



Forest Service | Natural Resources Conservation Service | Rural Development



Southeast Conference
September 15, 2022

Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy

Partners for community, culture, conservation, and commerce



Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy

Supports and enhances a diverse economy, community and cultural resilience, and conserves natural resources

- Meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and Alaska Native corporations and engagement with partners and municipal governments
- Ending large-scale, old-growth timber harvest and focus resources to support forest restoration, recreation, climate resilience, and sustainable young-growth management
- Proposing restoration of the 2001 Roadless Rule protections
- Identifying short- and long-term investment opportunities and barriers to those investments

SASS - Community Engagement



Initial Community Engagement Efforts

Community engagement efforts enabled the OneUSDA team to collect diverse public input

We utilized a nontraditional request process for diverse input with the goal of assessing the need and establishing priorities for USDA in Southeast Alaska

30-day focused engagement period from Sept. 15 – Oct. 18, 2021

We received over 270 investment ideas, with an estimated value of \$276 million



Investment Selection

The OneUSDA team employed a four-step assessment process to identify investment ideas that informed the final recommendation. This qualitative assessment evaluated whether the investment ideas included the following elements:

- Meets USDA commitment to ecological, economic, cultural sustainability
- Includes a strong set of partners
- Represents a priority economic sector
- Addresses critical community capacity needs and/or increases capacity
- Addresses historic and/or structural decision that have contributed to inequitable access to USDA programs

SASS Investments

The OneUSDA team recommended distributing the initial \$25 million investment into four broad categories:

- **Tribal and Indigenous Interests**
\$12.5 million (50%)
- **Natural Resources**
\$6.25 million (25%)
- **Infrastructure**
\$3.125 million (12.5%)
- **Community Capacity**
\$3.125 million (12.5%)

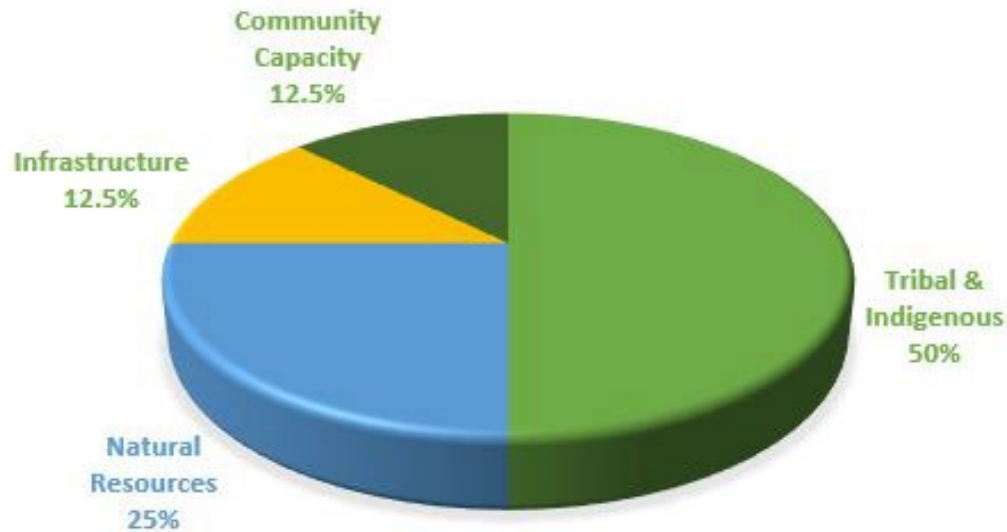
Agency Portfolios

Forest Service - 50 Projects ~ \$18.6m

Rural Development - 14 projects ~ \$6m

Natural Resources Conservation Service - 3 Projects ~ \$5m

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY INVESTMENT



SASS Projects: 25 million dollars, 70 projects, 32 organizations

Organization	Investment Title
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	<i>Yakutat Tlingit Tribal Greenhouse and Compost Facilities</i>
Wrangell Cooperative Association	<i>Sharing our Knowledge Conference.</i>
Wrangell Cooperative Association	<i>Chief Shakes Tribal House Improvements</i>
Wrangell Cooperative Association	<i>Traditional Food Sovereignty Program</i>
Takshanuk Watershed Council	<i>Takshanuk Watershed Compost Project</i>
Sustainable Southeast Partnership/ Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition	<i>Regional plants as foods and medicines, Sustainable Southeast Partnership-Kayaani network and conference</i>
Sustainable Southeast Partnership/ Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition	<i>Establishing Kayaani Commissions in SE Communities</i>
Sustainable Southeast Partnership/ Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition	<i>Restoring Tlingit potato gardens in traditional garden and village sites-Sustainable Southeast Partnership</i>
Sustainable Southeast Partnership	<i>Regional Composting Network</i>
Sustainable Southeast Partnership	<i>Southeast Alaska Farmers Summit</i>
SSP/Spruce Root	<i>Community Forest Projects</i>
SSP/Spruce Root	<i>Coordination, visioning and navigation services</i>
Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition	<i>Watershed Restoration Symposium and Capacity Exchange</i>
Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition	<i>Engaging Tribal and Community Partners in Salmon Habitat Restoration in the Margaret Creek Watershed, Tongass National Forest</i>
Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition	<i>Skanaxheen Restoration Project and Kake Area Restoration Opportunities</i>
Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition	<i>Trout Creek Restoration Project and Training for Tribal Work Crew</i>
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	<i>Invasive Species Management on the Sitka Road System</i>
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	<i>Enhancing the STA Environmental Laboratory to meet the needs of the Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research network</i>

Organization	Investment Title
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	<i>Development of a Tribal Garden to Increase Food Security</i>
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	<i>Sitka Native Forest Partnership Collaborative Program</i>
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	<i>Special Forest Product Plan Development, Implementation and Monitoring</i>
Sitka Trail Works	<i>Indigenous Youth Stewardship & Workforce Development Program</i>
Sitka Trail Works	<i>Southeast Alaska Water Trail</i>
Sitka Trail Works	<i>Sitka Sound Coastal Trail</i>
Southeast Partnership	<i>Community SmokeHouses and Fish Camps</i>
Sitka Conservation Society	<i>Living with the Land and Building Community: Southeast Alaska 4H Youth Development Program</i>
Sitka Conservation Society	<i>Sharing successes: qualitative tracking of SASSi initiatives</i>
Shaan-Seet, Inc.	<i>Klawock Indigenous Steward Partnership</i>
Sealaska Heritage and Trail Mix, Inc.	<i>Indigenous Heritage and Place Names in the Juneau Trail System</i>
SE Conference	<i>Economic monitoring of SASSi outcomes</i>
SE Conference	<i>Regional Biomass Strategy and Pellet Mill</i>
SalmonState	<i>Regional Seafood System Assessment</i>
Prince of Wales Vocational & Technical Education Center	<i>POW Vocational Technical Education Center Academies</i>
Organized Village of Kasaan	<i>The Teqe'heit Stewardship Program</i>
Organized Village of Kasaan	<i>Kasaan - Cultural Use of Forest Resources Tribal Validation Crew</i>
Organized Village of Kake	<i>Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership</i>
Organized Village of Kake	<i>Keex' Kwaan Youth Stewardship Program</i>
OceansAlaska Shellfish Hatchery and Marine Science Center	<i>Shellfish Hatchery in+B21:C40ternship and training program</i>

SASS Projects

Organization	Investment Title
Northern Lynn Canal Agriculture Producers Association	<i>Chilkat Vally Food Hub</i>
National Forest Foundation	<i>Restoration Projects in Southeast AK</i>
Kootznoowoo, Inc.	<i>Angoon Danger Point Trail</i>
Kootznoowoo, Inc.	<i>Bear Viewing and Canoe Route on Admiralty Island-Revitalization</i>
JEDC Visitor Products Cluster Working Group	<i>Development Habitat Restoration, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Timber Management, and Carbon Sequestration</i>
Hydaburg Cooperative Association	<i>Sustaining Healthy Deer Populations in GMU 2 - Hydaburg Shared Stewardship and Workforce Development</i>
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Hoonah Indian Association	<i>Hoonah Legacy Roads to Trails Projects</i>
Hoonah Indian Association	<i>Local Climate Monitoring with Regional Implications</i>
Hoonah Indian Association	<i>Hoonah Unit 4 Deer Management Strategy</i>
Hoonah Indian Association	<i>Sustaining Local Accredited Fisheries Science Education</i>
Defenders of Wildlife	<i>Brown Bear Co-existence - electric fence subsidy program and bear-proof storage co</i>
Craig City School District	<i>Craig High School Biomass Project</i>
City and Borough of Wrangell / Student Conservation Association	<i>Wrangell Area Trail Improvements</i>
City and Borough of Wrangell	<i>Wrangell Wild Blueberry Management – Wild/Cultural Foods and Food Security</i>
Chichagof Conservation Council	<i>Support "Recycle Tenakee" solid waste</i>
CCTHITA	<i>Alaska Youth Stewards</i>
CCTHITA	<i>Cultural Interpretive Training</i>
CCTHITA	<i>Food Security, Subsistence, and Sovereignty</i>
CCTHITA	<i>Tlingit and Haida Climate Change Programs</i>

Organization	Investment Title
CCTHITA	<i>Indigenous Guardians Network: Support for Traditional Ecological Knowledge</i>
CCTHITA	<i>Wildland Fire Program</i>
Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust	<i>Local Fish Fund</i>
Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust	<i>Workforce Development Initiative: Supporting Alaska's Fisheries and Young Fishermen</i>
Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust	<i>Statewide seafood distribution and workforce development plan</i>
Alaska Oyster Cooperative	<i>Aquatic Farmers' Offloading Pier and Packing Facility PLANNING</i>
Alaska Forest Association	<i>Forest Products Industry Transition</i>
Alaska Division of Forestry	<i>All Landowners Group & Young Growth Working Forest Analysis</i>
Alaska Division of Forestry	<i>Research, Development and Testing of Young-Growth Products</i>
Alaska Division of Forestry	<i>Tongass Transition Collaborative Facilitation Support</i>

Regional Strengthening Agreements

\$12.4 million dollars worth of SASS funding is being awarded via three agreements.

- Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and USDA Rural Development
- Spruce Root and the USDA Forest Service
- Southeast Conference and USDA Rural Development

Two activities in each agreement

- 1) Regional Strengthening
- 2) Subawards to over 25 separate projects



Southeast Conference



Spruce Root
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





What does SASS success look like?

Focus on Collaboration and Capacity Building.
Collaboration with partners to bring change, solutions, and results to the challenges we have today that we cannot solve on our own.

Continued Building and Strengthening of our local relationships.

Acknowledgement that everyone, Each Of Us, has a role.

Demonstrate Success and the ability to overcome challenges with examples

Streamline and Innovate – incorporate SASS principles into normal course of agency business

Defining Co-management/Shared Stewardship through project implementation + new opportunities

Capitalize on the Strength of OneUSDA, other federal agencies, and our partners

More information at the Forest Service
Region 10 Sustainability Strategy Website:



For stories about SASS projects on social media: Spruce Root,
Sustainable Southeast Partnership, Sitka Conservation Society,
Salmon State

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So...what's the Strategy?

The strategy is not a written document.

The Sustainability Strategy is an ongoing commitment to our Southeast AK communities.

The Sustainability Strategy's vision is exemplified in the relationships we have and continue to build with our partners and Tribes.

Instead, the strategy is to empower internal and external shared leadership within Southeast Alaska by aligning with regionally and locally developed strategies and priorities

- The 2025 Economic Plan developed by Southeast Conference & Central Council of Tlingit and Haida
- The navigation and visioning services developed by Spruce Root via the Sustainable Southeast Partnership
- Regional strategies such as those developed by Spruce Root and the SSP, JEDC and the Visitor Products Cluster, the All Landowners Working group, etc.
- Continued work to integrate the 4 aspects of the Secretary's Announcement

