Forest Service | National Resources Conservation Service | Rural Development

# Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investment Proposals

**Engaging Communities and Sustaining Economies** 



#### OneUSDA Intra-Agency Team



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# Supports and enhances a diverse economy, community and cultural resilience, and conservation of natural resources

- Meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and Alaska Native corporations; collaboration with partner and municipal government engagement
- Ending large-scale, old-growth timber harvest and focusing resources to support forest restoration, recreation, climate resilience, and sustainable young-growth management
- Proposing Roadless Rule protections
- Identifying short- and long-term investment opportunities and barriers to investments



#### **Short- and long-term investments**

- Initial commitment of up to \$25 million based on local priorities
- Complements partnerships
- Inclusive of the values and people in the region.
- Identify short-term projects to quickly deploy funds or
   capacity
- Look at long-term —
   forward-looking approach for
   future investments that are
   responsive to local priorities



## Outreach, engagement, proposal submittals, review, and analysis

- Utilized nontraditional request process for diverse input
- Focused engagement period from Sept. 15 –
   Oct. 18, 2021
- Consulted with five Tribal Nations and five Alaska Native corporations
- Met with 33 entities representing conservation, industry, municipal and state governments, and community-based groups
- Received over 270 investment ideas, with an estimated value of \$276 million



## Investment ideas were selected according to a rigorous assessment that included:

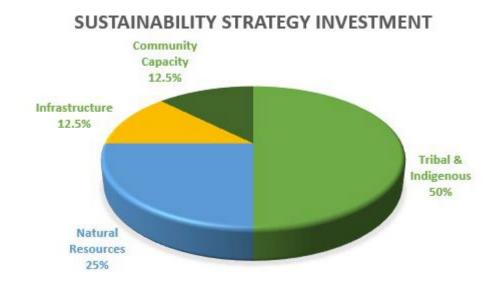
- Strong set of partners
- Priority economic sector representation
- Critical community capacity needs and/or increases capacity
- USDA commitment to ecological, economic, cultural sustainability
- Historic and/or structural decisions that have contributed to inequitable access to USDA programs



#### Investment Recommendations

### Four categories of investments of the initial \$25 million are identified:

- 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%)



#### **Initial Investments Partner Organizations**

Alaska Division of Forestry Alaska Forest Association Alaska Oyster Cooperative

Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust

Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

**Chichagof Conservation Council** 

City and Borough of Wrangell

Craig City School District

Defenders of Wildlife

**Hoonah Indian Association** 

**Hydaburg Cooperative Association** 

Juneau Economic Development Council

Kootznoowoo, Inc.

National Forest Foundation

OceansAlaska Shellfish Hatchery and Marine Science Center

Organized Village of Kake

Organized Village of Kassaan

Prince of Wales Tribal Conservation District

Prince of Wales Vocational & Technical Education Center

SalmonState

Sealaska Heritage

Shaan-Seet, Inc.

Sitka Conservation Society

Sitka Trail Works

Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition

Southeast Conference

Spruce Root

Sustainable Southeast Partnership

Takshanuk Watershed Council

Trail Mix, Inc.

Wrangell Cooperative Association

Yakutat Tlingit Tribe



### Next Steps

- Working with tribes and partners to create agreements and/or contracts
- Hiring a fulltime OneUSDA Sustainability
   Strategy Coordinator
- Working on a OneUSDA Charter
- Identifying and resolving barriers
- Implementing ideas/projects in 2022
- Empowering shared leadership within the Region
- Collaborating to identify long-term investment strategy



### Questions?

### Stay in touch

 Visit our website at <u>http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r10/sass</u>

