
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Title: Prince William Sound Area Recreation Implementation Plan

Project Number: 94217

Lead Agency: USDA-FS

Cooperating Agency: ADNR

Cost of Project, FY94: \$91.2K

Cost of Project, FY95: \$0.0K

Project Startup Date: October 1993

Duration: 8 months

Geographic Area: Prince William Sound

INTRODUCTION

This project is the continuation and completion of project 93065-Prince William Sound Recreation. The objectives of the project are to develop a list of prioritized recreation restoration projects, identify and describe potential special designations, and identify real or perceived injury to the recreation resource and services in Prince William Sound (PWS). Restoration management goals and objectives for recreation in PWS will also be developed based on injuries identified. This project is currently in the public participation stage with additional public participation and meetings planned through November, 1993.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Resources and/or Associated Services

This project is focused on restoration of recreation. The most significant part of this project will identify, prioritize, and describe potential recreation restoration projects through public participation. Meetings with interested groups and individuals have taken place with additional meetings scheduled through mid-September. A workshop is planned for November 5 and 6, 1993, which will bring all interested parties together to develop a project list. Evaluation criteria have been developed for use at this meeting to rate and prioritize projects. Additional meetings are being scheduled in the Anchorage area.

In addition to developing projects, potential areas requiring special designation are being identified. A preliminary list of possible designations has been developed. During public meetings, comments about special designations are being gathered. The final project report will include the findings of the special designation research.

A specific statement of injury to recreation in PWS will be developed. This statement will be used as the basis for future recreation restoration activities. Currently, the project has identified existing management goals and objectives from public land management plans. These tend to be broad in scope and not specific to recreation restoration.

B. Objectives

The objectives of this project remain the same as in 1993, with only slight modification in emphasis:

1. Develop recreation resource and service projects for FY 1994 and beyond that can be implemented by the Trustee Council for restoration in PWS. An initial list of projects with complete project descriptions will be provided by November 22, 1993 for inclusion in the FY94 Work Plan. Additional projects will be identified, prioritized, and listed in the final project report.
2. Identify all possible special designations that could be applied to PWS. This would include State, Federal or other yet unknown designations. A preliminary draft of possible special designations will be available September 30, 1993 with the summary of findings included in the final project report.
3. Identify the real or perceived injury to recreation in PWS and develop long-term recreation restoration goals and objectives for the management of PWS. A statement of the injury to recreation will be completed. Goals and objectives will be identified in the project report.

C. Methods

The methods described in the 1993 project description (93065) are being implemented. A mass mailing was sent out in early June to inform people of the project and begin the process of soliciting comment and project ideas. In Addition, people were asked if they would like to fill out the *Exxon Valdez* Restoration Plan Recreation Questionnaire. Returned questionnaires have been added to the data base. Public meetings soliciting ideas from people on possible recreation restoration projects are ongoing with meetings planned through September. Initial work has been done to develop the special designations report and identify recreation restoration management goals and objectives. Information collected at each public meeting is being recorded and will be summarized before the workshop in November and for the project report.

The implementation phase of projects for recreation restoration will not be managed by this project work group. After the November workshop, project descriptions will be prepared for the highest rated projects and submitted to the Trustee Council by November 22, 1993. All other projects and the final project report will be submitted by April 15, 1994. The Trustee Council will decide which, if any, of the restoration projects identified will be funded.

D. Location

Meetings are being held in all communities in PWS as well as Seward and Anchorage. Additionally, meetings with individuals or groups are being held at locations most convenient to them, although typically in Anchorage.

E. Technical Support

Technical support will be needed to input information from the recreation questionnaire and analyze questionnaire data. Support will also be needed from ADNR to develop working maps of PWS for use in meetings and for identifying and mapping potential project locations.

F. Contracts

Contractual funds will be utilized to provide charter aircraft for travel to villages in PWS, meeting space for the November 5-6 workshop, and a meeting facilitator for the workshop.

SCHEDULES

A schedule of the major milestones for project tasks, public meetings, analysis, and final reports is presented in Table 1. Initial data collection began in April, 1993. Meetings with the different interest groups began in June and will continue through September. A list of all the projects proposed by the public will be prepared for the November 5-6, 1993 workshop. Complete project descriptions for the best projects identified will be submitted by November 22, 1993 for the FY 94 Work Plan. All other projects identified will be listed and prioritized as a part of the project report, April 15, 1993. Investigations of possible special designations began in April, 1993. A preliminary draft of possible designations will be available the end of September, 1993. Complete findings and recommendations will be a part of the project report. Development of goals and objectives began in June, 1993. A statement of injury to the recreation resource and services will be completed in September, 1993. A summary of the findings related to injury and any restoration goals and objectives will be included in the project report.

Table 1. Project Schedule.

Date	Accomplishment
	Complete major collection of data, projects submitted, surveys, etc. Additional data collection will be ongoing as necessary.
June 1, 1993	Begin meetings with interest groups. Continues through October, 1993 Currently scheduled: July 21-23 Valdez July 27 Chenega Bay August 6 Seward August 10-11 Cordova August 16 Whittier August 24 Tatitlek
September 1, 1993	Draft statement of injury to recreation resources and services of PWS
September 30, 1993	Final statement of injury to recreation resources and services of PWS
October 1, 1993	Draft management goal and objectives for PWS
October 30, 1993	Preliminary list of project proposals and descriptions
November 5-6, 1993	Workshop with all interested groups
November 22, 1993	Project descriptions for FY94 Work Plan
February 15, 1994	Draft Project Report for peer review
April 15, 1994	Final Project Report

EXISTING AGENCY PROGRAM

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources has been funded for \$4.75M of the criminal settlement to conduct recreation restoration activities within the spill area. The Chugach National Forest manages PWS with primary management emphasis on recreation and fish and wildlife management. Cabin maintenance, trail maintenance and development, mooring buoy placement, and cultural resources site identification, protection, and interpretation are some of the major tasks performed each year. The Forest Service has allocated approximately \$90K per year for the management of recreation within PWS. Additional funds have been allocated for fish and wildlife management. The Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan is scheduled for revision starting in 1995, and goals and objectives identified

by this project may be adopted in the revised plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE/PERMIT/COORDINATION STATUS

This project is categorically exempt from formal documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under Forest Service regulations [FSH 1909.15 31.1a(3)]. No other permits are required. No ground disturbing activity is proposed. This project is for recreation implementation development. Projects developed from this project may require environmental analysis or permits before implementation.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Products provided from this project include:

1. Complete project descriptions for the most desirable recreation restoration projects for the FY 1994 Work Plan, based on the public involvement process being used.
2. A final project report describing the process followed, contacts made, workshop results, possible special designations, and a listing of all projects identified by priority.
3. A statement of injury to the recreation resource and services of PWS.

FY94 BUDGET (\$K)

AGENCY	USFS	ADNR	TOTAL
Personnel			0.0
Travel			0.0
Contractual			0.0
Commodities			0.0
Equipment			0.0
Capital Outlay			0.0
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Sub-total	0.0	0.0	0.0
General Administration			
TOTAL	0	0	0
NEPA COMPLIANCE	0.0		

