meetings held on October 13, 2021, and January 18, 2022. This year's EVOSTC approved projects consists of 70% more projects than over the last five years.

This project aligns with the EVOSTC's restoration mission through research and monitoring, habitat protection and general restoration. Funding for this project is through the Exxon civil settlement funds, and the total includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency. Annual funding will be spent during FY2023.

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PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION

There are no prior legislative considerations for this project.

TIMING ISSUES

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BUDGETARY ISSUES

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