Who is NRCS?

- Formerly known as SCS
  - *Established in the Dust Bowl to help conserve soil*
  - *Expanded its mission in mid-90s*
    - Work with nonfederal landowners on a voluntary basis
    - Funded and administered under the Farm Bill
- Provide assistance to address natural resource concerns
NRCS Alaska

- State Office - Palmer
- Three “hub” offices in Fairbanks, Wasilla, Kenai
  - Juneau Field Office part of the south hub
- Often co-located with partner agencies/organizations
  - Farm Services Agency, Rural Development
  - Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Services and Programs

- Soil Survey
- Snow Survey
- Conservation Technical Assistance
- Cost-share programs
  - Easement, targeted programs, others as authorized
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
NRCS in Southeast Alaska

- Juneau Field Office established in 2002
  - Support and initiation of watershed councils
- Programmatic work began in 2006
  - Fish passage, wetland enhancement, riparian improvement
  - Agricultural projects – high tunnels, nutrient management, etc.
  - Second-growth forest management
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Juneau Field Office Forestry Projects

Legend
- Fish
- Forestry
- Traditional foods

Project partners include private landowners, Alaska Native corporations, nonprofit organizations, Tribes and Tribal entities, State of Alaska Division of Forestry, Mental Health Trust, municipalities, USDA agencies.
NRCS Forestry Projects in SEAK

- More than 45,000 acres contracted since 2006
  - Native corporations, state land, private
  - Partnerships with USFS, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Watershed Councils, Hoonah Indian Association
Approach

- NRCS assistance is landowner-driven
- Technical assistance provides a basis for financial programs
- Incorporating both short and long term goals increases complexity and benefits
  - Long-term silvicultural purposes
  - Shorter term recreation, aesthetics, traditional/wild foods
Ophir Creek

- Watershed rehabilitation project
  - Fish habitat improvement, road closure, thinning, along with ground and surface water monitoring
- Partnership-Yakutat Salmon Board, USFWS, USFS, USGS, NRCS, Yak-tat Kwaan, Mental Health Trust
- Contract initially with Salmon Board, then Kwaan
- >1,700 acres PCT
Sealaska Kake Forest

- Precommercial thin 2008-2009
- Landowner obtained USDA organic certification for their forest lands
- Blueberries sold to Alaskan companies for health products, pharmaceuticals, wine
Began with 135ac in 2009
More than 7,050ac in total
- PCT with various prescriptions, some gap creation, girdling, slash treatment
- Collaboration with TNC
- Managed ARRA thinning on Cape Fox, Kavilco, and Long Island Trust land
Questions?

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