

Meeting of the Kodiak Subarea GRS Workgroup

May 5, 2006
National Parks Service Alaska Headquarters
240 E 5th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska

Attendees:

Catherine Berg-USFWS
Valerie Blajeski- ADF&G
Randy Dowd-ADEC
Dale Gardner-ADEC
John Kwietniak- Tesoro Alaska
John LeClaire-Chadux
Doug Mutter- DOI
Martin Parsons-SERVS
Bud Rice-NPS
Tim Robertson- Nuka Research
Jerry Saylor-SERVS

On Teleconference-

Sharon Kim-NPS
Troy Hammon-NPS
Ron Squib-Becharof NWR
Mark Janes- Nuka Research
Jeff Lewis- Kodiak NWR
Dennis Zwietelhoter-Kodiak NWR
Iver Malutin- KANA

Bud Rice of the National Park Service opened the meeting and provided introductions and facility information.

Tim Robertson of Nuka Research provided an overview of the meeting objectives. He noted that the primary objective is for the workgroup to review the site selection matrix and select the “High Priority” sites for GRS development.

John Kwietniak of Tesoro Alaska reviewed the previous workgroup meetings. He pointed out 26 GRS developed for the high priority sites in the Northern and Western Zone. John also mentioned that the initial funding for this phase of the project is being provided by a \$5,000.00 grant from the PWS Response Planning Group.

Tim Robertson reviewed the project status and outlined the funding for this phase of the project.

- RPG	\$5,000.00
- PWSRCAC	\$35,000.00
- CIRCAC	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
Needed to complete the project	\$5,000.00

Denny Zwietfelhofer, Captain of the USFWS, URSA Major II, reported that the vessel could be used for the field survey, but that the day rate for the vessel has increased to \$2,200 per day. Mr. Robertson suggested controlling costs by restricting the number of sites and clustering them in smaller geographic areas. He predicts that the survey team

needs at least 5 days to survey and 2 days for travel to the sites. The group discussed other cost reduction strategies directed at the costs of photography and the survey. Bud Rice offered NPS aerial/satellite photography from the area.

Mr. Robertson discussed the selection of high priority sites using the following criteria:

- Environmental sensitivity,
- Exposure to risk of being oiled, and
- Ability to succeed in protecting the area with the current response technology.

He indicated that he would prefer that all high priority sites be nominated by the resource agencies. If funding limits the number of sites that can be developed, the tactics group will determine priorities.

He noted the concurrent Kodiak Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) project, which identifies place of refuge for stricken or leaking vessels, and that a vessel using the recommendations of the PPOR project could seek refuge at a location that is also identified as a high priority GRS site, thus increasing the risk of an oil spill at that GRS site. He provided a map of PPOR sites that have been initially identified by the PPOR workgroup. Ron Squibb from Becharof NWR commented that the final selection of PPOR would significantly influence his selection of GRS sites.

Sharon Kim of the NPS inquired regarding the existing GRS in the zone. It was agreed upon by the group that the survey team would review Geographic Harbor, GRS # K-14.

Mr. Robertson outlined the process that will occur after the high priority sites have been identified:

- Each site will have base map developed with resources identified on the map.
- The maps will be posted on the project website and reviewed by the resource agencies for approximately 30 days. The agencies will ensure that the resources at risk are identified and placed correctly on the base map.
- The field survey team will use these maps to develop protection strategies.
- After the survey the entire tactics group will review and finalize the strategies. These will then be posted and reviewed by the entire workgroup.

Depending on the response, the co-chairs may call a meeting to approve the plans or rely on the web response as an indication of approval of the plans.

The survey is planned for this July 2006. Jeff Lewis of the USFWS reported that the vessel is available for most of June and July. The group discussed the personnel required for the survey. It would be advantageous to have a resource agency person onboard, but space is limited and response personnel designing the strategies need to be a priority. Denny Zweitfelhofer offered that he has had some experience surveying the area, as well as his considerable experience at the KNWR. The co-chairs will decide on the final staffing with input from the contractor.

Kodiak Subarea Geographic Response Strategies Workgroup

Doug Mutter of the Department of Interior lead the group in a review and edit of the Site Selection Matrix. Numerous additions were offered and will be included in the matrix for the next website update.

Mr. Mutter then opened the floor for nominations of high priority sites for GRS development. The group offered the following sites:

Mainland Zone
Swikshak Lagoon
Big River/Swikshak Bay
Ninagiak River
Middle Creek
Hallo Creek
Devil's Cove
Kukak Bay-Head
Kafliak Bay
Kuliak Bay
Missak Bay
Kinak Bay
Takli Island
Amalik Bay
Geographic Harbor
Dakavak Bay
Bear Bay
Alinchak Bay
Portage Bay
Wide Bay-east
Wide Bay-west

Mr. Robertson concluded the meeting by identifying the next step in the process with the development of the resource maps. He pointed to the fact that the exact identification of the location of the resources is critical to developing good protection strategies. Nuka Research staff will post the resources-at-risk maps within two weeks. He will continue to work with the co-chairs regarding the survey and funding.