

Kachemak Bay State Park buy-out completed

Governor Walter J. Hickel announced that the acquisition of in-holdings in Kachemak Bay State Park has been completed. Documents were signed in late August in Seldovia and recorded in Homer this morning.

State officials and officers of the Seldovia Native Association, Timber Trading Company, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., signed and recorded the final documents required to transfer more than 22,000 acres of land to the state

for inclusion in the park.

The park in-holdings were slated for large scale timber cutting in the next few years. In addition to preserving the visual grandeur of Kachemak Bay and the recreational uses of the park, the acquisition is expected to provide significant protection for many species injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, such as marbled murrelets, harlequin ducks, black oyster catchers, and river otters.

The purchase of the land was

accomplished with a combination of funds from settlements of various claims arising out of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and represents the first acquisition of habitat as part of the restoration program being directed by state and federal officials.
