

# 13.0 Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

### **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

The projects proposed in the attached Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment provide for the restoration of natural resources and public use services injured by the *M/V Kuroshima* grounding and oil spill in Summer Bay, Unalaska, Alaska that commenced on November 26, 1997. The proposed projects are designed to make the public whole for injuries to natural resources and natural resource services resulting from the *M/V Kuroshima* oil spill by returning natural resources and natural resource services to their baseline conditions and compensating for interim losses of those resources and services.

The proposed projects will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- a) The restoration of native birds by removing introduced foxes on Avatanak Island is expected to have long-term environmental benefits. Only limited disturbance may occur to some nesting birds during survey and predator removal activities. The foxes on the island are known to have been introduced. There are no mammals on the island except foxes that might be accidentally trapped.
- b) The evaluation of the recovery of injured vegetation is a monitoring effort that is not expected to result in any additional disturbance to vegetation. No destructive sampling is anticipated. While some limited fencing and marking may be necessary around monitoring locations, these restrict human activities only in a very small area.
- c) On-site planting of the natural vegetation in the spill area will benefit the ecological and human uses in the region. This activity has already been conducted in the area. Borrow sites will be carefully selected to minimize harm and will be restored to minimize the potential for erosion.
- d) Additional testing for shellfish contamination is expected to have benefits by providing up-to-date shellfish tissue contamination data that is necessary information for subsequent outreach and education efforts. The total number of animals for sampling is minimal and should not significantly impact local populations.
- e) The seafood safety education is expected to benefit local consumers by educating them on the safety of local shellfish.
- f) On-site sediment control and road improvements along Summer Bay Lake will have direct benefits to the salmon and lake resources. The road and culvert construction will have some short-term adverse impacts, including disturbance of adjacent vegetation, sedimentation, and temporary road closures. Every effort will be taken to minimize these impacts.

- g) On-site riparian habitat improvements and restoration of the natural vegetation along the lakeshore will benefit the ecological function and human uses of the region. Healthy shoreline vegetation will also indirectly benefit aquatic vegetation, juvenile fish habitat, and nutrient levels in the lake. The replanting of native vegetation should have minimal adverse impacts on the local environment. Borrow sites will be carefully selected to minimize harm and will be restored to minimize the potential for erosion.
- h) The salmon enumeration and limnological sampling is a monitoring effort. All work will be conducted following approved and established fishery management practices and methods.
- i) The procurement of tent platforms, weather ports, potable water and sanitation facilities for public and camp use will provide on-site recreational benefits similar to those lost as a result of the incident. The camp structures will have a small footprint and minimal construction related activities. The sanitation facilities and site maintenance will benefit both users' health and the environment.
- j) The development of an environmental education curriculum will benefit the community and the environment by improving the community's awareness and stewardship of the affected natural resources.
- k) Shoreline maintenance is expected to provide a long-term benefit to local natural resources. Some short-term disruption may occur as a result of personnel walking along the shoreline and dragging bags or debris to nearby vehicles for disposal.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment and discussed above, I have determined that the proposed actions will not have any significant impacts on the environment and, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.



David B. Allen  
Regional Director  
Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Date: APR 11 2002

**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Restoration plan and environmental assessment**  
**for the**  
**November 26, 1997 M/V Kuroshima oil spill**  
**into Summer Bay, Unalaska, Alaska**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a cooperating federal agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for the Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) for the November 26, 1997 M/V Kuroshima oil spill into Summer Bay, Unalaska, Alaska. Other cooperating agencies include the U.S. Department of the Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the Alaska Department of Law (the Trustees) and the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska. These parties participated in damage assessment and restoration planning activities to address injuries to natural resources and resource services resulting from the spill.

The Trustees, in consultation with the Qawalangin Tribe, evaluated several types of restoration alternatives: the no action/natural recovery alternative, ecological restoration alternatives, and lost human use restoration alternatives. Within those alternatives, several restoration projects were evaluated to determine what projects would best meet the goals and objectives of the Trustees. The Trustees concluded that their preferred restoration alternatives would be a mix of both the ecological and the lost human use alternatives. The particular projects include: removal of introduced predators to enhance seabird populations; restoration and monitoring of oiled vegetation; additional testing of intertidal shellfish and education on seafood safety; sediment control and lakeshore revegetation, limnological survey work and enumeration of salmon smolt outmigration and adult escapement; beach debris cleanup activities; purchase of tents and other recreation facilities for public use; and funding for public environmental education. The draft RP/EA was presented to the public and comments were addressed prior to finalizing the RP/EA.

**DETERMINATION:**

Based upon an environmental review and evaluation of the Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment of the November 26, 1997 M/V Kuroshima Oil Spill into Summer Bay, Unalaska, Alaska, I have determined that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required for this project.

Rebecca Kent

Date 4/30/02

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