

Greetings & Introduction

Hi, I am Bob Christensen
Community Forest & Fisheries Catalyst
Sustainable Southeast Partnership

&

Acting **Regional Economic Compliance Officer (RECO)**
For the EDA **Build Back Better Regional Challenge**

Bob.christensen3@gmail.com

907-209-3006

What is the BBBRC?

- The Challenge provides **transformational investments** to develop and strengthen regional industry clusters across the country, all while embracing **equitable economic growth**, creating good-paying jobs, and enhancing U.S. global competitiveness.
- This once-in-a-generation funding opportunity aims to strengthen **bottom-up**, middle-out growth in communities nationwide by leveraging local assets and encouraging **collaboration**.

Southeast Alaska Sustainable Forest Products Cluster

<https://www.eda.gov/arpa/build-back-better/>

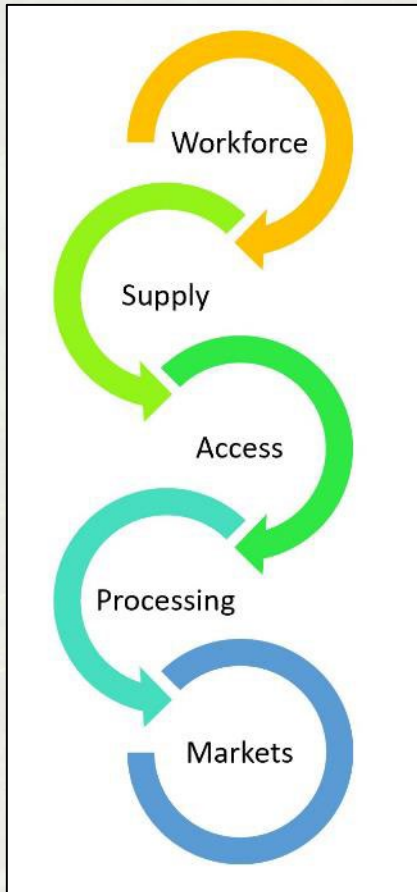
Sustainable Forest Products Cluster

Goal and Objectives

Our goal is to grow our region's forest products industry over the **next 5 years** to include robust and resilient tribal and rural community participation through Native Arts, Local Home Construction and Biomass Energy Projects, and in a way that dovetails strongly with the Tourism, Fisheries and Mariculture industries.

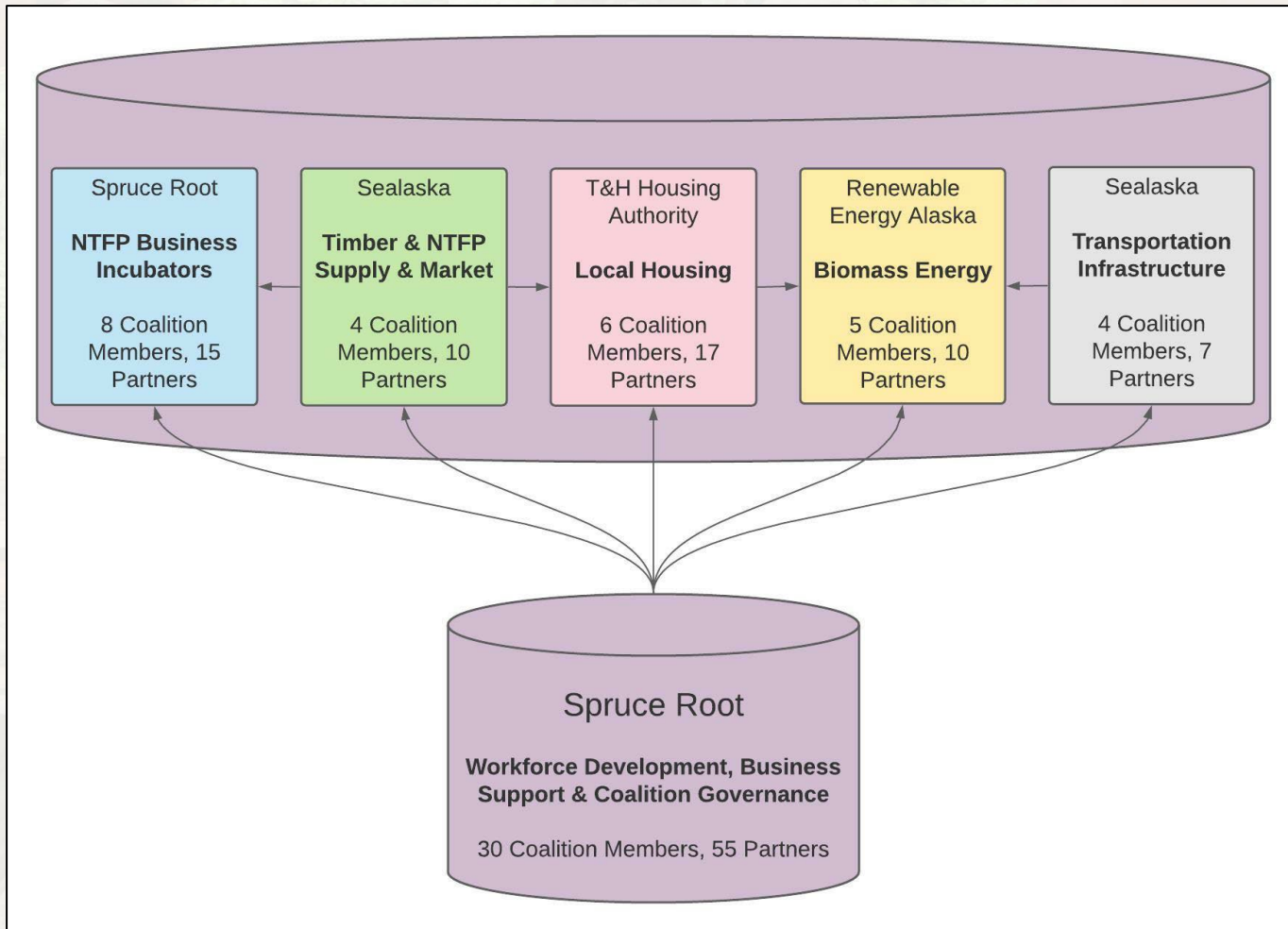
- Create at least **150 new jobs** in at least 5 tribal and rural communities in Southeast Alaska.
- Generate a minimum of **5 million dollars** of revenue annually.
- Demonstrate an approach to **equitable economic development**.

Key Ingredients

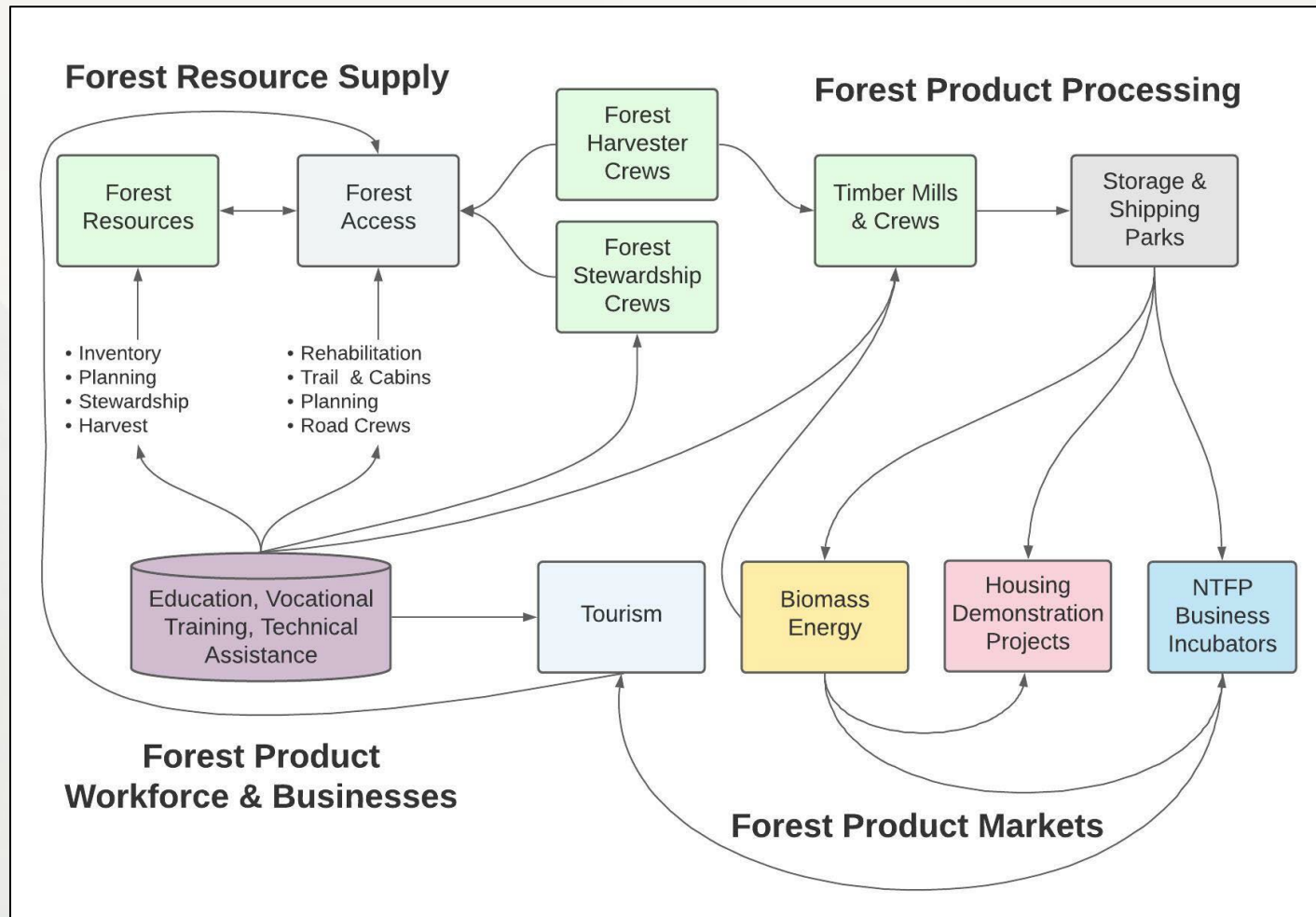


- Healthy and high-performance workforce
- Sustainable supply of forest resources
- Efficient access to forest resources
- Innovative processing infrastructure
- Diversified markets

Component Project Leads & Members



Sustainable Forest Products Industry Cluster



Next Steps

- ✓ Expand Coalition Members, Partners and Beneficiaries List
- ✓ Work with SE Conference to Forge Cross-industry Connections
- ✓ Hold Weekly Coalition Meetings for Grant Writing
- ✓ Flesh out and Practice Governance and Collaboration
- ✓ Submit Total Package of Proposals by March 15
- ✓ Continue to Invest Phase 1 Funding in Project Development
- ✓ Identify new Funding Opportunities in the Infrastructure Bill and Elsewhere

