Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

Restoration Office

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May 31, 1994

Craig S. Harrison Vice Chair for Conservation Pacific Seabird Group 4001 North 9th Street #1801 Arlington, Virginia 22203

Dear Mr. Harrison,

Knowing of your interest in restoration activities as they relate to seabirds, I want to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on some of the Trustee Council's restoration activities that you might find of interest.

In keeping with your recommendation regarding introduced predator removal, the Trustee Council approved funding (Project #94041) for an effort during the current field season that will provide for predator removal from two islands along the Alaska Peninsula (i.e., Simeonof and Chernabura). Even though these islands are outside of the spill impact area proper, the Trustee Council recognized that exotic predator removal can be one of the most effective means of helping to restore healthy populations of injured seabirds.

In your prior correspondence, you also noted that the Pacific Seabird Group supports the purchase of certain seabird colonies as part of the Trustee Council's Habitat Protection/Acquisition effort. I want to make sure you are aware of the opportunity presently available to private landowners with holdings in the spill area to nominate small parcels of land (i.e., less than 1,000 acres) for purchase or protection by the Trustee Council. Threshold criteria for the small parcel program include (1) a willing seller; (2) that the parcel is linked to the restoration of one or more injured resources and/or services; (3) that the seller acknowledges that the government can purchase the parcel or property rights only at fair market value; (4) that any acquired property or rights can reasonably be incorporated into public land management systems in a manner that will facilitate restoration; and (5) that the parcel is located within the spill area.

Although some of the islands that you have noted as being of particular concern are located outside of the spill area, a substantial number of the

colonies are within the spill area. You may wish to contact the land owners of these islands regarding their interest in selling their land or property rights. A small parcel nomination packet is enclosed for your reference. This packet includes a map of the spill area together with more information concerning the process for evaluation of nominated small parcels. Please note that the nomination period extends through July 15, 1994.

I appreciate the efforts being made by the Pacific Seabird Group to contribute to the restoration process. For your reference, I have also enclosed a copy of the *Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects for FY 1995*, a document that describes the on-going process to formulate a research, monitoring and general restoration work plan for next year that will complement the Habitat Acquisition and Protection program effort.

If I can provide additional information regarding the Trustee Council's restoration efforts, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Molly M Cammon, Director of Operations

enclosures

- small parcel nomination packet
- Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects for FY 1995

cc: Sandy Rabinowitch/DOI (w/o attachments)
Tony DeGange/USFWS (w/o attachments)