

Meals Hill Project Update



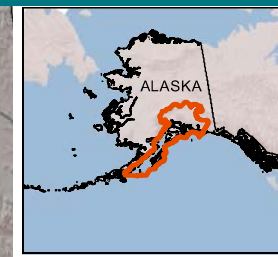
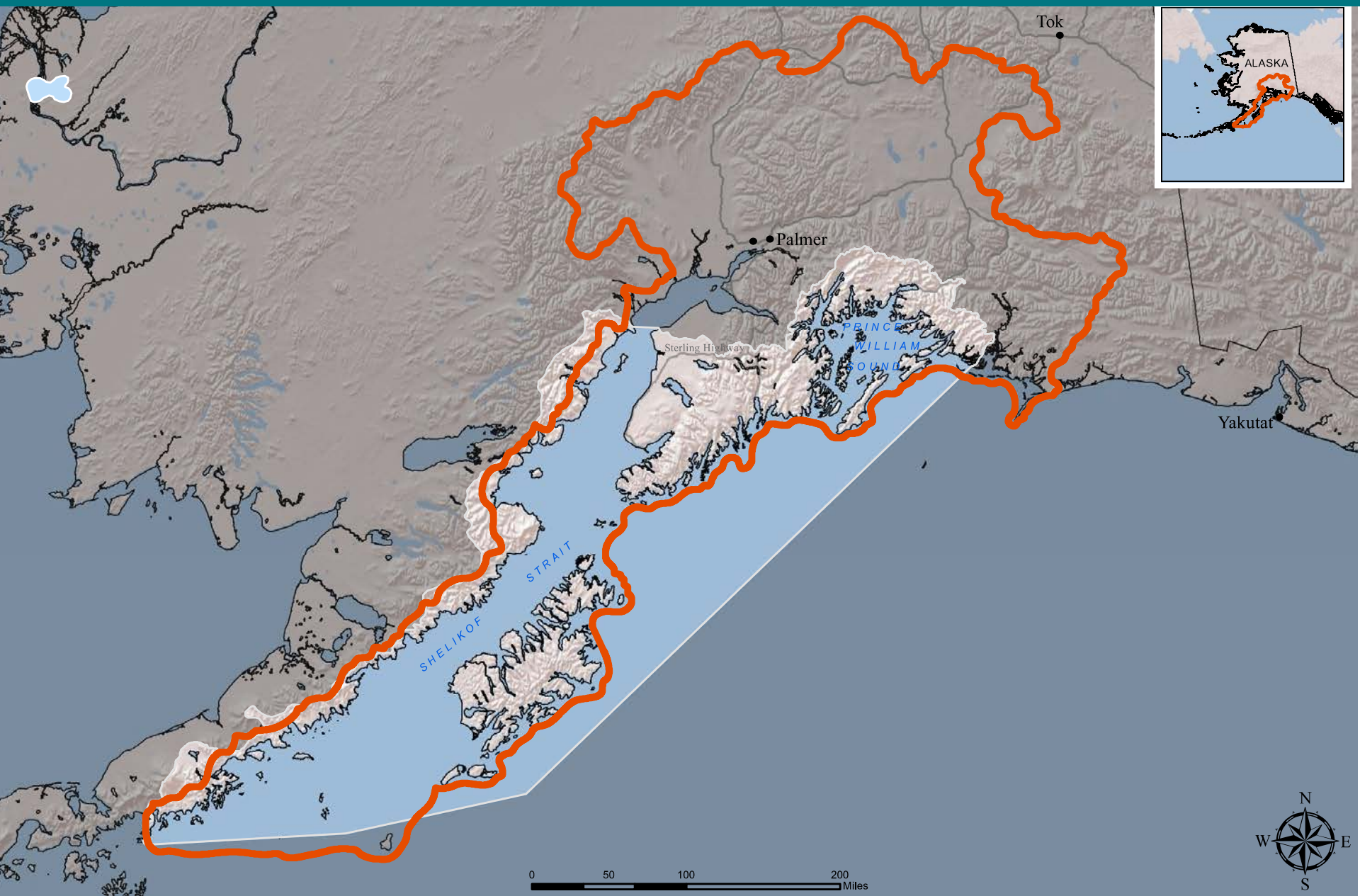
Great Land Trust

Conserving and stewarding lands and waters essential to the quality of life and economic health of Alaskans

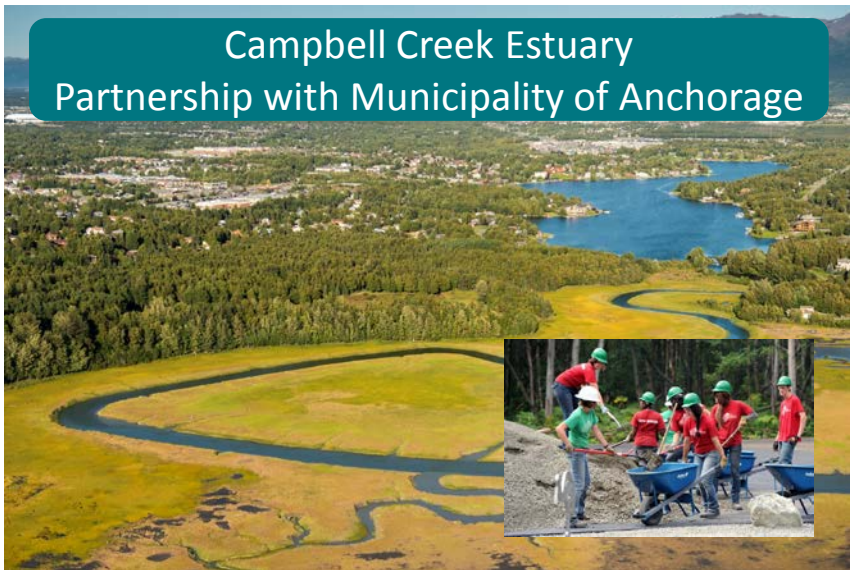
David Mitchell, Conservation Director

907-278-4995

dmitchell@greatlandtrust.org



Campbell Creek Estuary Partnership with Municipality of Anchorage



Settlers Bay Coastal Park Partnership with Mat-Su Borough



Termination Point Partnership with Kodiak Island Borough

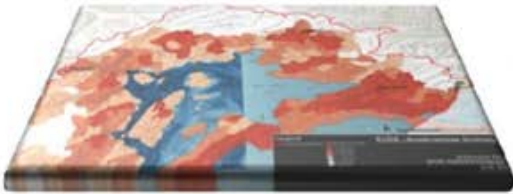


The Butte Partnership with Mat-Su Borough



Prioritization Scoring Process

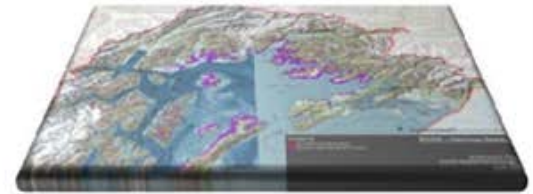
Anadromous Diversity



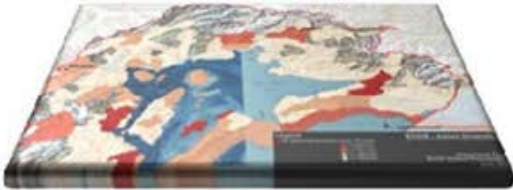
Juvenile Fish Habitat



Herring Spawning Areas



Avian Diversity



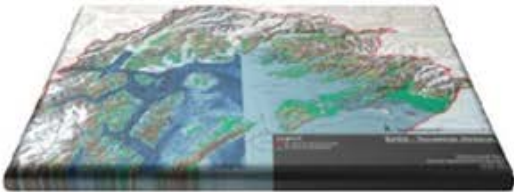
Bird Colonies / Rookeries



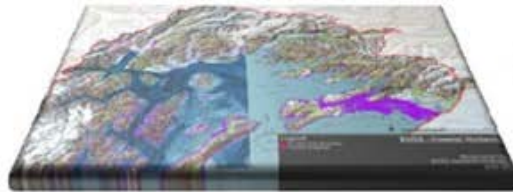
Marine Mammals



Terrestrial Wetlands



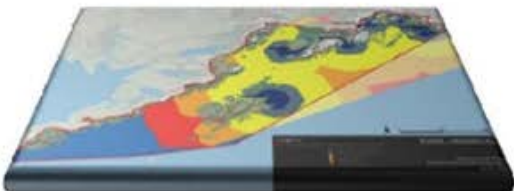
Coastal Wetlands



Subsistence Use Areas



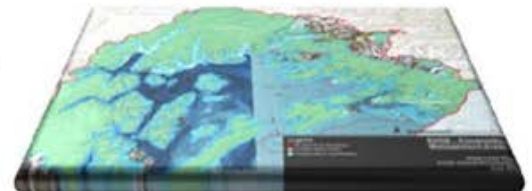
Human Use – Coastal Access



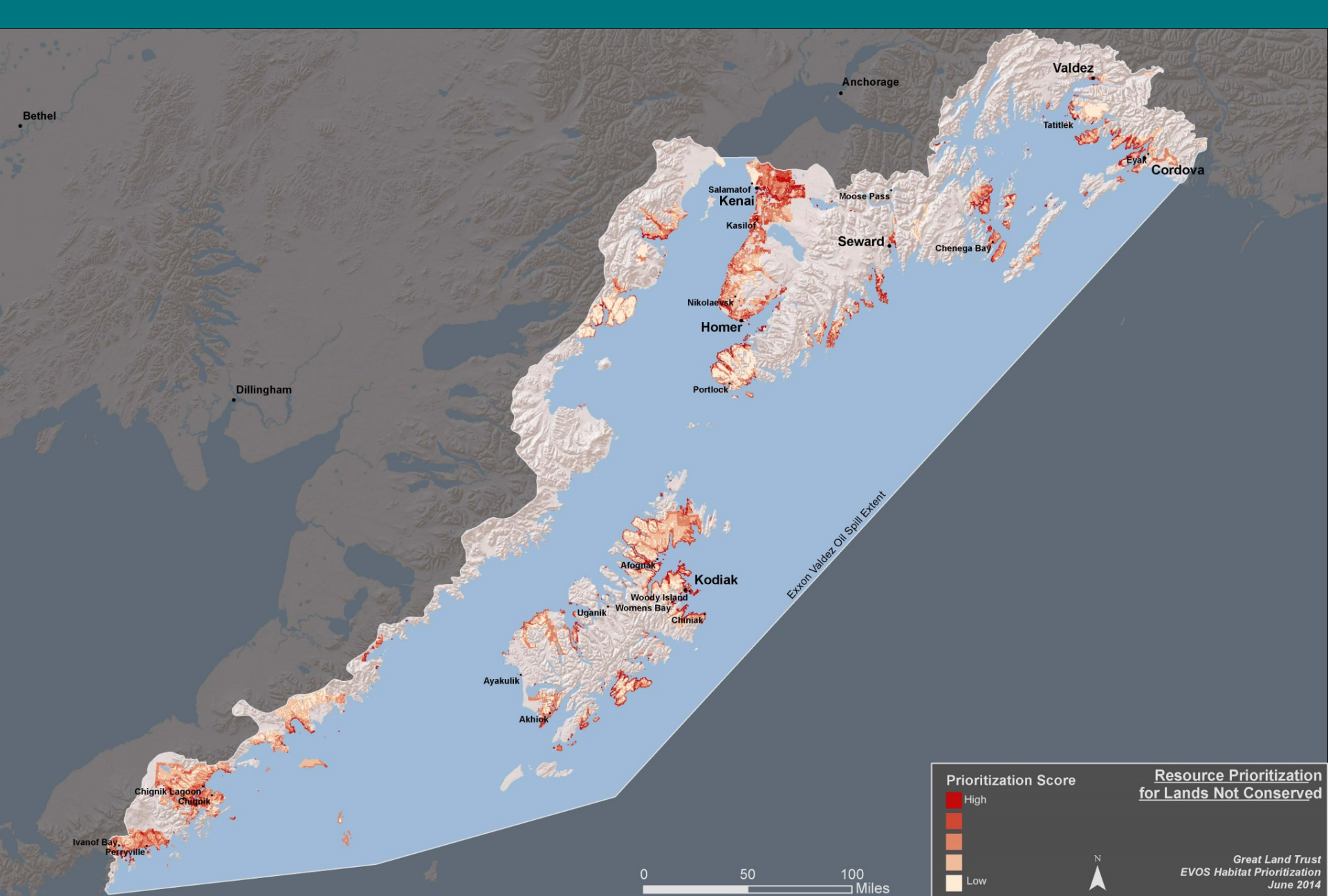
Partner Identified Priorities



Conserved Lands Adjacency



GREAT
LAND
TRUST
SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

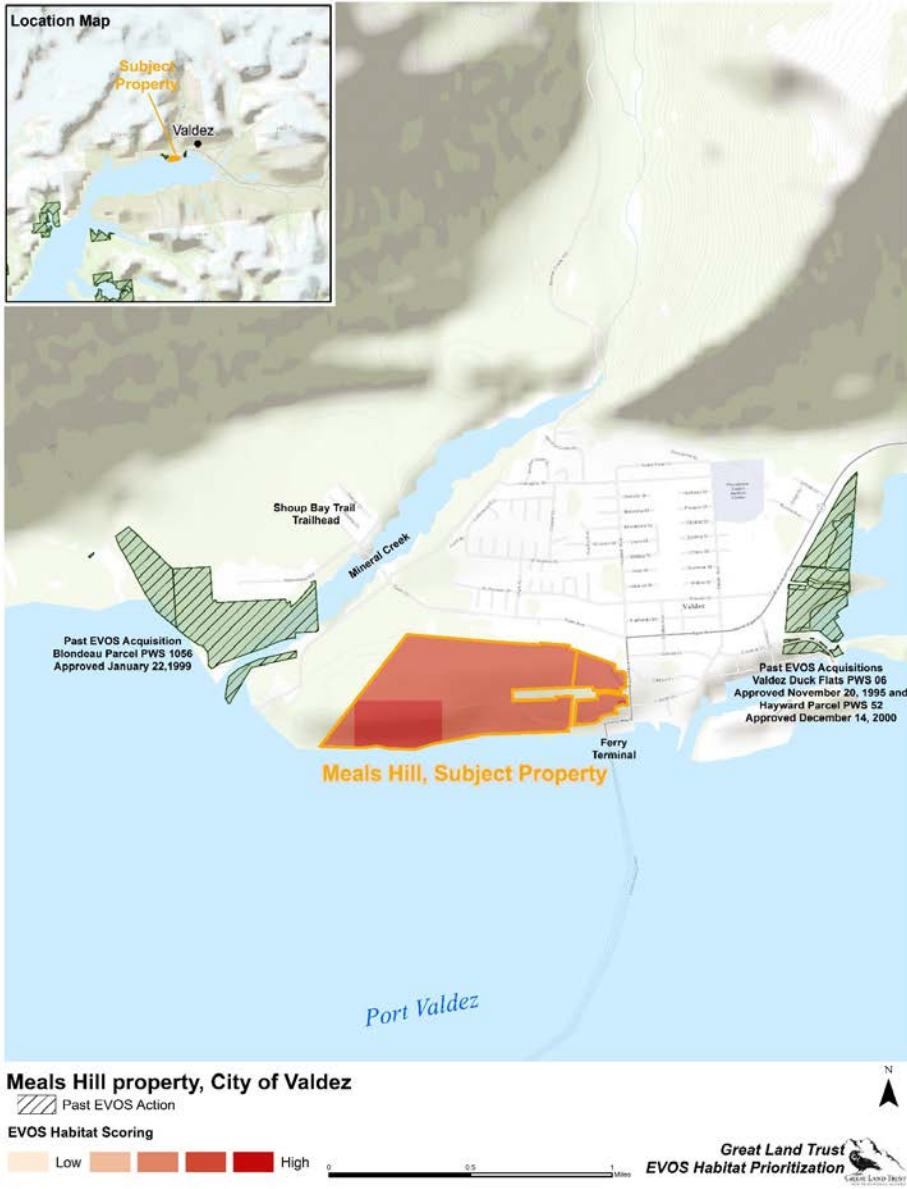


Prioritization Score

- High
- Medium
- Low

**Resource Prioritization
for Lands Not Conserved**

Great Land Trust
EVOS Habitat Prioritization
June 2014



CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #17-42

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ,
ALASKA, SUPPORTING THE MEALS HILL CONSERVATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust is working cooperatively with the private landowner, and the State and Federal governments, and seeks to permanently protect approximately 184 acres in the area known as Meals Hill; and

WHEREAS, Meals Hill is a prominent landscape feature in Port Valdez providing scenic open space, habitat and recreational opportunities near downtown Valdez and is adjacent to the Valdez Ferry Terminal, 0.3 miles from the Valdez Small Boat Harbor, and 2.5 miles north, directly across Port Valdez from the Valdez Marine Terminal at the end of the Trans Alaskan Pipeline System; and

WHEREAS, Funding for completion of this project is being requested from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC); and

WHEREAS, the Meals Hill property would be acquired and permanently protected in furtherance of the restoration objectives of the EVOSTC; and

WHEREAS, before the property is acquired detailed due diligence will be conducted including a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment; and

WHEREAS, Once acquired, the property would be managed for protection of habitat utilized by spill affected species and public access for recreation, and habitat values, and would provide highly valued new recreational and tourism opportunities in Valdez.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that

The City Council of the City of Valdez supports the acquisition and permanent protection of the Meals Hill property with habitat funding from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. The permanent protection of Meals Hill for recreation, tourism and habitat values will benefit the City of Valdez.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 3rd day of October 2017.

City of Valdez
Resolution No. 17-42
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CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA


Ruth E. Knight, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk





City of Valdez
Office of the Mayor
212 Chenega Ave
PO BOX 307
Valdez, AK 99686

November 10, 2017

William Walker, Governor
3rd Floor, State Capitol
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Walker:

Valdez is supporting and is excited about what we call the **Meals Hill EVOS Project**. I would like you to understand what this project would do to promote our citizens' health, tourism opportunities, and preserve one of the gems of our natural environment. The Great Land Trust is approaching EVOS with a proposal to purchase the Meals Hill property, from the private land owners. The trustee council will meet and vote on funding this project at their November 14 meeting.

The benefit of this happening is multi-faceted. It will first preserve one of the most beautiful forested areas in Valdez. As a public possession, this land would allow for the development of spectacular and accessible trails to be used by both our tourists and citizens. We are striving to; provide new venues which will encourage more people to visit Valdez; to keep finding additional ways to encourage Valdez citizens to participate in activities that promote healthy lifestyles; and to combat our obesity epidemic.

The City is thrilled about this project and will work with DNR to move it forward. Please contact me or the Executive Director of the Great Land Trust, Dave Mitchell, if you would like more information or have questions about this proposed project.

Thanks you for your service,

Ruth E Knight

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Meals Hill Conservation Project

