

Dear Ms. Arvidson,

A week ago I wrote comments and sent them to John Devens, but I wanted to follow up with additional email comments re: the Jack Bay Place of Refuge.

As a Jack Bay homestead owner of almost 15 years, I strongly object to this plan, not only due to our own personal interests but also due to the significance of the Jack Bay Watershed in the larger ecosystem of Northern Prince William Sound. As you may know, Gregorioff Creek is a highly productive pink salmon spawning stream, one of the most important in the entire Northern Sound. In the long arm of Jack Bay, Leshikoff Creek is a major silver salmon spawning site for the Sound, as well as an area frequented by brown bear. The beauty of Jack Bay; the rich intertidal area and abundant wildlife all point to the need to preserve these, not sacrifice them. To me, the idea of this bay being a sacrificial refuge is absurd. Our homestead is well off the water, so my wife Susanne and I wouldn't be immediately impacted by this plan, however we object for other reasons.

If another, less frequented and inhabited area other than Jack can't be found, then I suggest that NO area be designated as a sacrificial area; that when (not if) another major spill incident occurs, that it be given full and immediate assistance in situ, at the place where it is located at that time.

I reference data from the April 28, 2004 diesel spill in Jack Bay, in which 50 gallons were spilled into the water. The follow-up May 4 sediment and mussel samples indicate that a "mere" 50 gallons were able to provide a distinct thumbprint and caused contamination classified as "moderate". I can't fathom what hundreds or thousands or millions of gallons would do to this pristine, fragile area, but I shudder to think of the effects.

If another, more suitable and less controversial site can't be found, then I suggest that the formula of "sacrificing" an area be reconsidered altogether.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

John and Susanne Lyle
Jack Bay Homesteaders