

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Southeast Conference****Federal Tax ID: 92-0089028****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Southeast Conference - Southeast Alaska Timber & Economic Revitalization Project

State Funding Requested: \$650,000**House District: Southeast Region (1-5)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Implementation of Economic Revitalization Program for Southeast Alaska.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$680,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$650,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$30,000

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The timber industry in Southeast Alaska could offer employment and economic development opportunities that can mitigate conditions that have hampered in economic and employment growth. The timber industry once provided 4,000 jobs to the Southeast region and currently provides approximately 300 jobs. These lost jobs represent over \$1 billion dollars in lost payroll in Southeast Alaska over the last 15 years. A healthy timber industry can substantially support Southeast's economy and improve the quality of life.

Strategy: Southeast Conference will work with the State of Alaska Timber Task Force, the Forest Service, and timber industry leaders to develop methods to reinvigorate the timber-based economy.

Tasks: Continue the process of economic revitalization for Southeast Alaska with a focus on timber and timber-impacted communities. The requested state appropriation will be used to continue the efforts of revitalizing the economy in Southeast Alaska.

Design and produce a public awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of a viable integrated timber industry in Southeast Alaska.

Work with local schools, industries, and tourists to educate them how people make a living in Southeast Alaska. Create a sustainable, ongoing program through industry investment and volunteer time.

Coordinate with the Forest Service to expedite timber sales to ensure that they are prepared and offered in a timely manner that allows a realistic opportunity for profit.

Coordinate with planning experts, Forest Service, and industries to update the 2013 Tongass Land Management Plan.

Develop a credible, feasible, defensible wildlife conservation strategy that satisfies biologists and makes a viable timber program possible.

Produce a threshold analysis of needed to support a sustainable industry in Southeast.

Southeast Conference was formed in 1958 as an association of communities joined to advocate for the establishment of the Alaska Marine Highway System. Since its inception, Southeast Conference has expanded both its membership base and its overall mission. Today, Southeast Conference is a regional, nonprofit corporation that advances the collective interests of the people, communities, and businesses in Southeast Alaska.

In its committee/planning process, there were cross-cutting discussions and participation from many stakeholders. Southeast Conference has developed many successful relationships throughout the region. Southeast Conference members include municipalities, Native corporations, village councils, regional and local businesses, educational and civic organizations, and individuals throughout the region. Southeast Conference has two major meetings per year that are highly-attended, and it is the goal of the organization to represent every community and speak for the people of the Southeast region. Historically, Southeast Conference has formed partnerships with government, industry, and individuals to obtain results that are best for the economic growth of Southeast Alaska.

Project Timeline:

FY2013-FY2014

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Southeast Conference

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Shelly Wright
 Title: Executive Director
 Address: PO Box 21989
 Juneau, Alaska 99801
 Phone Number: (907)523-4350
 Email: shellyw@seconference.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



State Request: Economic Revitalization Program for Southeast Alaska

Project Needs Description

The timber industry in Southeast Alaska could offer employment and economic development opportunities that can mitigate conditions that have produced declines in economic and employment growth. The timber industry once provided 4,000 jobs to the Southeast region and currently provides approximately 300 jobs. These lost jobs represent over \$1 billion dollars in lost payroll in Southeast Alaska in the last 15 years. Uncertainty with the prospects for continuing local revenue limits the ability of small communities to move forward with economic development projects. Southeast Alaska needs a healthy timber industry to support its economy. Southeast Alaska's Tongass National Forest can and should support a sustainable workforce and a sustainable industry on a larger scale than exists currently.

Brief Project Description

Strategy: Southeast Conference will work with the State of Alaska Timber Task Force, the Forest Service and timber industry leaders to develop methods to reinvigorate the timber-based economy.

Tasks: Continue the process of economic revitalization for Southeast Alaska with a focus on timber and timber impacted communities. The public will be reminded of the importance of timber in our everyday lives and how responsible the timber industry is. The Forest Service could benefit from support to overcome any objections to providing a guarantee of a viable timber supply (10-year timber sales) to the mills in Southeast Alaska. Time is running out for the timber infrastructure. There must be sales offered sooner than they are slated in the current Forest Service timeline. This will require outreach at the local, state and federal levels to insure the Forest Service has the tools and support they need to accomplish this goal. The Forest Service should be encouraged and assisted in preparing a Land Management Plan update. This will require federal lobbying and it will require a part-time planning expert to ensure the Land Management Plan update achieves the goal (a viable 360 mmbf ASQ). The requested state appropriation will be used to continue the efforts of revitalizing the economy in Southeast Alaska.

- Design and Produce a public awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of a viable integrated timber industry in Southeast Alaska.
- Work with local schools, other industries, and tourists to educate them how people make a living in Southeast Alaska. Creating a sustainable ongoing program through industry investment and volunteer time.
- Coordinate with the Forest Service to expedite timber sales to ensure that they are prepared and offered in a timely manner that allows a realistic opportunity for profit.
- Coordinate with planning experts, Forest Service, and other industries to update the 2013 Tongass Land Management Plan.
- Develop a credible, feasible, defensible wildlife conservation strategy that satisfies the biologists and makes a viable timber program possible.
- Produce a threshold analysis of needed to support a sustainable industry in Southeast.



Qualifications: Southeast Conference is an organization with a compressive public process. In its committee/planning process, there have been cross-cutting discussions and participation from many stakeholders. Southeast Conference has developed many successful relationships throughout the region. Southeast Conference members include municipalities, Native corporations, village councils, regional and local businesses, educational and civic organizations, and individuals throughout the region. Southeast Conference has two major meetings per year that are highly-attended, and it is the goal of the organization to represent every community and speak for the people of the Southeast region. Historically, Southeast Conference has formed partnerships with government, industry, and individuals to obtain results that are best for the economic growth of Southeast Alaska.

Budget Overview

Wildlife Conservation Study	\$400,000
Threshold Study	\$100,000
Contractors/Staff	\$100,000
Southeast Conference match	<\$20,000>
Travel/travel expenses	\$32,000
Legal - for supporting grass roots efforts and for defending against litigation.	\$11,000
Outreach - Continue outreach to potential participants including meetings, communications etc to facilitate work to revitalize the economy	\$50,000
Overhead, administrative support	\$5,000
Printing, distribution of materials	\$2,000
Total	\$680,000

Project Description/Work plan

Deliverables

1. A credible, feasible, defensible wildlife conservation strategy that satisfies biologists and makes a viable timber program possible.
2. An unbiased, third-party timber threshold analysis of supply and demand needed to support a sustainable timber industry in Southeast.
3. Curriculum and printed materials for a public awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of the resource development.

Immediate tasks

1. Coordinate with planning experts in the Forest Service and other industries to update the Tongass Land Management Plan. Overcome obstacles to the preparation of economic timber. Amend parts of the current land management plan, including:
 - a. The deer model
 - b. The Management Indicator Species
 - c. The marten and goshawk standard and guidelines
 - d. Expansion of beach fringe



2. Develop a credible, feasible, defensible wildlife conservation strategy that satisfies biologists and makes a viable timber program possible.
3. Produce an analysis of supply and demand needed to support a sustainable industry in Southeast.
4. Coordinate with the Forest Service to expedite timber sales to ensure that timber sales are prepared and offered in a timely manner that allows a realistic opportunity for profit. Achieve 10-year timber sales for each significant manufacturing facility.
5. Coordinate with the US Forest Service to better prepare timber sales so they are offered in a manner that allows a realistic opportunity for profit.

Ongoing tasks

1. Design and produce a public awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of a viable, integrated timber industry in Southeast Alaska.
2. Work with local schools, communities and other industries to develop an outreach program that educates and advocates for issues important to the revitalization of the wood products industry. Use this program to create awareness for visitors about how people make a living in Southeast Alaska.
3. Monitor and support legislative issues affecting the wood products industry.