

SUSTAINABLE SOUTHEAST PARTNERSHIP

Catalyst Directory



SUSTAINABLE
SOUTHEAST
PARTNERSHIP

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A Vibrant Way of Life

The Sustainable Southeast Partnership (SSP) is a dynamic collective uniting diverse skills and perspectives to strengthen cultural, ecological, and economic resilience across Southeast Alaska.



OUR COLLECTIVE VISION

Our network includes Tribal governments, community-minded organizations, local businesses, Alaska Native corporations and entities, culture bearers, educators, state and federal agencies, and more.

We envision self-determined and connected communities where Southeast Indigenous values continue to inspire society, shape our relationships, and ensure that each generation thrives on healthy lands and waters.

For over ten years, SSP has worked to catalyze community-driven initiatives that improve the quality of life and resiliency of Southeast Alaskans



WHAT WE DO

We work at the intersection of cultural, economic, and ecological well-being. SSP addresses complex social, environmental, and economic challenges through purposeful collaboration.

Our network is based on commitment across organizations and individuals to a common agenda, shared infrastructure, continuous communication, mutually reinforcing activities, and a shared measurement framework. Members of the network leverage their unique perspectives, expertise, experiences, resources and insight to catalyze on-the-ground initiatives that build cultural, ecological, and economic prosperity for our communities and region.



WHAT WE VALUE

- Relationships First
- Balance
- Tribal Sovereignty & Community Determination
- Kuxhadahaan.Adaayoo.analgein is Tlingit for “Stop, observe, examine, act”
- Intentional Collaboration
- Courage & Follow Through
- Growth & Collective Learning
- Systems Thinking
- Justice & Healing



GET INVOLVED

www.sustainablesoutheast.net

Steering Committee

The Sustainable Southeast Partnership is governed by a Steering Committee that meets regularly to offer guidance, direction, strategy, and vision.



PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Marina Anderson

SPRUCE ROOT
Prince of Wales, AK



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Crystal Yankawgé Nelson

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
Juneau, AK



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alana Gah Kith Tin Peterson

SPRUCE ROOT
Sitka, AK



COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Bob Christensen

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
Lemesurier Island, AK



STORYTELLING PROGRAM

Bethany Sonsini Goodrich

SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Sitka, AK



CHAIRMAN

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Juneau, AK



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PRESIDENT

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TLINGIT & HAIDA
Juneau, AK



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dawn Kaaxwaan Jackson

ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KAKE
Kake, AK



NETWORK PROGRAM OFFICER

Aaron Poe

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Anchorage, AK



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Andrew Thoms

SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Sitka, AK

The Steering Committee is composed of designated representatives of community, regional and Alaska Native entities, and other interested organizations participating in the SSP partnership. The SSP strives to model balance among the steering committee: across communities, sector, and organizational focus.

Program Director



PROGRAM DIRECTOR



FOCUS AREA



PROJECT AREAS

Marina Anderson

Spruce Root | Prince of Wales, AK
MARINA@SPRUCEROOT.ORG

Hello! I am the Program Director for the Sustainable Southeast Partnership. I am also on the SSP Steering Committee that meets regularly to offer guidance, direction, strategy and vision to the Partnership. I am Haida and Tlingit from Prince of Wales Island. My Haida Clan is Gaw Kiiwas (Raven/Owl/Flicker/Killer Whale/Grizzly Bear) and my Tlingit clan is Taakw.aaneidi (Raven/Sculpin). At a young age I got started in tribal politics by growing up with the Alaska Native Sisterhood where I learned from the elders around me. Outside of work I spend time out on the land and water harvesting traditional medicines and foods to share with my community.

Vision, Leadership & Strategic Direction

The Program Director is responsible for preparing and overseeing annual SSP budgets, providing support to all SSP Catalysts and partners, tracking progress and performance, and building overall capacity for triple-bottom-line community development. Representing a diverse network of individuals and organizations, this role is essential to driving the collective vision and implementing the strategy of our collective impact network.

- **Leading the Development of the Vision and Strategy**
- **Overseeing the Implementation of Programs, Activities, Budgets, and Agreements of the Network**
- **Leading Efforts to Expand the Sustainable Southeast Partnership**
- **Building Overall Capacity of Partnership, Members, and Programs**
- **Facilitator and Organizer of SSP Retreats, Gatherings, Events, and Work Groups**
- **Lead Ambassador of SSP Values**

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

In Service to our Communities and Collective Values

As the SSP Program Director, my work is driven by, identified by, and led by our communities. In the Partnership we work to shift more agency, authority, and governance into the hands of the people who live, work, and thrive in Southeast Alaska. We recognize and honor that Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Sovereignty transcends thousands of years. We invest in ourselves and each other and prioritize building the capacity of our communities through knowledge and skill sharing, apprenticeships, and formal programs. We cultivate this exchange across geographies, disciplines, and generations.

I work to ensure that our network continues to honor our communities and remains true to our collective values. I work to foster trust and meaningful relationships across the region while bringing resources, investments, and support to Southeast Alaska. At my core, I work to show up for my community whether that is by supporting Haa Tóo Yéi Yatee Culture Camp in Hunna or by sticking a bunch of sticky notes on a wall that help us set priorities and realize our vision.



Angoon Community Catalyst



CATALYST



COMMUNITY



PROJECT AREAS

Garrett Jack

Kootznoowoo Inc. | Angoon, AK
GJACK@KOOTZNOOWOO.COM

My name is Garrett Jack. I've lived in Angoon most of my life. I moved away after graduating high school in 2013 and moved back in 2017. I started working for the Angoon Community Association (ACA) back in December of 2019 as the part time Project Assistant for our Tribe's Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS-AK) Grant. This was for the development of a Comprehensive Development Plan for the Community of Angoon. In 2021 while still employed with the ACA I began a second part time position as the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds Coordinator. I did both part time jobs up until I left the ACA in September 2022. I look forward to using the experience that I have, to move forward with this position.

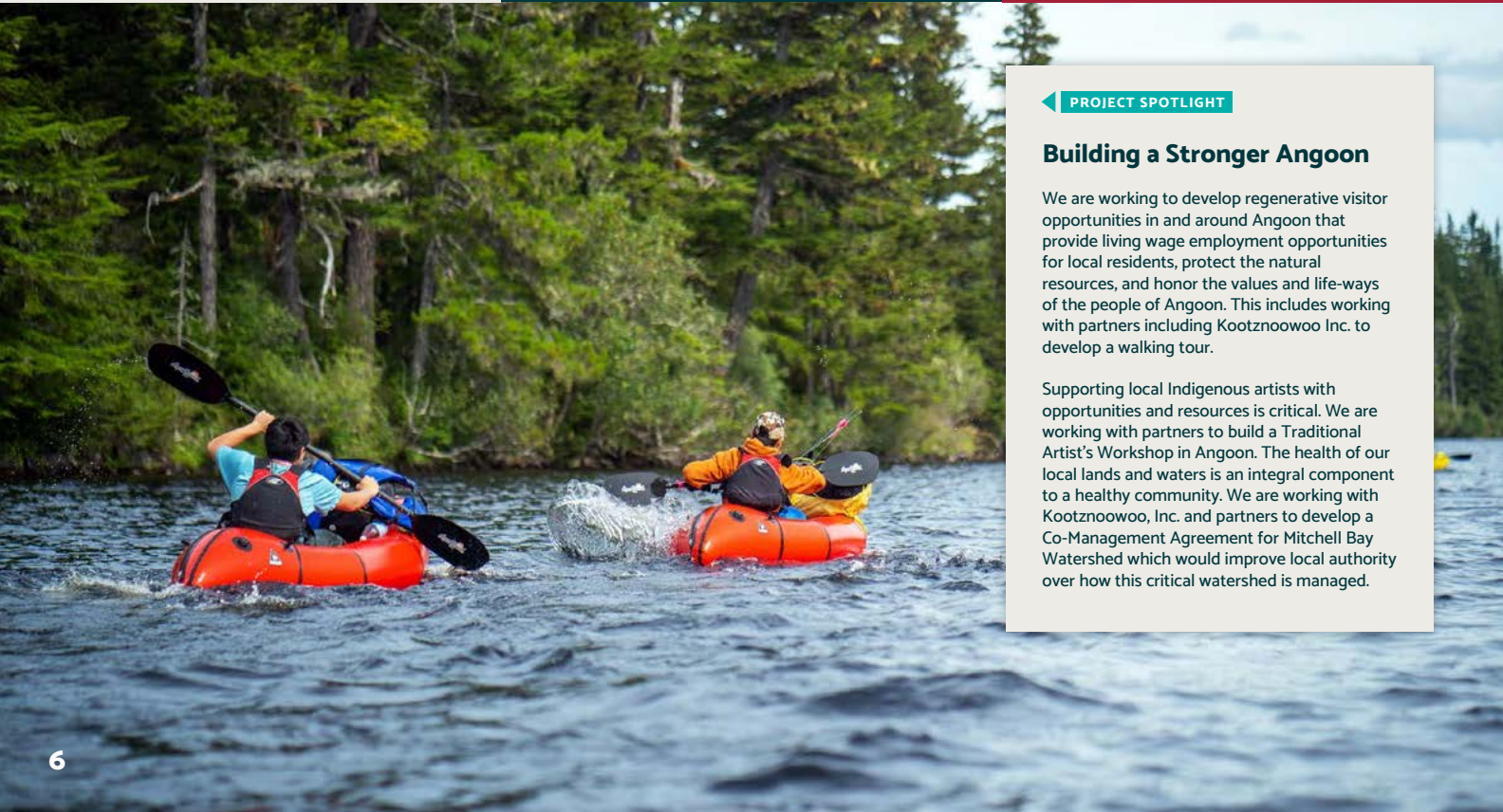
Aangóon Angoon

Aangóon is a community of approximately 350 year round residents on Admiralty Island. It is surrounded by the beautiful Kootznoowoo Wilderness Area and the Admiralty National Monument. Angoon is the ancient home of the Tlingit Xóotsnoowe'di. (Bear Fort People). Before non-Native explorers first made contact with the Xóotsnoowe'di, Admiralty Island was known as Xóotsnoowu (Kootznoowoo), translated as "Fortress of the Bears" because of the density of brown bears that exist on the island.

- Developing Regenerative Tourism Opportunities
- Natural Resource Protection & Stewardship
- Cultural Programming

CORE PARTNERS

Chatham School District, Angoon Community Association; Kootznoowoo, Inc., USDA Forest Service, Salmon State



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Building a Stronger Angoon

We are working to develop regenerative visitor opportunities in and around Angoon that provide living wage employment opportunities for local residents, protect the natural resources, and honor the values and life-ways of the people of Angoon. This includes working with partners including Kootznoowoo Inc. to develop a walking tour.

Supporting local Indigenous artists with opportunities and resources is critical. We are working with partners to build a Traditional Artist's Workshop in Angoon. The health of our local lands and waters is an integral component to a healthy community. We are working with Kootznoowoo, Inc. and partners to develop a Co-Management Agreement for Mitchell Bay Watershed which would improve local authority over how this critical watershed is managed.



Chilkat Valley Community Catalyst



CATALYST



COMMUNITY



PROJECT AREAS

Katrina Hotch

Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage Center | Chilkat Valley, AK
KHOTCH@CHILKAT-NSN.GOV

Hi! I am extremely grateful to have grown up in the Chilkat Valley and to be working in Klukwan. The community fostered strong foundational roots in our subsistence way of life, song and dance, arts and language. When I attended the University of Alaska Southeast to obtain my BLA I was able to further my studies in our history, Lingít Yoo X'atángi, and Northwest Coast Arts: Formline, Carving, Basketry and Woolen Weaving. Before moving back home in 2021 I worked at Sealaska Heritage in programming centered on the languages of Southeast Alaska, Lingít, Xaad Kíl and Sm'algyax, and Northwest Coast Arts. As the community catalyst for Tlákw Aan and Deishú I am excited to be diving into projects that support community based cultural resources.

Tlákw Aan | Deishú *Klukwan and Haines*

Haines and Klukwan, home of the Lkoot Kwáan and the Jilkaat Kwáan. The Chilkat region, surrounded by stunning mountains, is often visited for Bald Eagle viewing and as a unique destination for adventure racing. The Chilkat Valley has a lot to enjoy and explore whether you are interested in Northwest Coast Arts, fishing, or outdoor adventures. We hope visiting the Chilkat Valley will enrich your appreciation of Alaska and our cultures.

- Sustainable Cultural Tourism
- Facilitating Community Based Cultural Education
- Lingít Language, Medicinal Plants and Northwest Song & Dance

CORE PARTNERS

Chilkat Indian Village, Klukwan Community & School Library, SEARHC, and Klukwan Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 8.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Cultural Programming

We are renewing our efforts in cultural programming post pandemic starting with three main focuses in Lingit Language, Medicinal Plants and Northwest Coast Song & Dance. These subjects also align with upcoming programming with our long term partner the Klukwan Community and School Library.

We have worked together on a variety of workshops and cultural documentation projects. We hope that these upcoming programs will aid in the transmission and preservation of our traditional knowledge as well as foster the sense of community.

Hoonah Community Catalyst



CATALYST



COMMUNITY



PROJECT AREAS

Ian Johnson

Hoonah Indian Association | Hoonah, AK
IAN.JOHNSON@HIATRIBE.ORG

Ahoy! I am a Maine-esotan (Minnesotan Mainer) turned Alaskan. I moved to the incredible community of Hoonah in early 2016 after completing an interdisciplinary Masters in Wildlife Biology and Conservation through the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I live an enchanted life here because I love the diversity, satisfaction, community-benefit, and partners of my job. I am addicted to the subsistence lifestyle, adventure access, and available wilderness of the Hoonah Area and I have the privilege to be immersed in the Tlingit culture and incredible history of this place. I operate the Environmental Department at HIA which includes leading the Hoonah Native Forest Partnership.

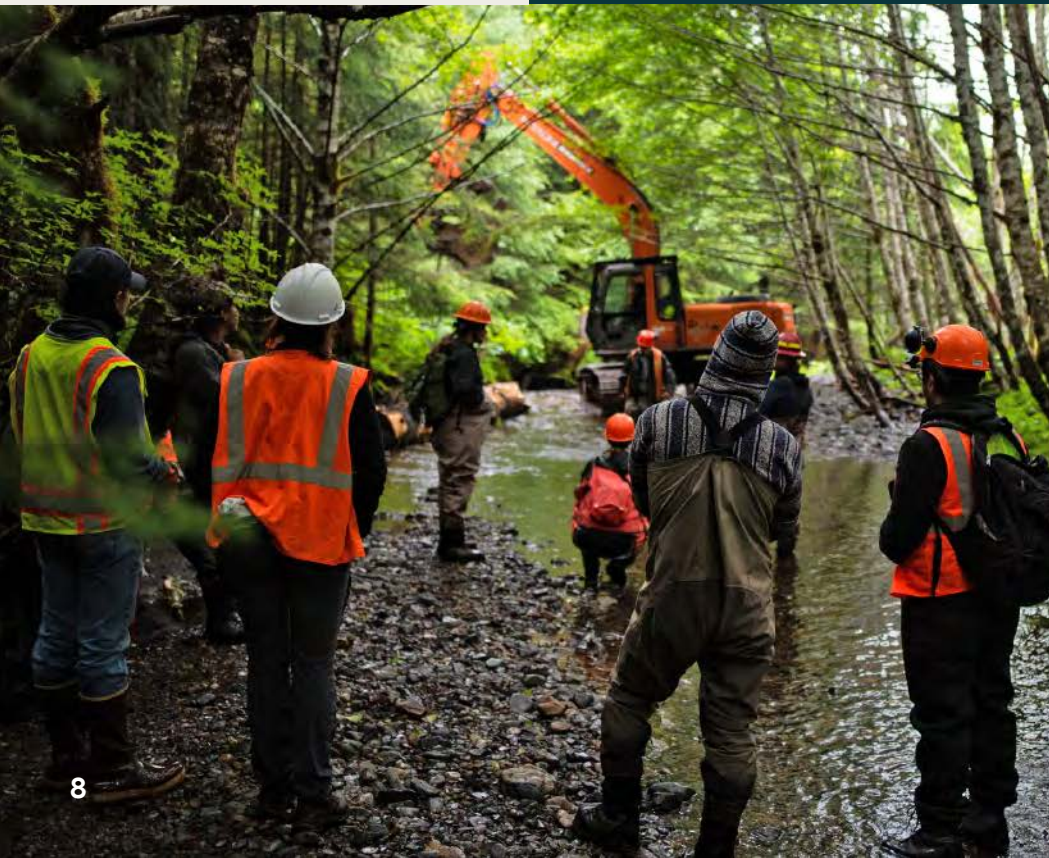
Xunaa Hoonah

Hoonah, Alaska on Chichagof Island is the largest Tlingit village in Southeast Alaska. The Huna Tlingit are descendants of the original inhabitants of Glacier Bay who migrated to Hoonah following a significant glacial advance that destroyed their traditional villages and summer camps within the Bay. Today, this community of nearly 800 enjoy a proud cultural identity and thriving cruise-ship and commercial fishing industries.

- Beach Monitoring
- Phytoplankton and Shellfish Study
- Stream Monitoring
- Youth Workforce Development

CORE PARTNERS

Alaskan Youth Stewards, Alaska Department of Conservation, Hoonah City Schools, U.S. Forest Service, Huna Heritage Foundation, National Parks Service



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Hoonah Native Forest Partnership

Now and through the next century, the lands surrounding Hoonah will provide abundant resources that support our culture, economy, and community. The Hoonah Native Forest Partnership (HNFP), which includes public and private landowners, promotes sustainable economic development, local workforce employment, ecological restoration, and resource management, with the goal of ensuring the conservation of fish, wildlife, and forest resources.

Last summer, the crew members of the Hoonah Native Forest Partnership had an important mission in mind : find undocumented salmon streams across the Hoonah landscape. After walking streams through brush, over logs, past bears, and through young-and-old-growth they found 13.2 miles of streams with coho where they had not been documented before. No small feat!

Kake Community Catalyst



CATALYST

Hank Copsey

Organized Village of Kake | Kake, AK
SSP@KAKE-NSN.GOV

Hello! I have been living in Kake since I was 9. I went to college at Northwest Indian College in Washington state and achieved my Associate in Arts degree. After college, I moved back to Kake where I worked with Kake Tribal Corporation as a logger, log truck driver and road builder. Then I started working with the Organized Village of Kake where I have been working for the past 16 years. I am currently the Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership coordinator and I'm also part of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee.



FOCUS AREA

Kake *Kéex'*

Nestled in Keku Strait on Kupreanof Island, sits the Tlingit village of Kake. Around 600 people are lucky enough to call this community with its inspiring landscape, unique history, and flourishing culture, home. Kake has a long history of living in balance with local lands and waters. Most people hunt, fish and sustain their families with foods gathered by hand.



PROJECT AREAS

- Road and Culvert Assessments
- Fish Mapping
- Fish Shocking and Tree Thinning in Kake and Hoonah

CORE PARTNERS

U.S. Forest Service, Sealaska Corporation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kake Tribal Corporation, Hoonah Native Forest Partnership, Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership, Ecotrust

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Stewards of Lands and Streams

The Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership (KKCFP) is an Indigenous Guardians program in Kake, Alaska that is bringing together community and regional organizations to collaboratively steward the homelands of the Kake people.

The KKCFP crew have learned about forest and stream restoration with partners in Klawock and Hoonah. They also completed a saw training with the USFS in Petersburg. The crew has conducted road and culvert assessments, fish mapping, fish shocking and tree thinning in Kake and Hoonah and partnered up with the Alaskan Youth Stewards. They are excited about an upcoming project on Kuiu island where they will be doing a stream restoration project with heavy equipment. This hands on project has been on their radar for the past few years and they're looking forward to starting in June.



Klawock Community Catalyst



CATALYST



COMMUNITY



PROJECT AREAS

Wade Hulstine

Klawock Cooperative Association | Klawock, AK
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Hello! I am Wade Hulstine a community catalyst with SSP working with the Klawock Cooperative Association. I am one of three field supervisors with the Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership (KISFP). The KISFP is a science-based, landscape scale, community forest approach to long term sustainable watershed planning and project implementation.

I enjoy being out on the land, hunting and fishing, harvesting herring eggs in spring and exploring Prince of Wales Island.

Láwaak Klawock

Klawock is located on Prince of Wales Island and is a small coastal community, surrounded by mountains and water. Originally a seasonal fishing camp for the Tlingit people., Klawock is situated at the mouth of the Klawock River- once known for its great Sockeye salmon returns. Today, it is still known as a fishing community with a small but robust fishing fleet. In addition, Klawock has a local timber mill and is increasingly exploring tourism opportunities.

- Kosciusko Island Stream Restoration
- Riparian Thinning in the Klawock Lake Watershed
- Landslide Assessment on Prince of Wales

CORE PARTNERS

Shaan-Seet Corporation, USDA Forest Service, Sealaska, Klawock Heenya Corporation, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, Klawock Cooperative Association, Tribal Conservation District



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership (KISFP)

The Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership (KISFP) is a science-based, landscape scale, community forest approach to long term sustainable watershed planning and project implementation whose overall goal is to achieve a measurable and resilient blend of timber, salmon, and deer production, other natural products and local economic diversification and improved watershed health.

Core partners include Shaan-Seet Incorporated, Klawock Heenya Corporation, Klawock Cooperative Association, Prince of Wales Tribal Conservation District, Sealaska Corporation, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and the U.S. Forest Service. The community forest project area encompasses roughly 250,000 acres and includes private corporate and federal lands. KISFP blends highly inclusive collaboration, state of the art land management tools and innovative, watershed-scale planning approach for balancing economic, social and ecological outcomes.

Sitka Community Catalyst



CATALYST



COMMUNITY



PROJECT AREAS

Chandler O'Connell

Sitka Conservation Society | Sitka, AK
CHANDLER@SITKAWILD.ORG

Hello! I use she/her pronouns. I am deeply grateful to have been born and raised as a guest on Lingít Aaní. I spend my days with my children and our extended family and friends. Before returning to Sitka in 2016, I worked in Burundi and Rwanda as a Global Health Corps Fellow and then at One Acre Fund, a social enterprise committed to ending hunger and poverty by serving smallholder farmers. As the Sitka Community Catalyst, I spent my days collaborating with my neighbors to try and build a better, more equitable community now and for future generations. I support a variety of citizen-led initiatives that connect with food security, Indigenous sovereignty, workforce development and climate change.

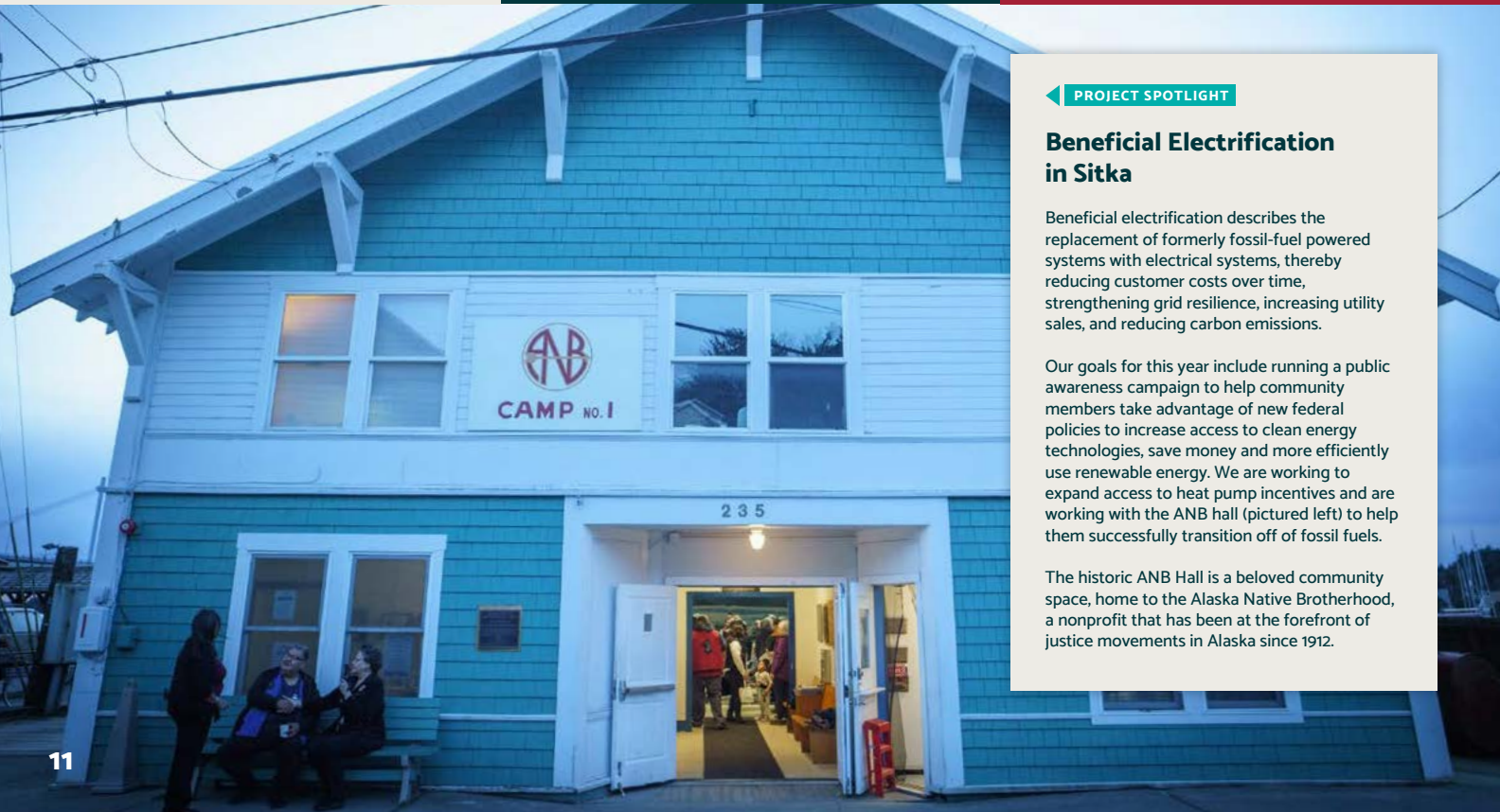
Sheet'ká Kwáan *Sitka*

Sitka is a Lingít community on the outer coast of Baranof Island. Sitka is home to just under 9,000 year-round residents with an economy, like the region as a whole, reliant on commercial fishing, tourism, and government jobs. Sitka is nestled in the Tongass National Forest where families practice their culture, fish, hunt, gather foods, hike, play and find inspiration.

- Beneficial Electrification
- Place Based Education
- Food Security and Sovereignty

CORE PARTNERS

Alaska Heat Smart, Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall, Central Council of the Tlingít & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Pacific High School, Sitka Carbon Offset Fund, Sitka School District, Sitka Tribe of Alaska



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Beneficial Electrification in Sitka

Beneficial electrification describes the replacement of formerly fossil-fuel powered systems with electrical systems, thereby reducing customer costs over time, strengthening grid resilience, increasing utility sales, and reducing carbon emissions.

Our goals for this year include running a public awareness campaign to help community members take advantage of new federal policies to increase access to clean energy technologies, save money and more efficiently use renewable energy. We are working to expand access to heat pump incentives and are working with the ANB hall (pictured left) to help them successfully transition off of fossil fuels.

The historic ANB Hall is a beloved community space, home to the Alaska Native Brotherhood, a nonprofit that has been at the forefront of justice movements in Alaska since 1912.

Skagway Community Catalyst



CATALYST



COMMUNITY



PROJECT AREAS

Eliza Russell

Skagway Development Corporation | Skagway, AK
PROGRAMMANAGER@SKAGWAYDEVELOPMENT.ORG

Hello! Growing up my backyard was the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, the ancestral home of the Timucua people. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Administration from Florida State College of Jacksonville. As the Skagway Community Catalyst, my focus is on economic development and positive community outreach. I am dedicated to promoting regenerative tourism, cultural understanding and respect for the land we inhabit. With a passion for childcare and outdoor place-based education, I work towards expanding sustainability and cultivating creativity in our communities. I also actively volunteer my time and energy as a member of the Skagway Arts Council and serve as the President of the Skagway Child Care Council.

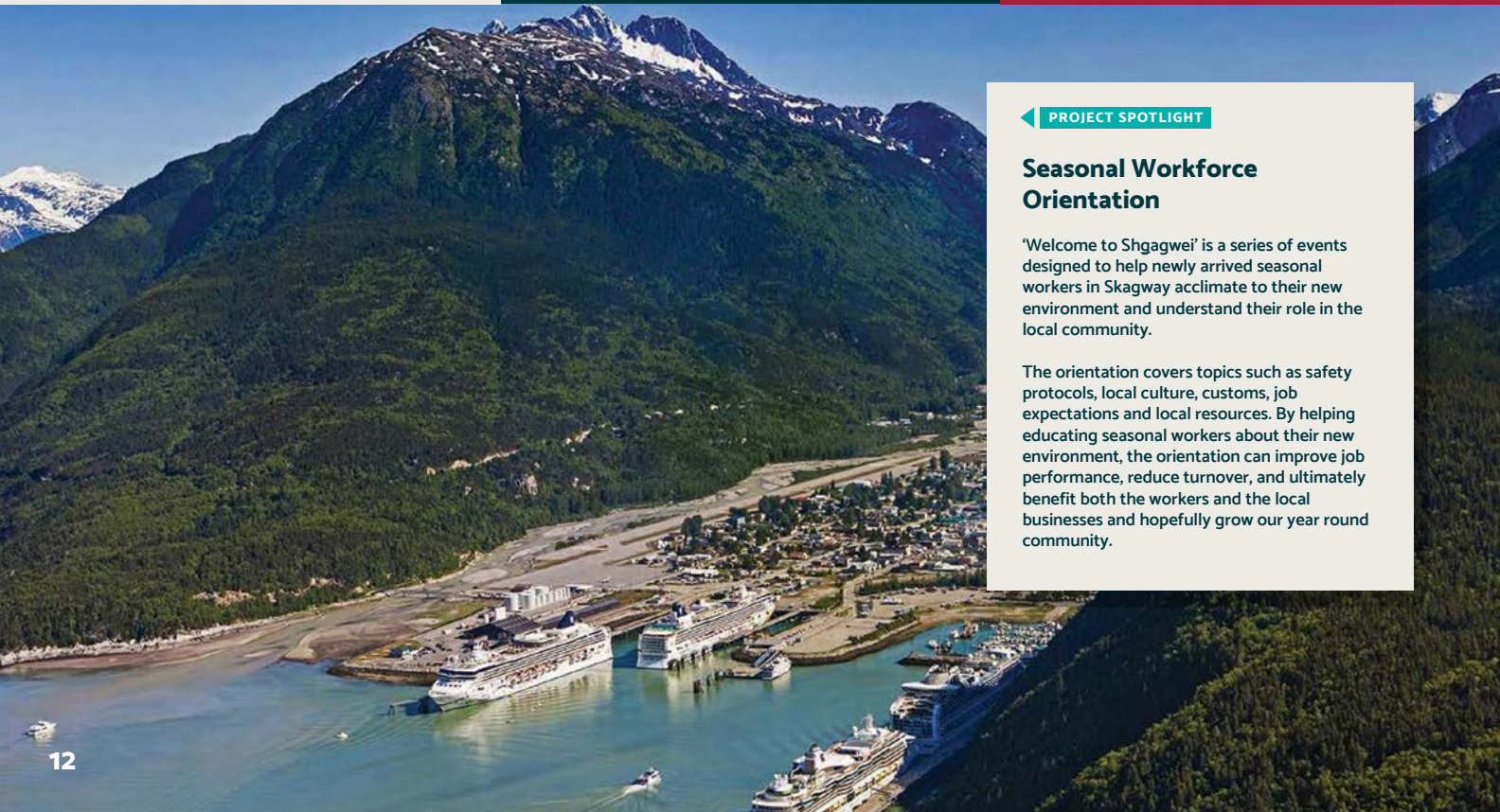
Shgagwei Skagway

Skagway's community consists of about 800 people. Shgagwéi, meaning "a windy place with white caps on the water" and was traditionally used as a fish camp by the Chilkoots and Chilkats. Today, the Skagway Village operates as the Skagway Traditional Council. Skagway's biggest economic driver is tourism. Visitors can hike the 33-mile Chilkoot Trail or ride the historic White Pass and Yukon Route railway. Skagway's friendly residents, and giving community are one of its greatest assets.

- Watershed Stewardship
- Regenerative Tourism
- Economic, Childcare, & Workforce Development
- Community Outreach

CORE PARTNERS

Skagway Traditional Council, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, Audubon Alaska, Skagway School District, Skagway Development Corporation



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Seasonal Workforce Orientation

'Welcome to Shgagwei' is a series of events designed to help newly arrived seasonal workers in Skagway acclimate to their new environment and understand their role in the local community.

The orientation covers topics such as safety protocols, local culture, customs, job expectations and local resources. By helping educating seasonal workers about their new environment, the orientation can improve job performance, reduce turnover, and ultimately benefit both the workers and the local businesses and hopefully grow our year round community.

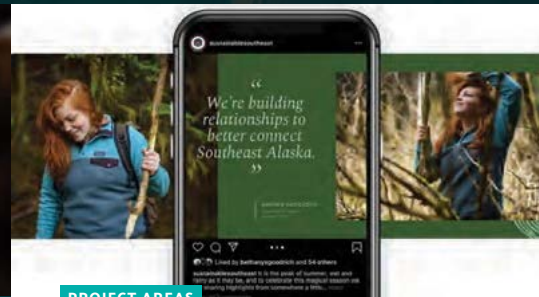
Communications Regional Catalyst



CATALYST



FOCUS AREA



PROJECT AREAS

Kaylah Duncan

Spruce Root Community Development | Juneau, AK
[KAYLAH@SPRUCEROOT.ORG](mailto:kaylah@spruceroot.org)

I am Tlingit, a child of the Dakl'aweidí clan. I carry the name S'eiltín and was raised in the territory of the Áak'w Kwáan. I graduated from Western Washington University in 2022 with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Environmental Policy and a minor in American Indian Studies. I spent two summers interning with Barnacle Foods as a kelp management intern and marketing intern. Upon completion of my internships I joined the Sustainable Southeast Partnership in conjunction with the Spruce Root team as the communications catalyst. In this position I utilize my traditional, ecological, and Indigenous knowledge to communicate with communities across the Southeast region in sustainable and impactful ways.

Communication & Engagement

Southeast Alaska is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples who continue to care for, steward, and honor the lands and waters that sustain all Southeast Alaskans. This is the largest remaining coastal temperate rainforest on the planet. Effective communication between our communities and the stewards of this land is vital to the success and preservation of our forests and culture.

- **Managing Emerging and Innovative Communications Projects**
- **Coordinating Communication Between Stakeholders and Partners**
- **Communications Strategy Development**
- **Social Media, Website, E-Newsletter & Outreach**

CORE PARTNERS

Spruce Root, Sustainable Southeast Partnership, Sitka Conservation Society, Sealaska Internship Program



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Internal and External Communication

The strength of our collaborative impact network is built on foundations of trust, respect, and reciprocity. We cultivate these relationships through effective communication channels that allow us as a region to stay connected.

There is an utmost importance in internal and external communication. How we communicate internally must be rooted in mutual understanding in care for our work. How we share our projects, stories and culture externally is equally important. By sharing our collaborative projects and our efforts in Indigenous led management of forests, lands and waters we can be an example to other communities, places and entities looking to make change. We meet monthly online and in person twice a year. We share resources, catalyze and forge relationships that bring us closer to our goal of a culturally, ecologically, and economically prosperous Southeast.

Energy Regional Catalyst



CATALYST

Clay Good

Renewable Energy Alaska Project | Juneau, AK
CGOOD@REALASKA.ORG

Lingit Aani has been my home since 1967. Twenty five years teaching science in my hometown was a joy delivered in daily doses of student curiosity and inspiration. Now I'm excited to work as the SSP Regional Energy Catalyst and STEM Energy Educator. Whether exploring the nature of energy in Hydaburg classrooms or training Angoon students to tell their community's energy story with drone video and mapping technologies or helping to plan a local Electrification Expo in Sitka or helping communities and utilities to plan for the beneficial electrification of their homes and businesses, these are exciting and important days as our communities strive for greater energy independence.



FOCUS AREA

Energy Independence

Our partners are committed to renewable energy solutions that are clean, reliable, affordable and sustainable. Energy costs are disproportionately high in our rural villages, threatening their economic health and well-being. Through education and awareness, we strive to reduce Southeast Alaska's dependence on expensive outside energy by supporting local efforts to reduce costs and improve efficiency of existing energy resources for transportation, homes, commercial and public buildings.



PROJECT AREAS

- Energy Efficiency
- Energy Education
- Beneficial Electrification
- Biomass Renewable Energy Development

CORE PARTNERS

Southeast Conference, Alaska Housing Finance Corp, Cold Climate Housing Research Center, Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority, Alaska Center for Energy and Power, Alaska Energy Authority, AK HeatSmart, USDA Rural Development

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Biomass and Education

Transitioning to biomass heat from waste wood and thinning projects improves forest health, creates local jobs and displaces hundreds of thousands of gallons of heating oil annually for many Southeast communities. The communities of Angoon, Kake, and Hoonah worked through networking and grant writing to advance their existing plans to develop biomass heating systems for community buildings.

Our energy education outreach this year notably included two week-long educational collaborations in Hydaburg where we provided hands-on project-based lessons and activities for 30 middle and high school students during a school year with desperate staff and teacher shortages.



Food Security Regional Catalyst



CATALYST



FOCUS AREA



PROJECT AREAS

Jennifer Nu

Ecotrust | Juneau, AK
JNU@ECOTRUST.ORG

Hi! Here on Tlingit Aani, I support projects and initiatives that engage Southeast Alaskans in strengthening place-based, healthy local food systems in their own communities. Food connects us to the land, to the ancestors and to each other. I believe that connections to the natural world and to community are key elements of living a good life. My most valued teachers are the friends and community members all across the state who have generously shared their skills and wisdom with me over the years. When I'm not foraging, preserving, or cooking, I also enjoy long-distance trekking, paddling, photography, and writing stories about people and community wellness.

Food Sovereignty

The food we eat is not only important to the nutritional health of our Southeast Alaskan communities, our food is part of our identity. Our partners work to forge resilient food systems that decrease dependence on outside sources, eliminate waste streams, promote knowledge and skill sharing networks, support tribal food sovereignty, cultivate place-based food enterprises and improve household and community health.

- Regional Food System Networking
- Moby the Mobile Greenhouse
- Supporting Kayaani (Plant Spirit) and Respectful Harvesters Network & Healing
- Regional Composting Network

CORE PARTNERS

UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Haa Tooch Licheesh, Alaska Food Policy Council, Kayaani Sisters, Spruce Root, U.S. Forest Service, Tlingit & Haida and more



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Regional Composting Network

This Southeast Alaska Sustainable Strategy Initiative project develops a regional composting and food recovery network to facilitate regional learning opportunities between community leaders, composting practitioners, and educators from communities throughout Southeast Alaska.

Many communities are also facing higher costs for transporting solid waste via barge to the contiguous United States. Increasingly, communities are recognizing the value of reducing, recovering, and composting food waste into valuable soil. Compost leaders in nearly every community are dedicated to innovating systems that fulfill this critical missing link in the cycle of regenerative food systems. The vision is to make composting easy, available, and accessible for residents and businesses. Composting empowers people of all ages and backgrounds to be directly involved in stewardship while at the same time contribute to local food systems.

Healing Regional Catalyst



CATALYST

Crystal Yankawgé Nelson

The Nature Conservancy | Juneau, AK
CRYSTAL.NELSON@TNC.ORG

Hello! I am the Community Development Specialist for The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Emerald Edge Program and Alaska Chapter and the healing catalyst. I am Tlingit (Lingít), Raven-Coho (L'uknax.ádi) from the Humpback Whale House (Yáay Hít) in Dry Bay (Gunaaxóo Kwáan), and I grew up in Juneau, Alaska (Dzántik'í Héeni). I focus on sustainable economies, ecological stewardship capacity, and healing and racial equity for Indigenous and local communities in Southeast Alaska. I recently completed my master's project to charter and facilitate the SSP Healing Committee for the Master of Arts in Rural Development program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



FOCUS AREA

Healing

We recognize that supporting the healing process from colonial trauma and the exploitation of people, lands and resources is foundational to our work. Through focused training that decolonize and Indigenize internal processes and systems, to community programs that celebrate, and honor our Tlingit, Haida, and Tshimsian partner's cultural heritage, we work to promote respect and understanding across Southeast.



PROJECT AREAS

- **Regional Healing Resource Inventory and Needs Assessment**
- **Lateral Kindness Workshops**
- **Cultural Healing Center with Organized Village of Kake**
- **Trauma Informed Trainings**

CORE PARTNERS

Sealaska Corporation, Tlingit & Haida, Spruce Root, Organized Village of Kake, Haa Tóoch Lichéesh, SEARHC, SEACC, Ecotrust, Elder Advisors: Bob Sam & Della Cheney



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Healing Ourselves and Our Communities Through Lateral Kindness

Lateral violence is something many Alaska Native people experience regularly. It's the "crabs in a bucket" syndrome you hear about in our communities. When one crab tries to escape the bucket, another pulls it down. These behaviors are rooted in colonization. When settler colonizers took our lands, our children, our languages, our culture, and our ways of life, our communities experienced immense suffering, and began to take it out on each other. But this is not who we are.

Our birthright is a culture that teaches us our ancestral ways of love, respect, and reciprocity of care. We need to remember who we are by remembering the teachings of our elders and ancestors. We must choose to only hold each other up, never tear each other down. Lateral violence is the ugly legacy of colonization. Lateral kindness is one way we begin to remember who we are and remember the dignity inherent in all of us.

Indigenous Guardians Regional Catalyst



CATALYST

Ralph Góos'k' Wolfe

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Hello! I am the Seacoast Indigenous Guardians Network Program Manager. I am a lifelong Southeast Alaskan, I was born and raised in Craig, on Prince of Wales Island. I now live in Yakutat with my wife, Gloria and sons Jackson and Jace. I was the Community Catalyst for Yakutat for the previous four years before becoming the SSP Program Director, stepping down to take this position in 023. I also serve as the 6th Vice President on the Executive Council for Tlingit & Haida. I served as Tlingit & Haida's Youth Representative and Sealaska's Youth Advisor (2008). I am Tlingit and Haida of the Eagle Frog of the Kooskadee clan. When I'm not working you can find me hunting, fishing, spending time with my family, and supporting Yakutat Surf Club!



FOCUS AREA

Seacoast Indigenous Guardians Network

The Seacoast Indigenous Guardians Network (SIGN) is a program that will work in collaboration with the communities of Southeast Alaska in order to protect and preserve the resources of the Indigenous lands of the Lingit and Xaadas. It will work to create plans of action to both preserve and enhance the resources of the region.



PROJECT AREAS

- Collaborate with Communities to Protect Resources in the Region
- Use Data to Monitor Areas for Concern and Inform Respective Entities
- Vision, Strategy Development, and Relationship Building for the Network

CORE PARTNERS

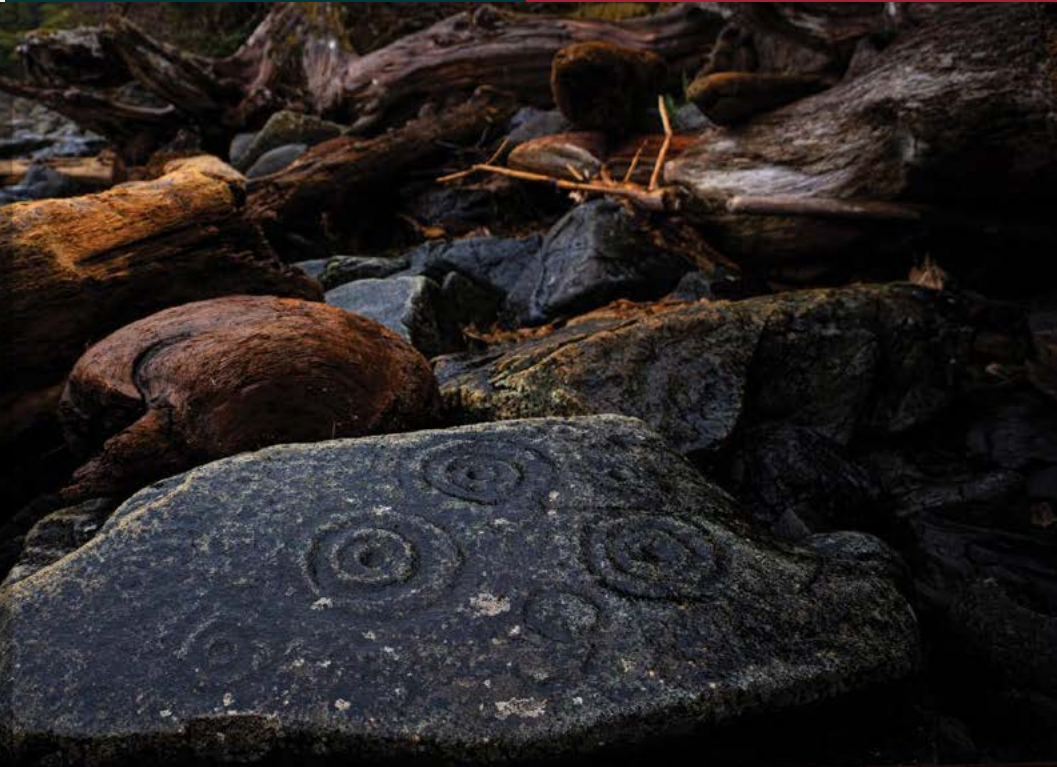
Tlingit & Haida, U.S. Forest Service, Spruce Root, Hoonah Native Forest Partnership, Keex'Kwaan Community Forest Partnership, Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership and many more.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Building the Seacoast Indigenous Guardians Network

We are working to realize the Seacoast Indigenous Guardians Network (SIGN) by creating agreements, assessing needs and priorities, gathering information, and pursuing funding opportunities that will fill all the functions of the network.

We are networking, spending time in our communities and working to build trust, relationships, and connect stakeholders across Southeast Alaska who are already empowering and building upon over ten thousand years of Indigenous stewardship. SIGN will flourish only if it has a strong foundation of trust, a powerful collective vision, and a sound strategy. We are learning from and building from the approach that the Sustainable Southeast Partnership has taken over the last decade, to create SIGN and are working close with the USDA Forest Service and the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy.



Mariculture Regional Catalyst



CATALYST



FOCUS AREA



PROJECT AREAS

Tiffany Stephens

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Tiff Stephens is the Regional Mariculture Catalyst with the Sustainable Southeast Partnership, hosted by Barnacle Foods. In her role, she supports projects that engage coastal Alaskans in planning and implementing mariculture efforts in their own communities, including through education and outreach in the schools. Tiff has an academic background in marine science (University of Washington, University of Otago) – having earned her PhD with expertise in seaweed ecology and physiology. With Barnacle Foods, Tiff will prioritize R&D on improved grow systems for bull kelp, monitor wild bull kelp populations using aerial mapping, and support kelp supply chains.

Kelp Science & Mariculture

Mariculture is the cultivation, restoration, or enhancement of marine species, in the ocean or on land. It is a tool that can be used to support access to traditional resources, for conservation, or for scaled commercial interests. Alaska has more coastline than the rest of the contiguous United States combined. There are ample opportunities to explore mariculture in ways that are equitable, sustainable, and driven by local priorities and values.

- Serving as a Liaison Between Communities and Industry
- Establishing Baselines for Floating Kelp Canopies
- Scaling Commercial Bull Kelp Cultivation

CORE PARTNERS

Southeast Conference, Alaska Mariculture Alliance, Tlingit & Haida, Native Conservancy, University of Alaska, Oceans Alaska, Kelptastic Farms, Level Island Farm, SeaQuester Farms, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Scaling Commercial Bull Kelp Cultivation

Tiff is working on encouraging the scaling of commercial bull kelp in a way that's economically feasible for local farmers. There has been coordination between Barnacle Foods and partners (e.g. community farmers, University of Alaska, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation) to identify and apply for funds that support a collaborative industry and community based farmer network.

Bull kelp is a high-value product that already has a strong presence in the market space. Wet and dry biomass is in high demand from local, regional, and global buyers. If communities are equipped with knowledge in how to cultivate bull kelp cost-effectively, they will have an immediate buyer, relieving them from paying for long-term stabilization of their product and from pressures to create their own value-added line.

Natural Resources Regional Catalyst



CATALYST

Bob Christensen

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I work through the SSP on community-based natural resource projects that integrate social, ecological and economic values because I believe that the vitality and resilience of nature and its peoples go hand in hand. I am the sole proprietor of Living Systems Design, a consulting business based in Icy Strait that has been working to facilitate collaborative stewardship at home and abroad for about 25 years. I am proud to serve on the Leadership Team of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition so that I can learn from colleagues in my field, and share the lessons we have learned in southeast Alaska with a broader network of practitioners.



FOCUS AREA

Community Fisheries & Forestry

The health and prosperity of our communities are inextricably linked to the health of our coastal rainforest. Our partners support sustainability-focused, community-driven stewardship. We work with private, state, and federal land managers to ensure local priorities, local employment, and Indigenous values, are paramount to the treatment of local lands and waters.



PROJECT AREAS

- Community Forestry Initiatives
- Alaska Youth Stewards
- Regional Guardians Network
- Natural Resource Policy

CORE PARTNERS

USDA Rural Development, USDA Forest Service, Economic Development Administration, Kake Tribal Corporation, Huna Totem, Alaska Venture Fund, Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership

The Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership (KKCFP) is an Indigenous Guardians program in Kake Alaska that is bringing together community and regional organizations to collaboratively steward the homelands of the Kake people. Work to date has focused on developing a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the forests, streams and roads on approximately 200,000 acres of lands on Kupreanof and Kuiu Island.

We have developed a local crew to monitor conditions of the landscape and to do habitat restoration and sustainable development projects on the path to co management. Partners include the Organized Village of Kake, Kake Tribal Corporation, Sealaska Corporation, the City of Kake, The Nature Conservancy, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Kai Environmental, Ecotrust and others.



Storytelling Regional Catalyst



CATALYST



FOCUS AREA



PROJECT AREAS

Bethany Sonsini Goodrich

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I am passionate about the power of story for inspiring positive social change and am committed to ethical, inclusive, and equitable processes that are driven by, and directly benefit, our communities. I am a proud first generation college graduate who holds a MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management from the University of Oxford. I learned photography through a life-long apprenticeship with my mother and believe that the most beautiful images are created with intimacy and authentic love for the people and places pictured. My work has been published in local and international publications including High Country News and TIME. I enjoy hunting, fishing, foraging, surfing, splitboarding, and processing all sorts of tasty wild foods with my husband and dog Luna.

Storytelling for Change

As storytellers, we believe in the power of sharing our experiences, resources, ideas, and inspiration. By amplifying the voices of our communities and bridging the region with stories of change, we can build a more resilient and empowered Southeast. We work with community leaders, storytellers, local and national publications, and ambassadors of our values to create and share multimedia stories that inspire and activate Alaskans.

- Monthly Juneau Empire Column 'Resilient Peoples & Place'
- Storytelling & Engagement Internship and Mentorship
- USDA Southeast Sustainability Strategy Storytelling Support

CORE PARTNERS

Juneau Empire, Sealaska, Wilburforce Foundation, Alaska Conservation Foundation, Ecotrust, Edible Alaska, US Forest Service, the Nature Conservancy & more.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Supporting Emerging, Rural, and Indigenous Storytellers

Through small story-driven mentorships, summer internships, and creative opportunities, the Sustainable Southeast Partnership's creative team builds regional capacity for storytelling and communications.

Since 2021, we have hosted Sealaska internships in Storytelling and Outreach including Kaa Yahaayi Shkalneegi Muriel Reid and Shaelene Grace Moler (pictured left). Storytelling is a particularly beneficial entrypoint for internships because it exposes our young adults to many different ideas, disciplines, projects, and other fields that may also appeal to them while growing a regional support network. Internships also help us grow our reach, our creative capacity, and allow us to increase quantity, quality, and relevance of our storytelling work.

Our interns have gone on to work as teachers, creative professionals, scientists and more--with many coming back to work with us!

Workforce Development Regional Catalyst

CATALYST

Michael Mausbach

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I grew up on traditionally Coast Salish land in Washington State where I earned my undergraduate degree in global studies and international relations with a focus on diplomacy from The Evergreen State College. My research explored the relationship between political memory, conflict, and the development of regenerative tourism. I have been a guest here in Shee't'ka for the last decade and have experience in both the non and for-profit sectors managing business and grant programs centered on workforce and economic development. I currently serve as a project manager in workforce development with Spruce Root, as well as the regional catalyst in workforce development with the Sustainable Southeast Partnership.

FOCUS AREA

Workforce Development

We support place-based economies where locally-owned and operated businesses thrive, natural resources are used sustainably and our unique cultural resources are honored. We work to ensure that more money, more expertise, more job opportunities and more business leadership remains in our villages. We work to prepare Alaskans for regionally available and culturally meaningful job opportunities while cultivating leadership and professional development opportunities in the process.

PROJECT AREAS

- Career Coaching & Small Business Support
- Soft Skills & Work Readiness Workshops
- Alaska Youth Stewards
- Community Strategic Planning

CORE PARTNERS

Sitka Tribe of Alaska, City and Borough of Yakutat, Sealaska, Sealaska Heritage Institute, Tlingit & Haida, Alaska Youth Stewards, Alaska Association of School Boards, Prince of Wales Vocational Tech Center, Alaska Association of School Boards, POW Vocational Tech Center, Sitka Conservation Society

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Career Pathways in Pacific Northwest Coast Design

I will be working with Sealaska Heritage Institute to better equip artists and school teachers of Pacific Northwest Coast Design with the skills necessary to discuss career pathways in the arts with youth across our communities. We are also working to support the Sealaska Heritage Institute's summer arts camp and will be facilitating networking opportunities between youth and professional Southeast Alaskan artists.

The arts are often incorrectly labeled as non-lucrative disciplines for young professionals as they make critical decisions about their lives and careers. We work with young Alaskans to help them better recognize the value of creativity and show how they can build a career in the arts by connecting them with working artists, by visiting Indigenous public art installations, and through work-readiness and soft skills training.



Youth Regional Catalyst



CATALYST

Gabe Sjoberg

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Hi! I am Gabe Sjoberg, the Regional Youth Catalyst hosted by Tlingit & Haida. In this role, I serve the communities of Southeast Alaska by ensuring local voices and entities lead the direction of youth stewardship across the region. After co-leading the Alaskan Youth Stewards (AYS) in Angoon, I'm honored to have the opportunity to support the AYS program in a different capacity and continue to deepen my connection with these vibrant communities and such awe-inspiring nature. Some of my passion pieces include playing outside, reading, music, laughter, cooking home grown meals, and musing of all things great and small.



FOCUS AREA

Fostering Youth Leadership

Our partners support the stewardship of local lands and waters by bringing young leaders into the forest and on the water to conduct research, execute community priorities like trail building, gather wild foods to share with elders and participate in community-forestry.

We invest in the health of our cultures, food systems, and livelihoods in Southeast Alaska for generations to come.



PROJECT AREAS

- Supporting the Alaskan Youth Stewards through Funding, Training, and Relationship Building
- Collaborate with Network to Develop Continued Opportunities for Youth

CORE PARTNERS

USDA Forest Service, Sealaska Corporation, National Forest Foundation, Hoonah Indian Association, Organized Village of Kake, Chatham School District, and the Prince of Wales Vocational & Technical Education Center



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Alaskan Youth Stewards

Gabe oversees the Alaskan Youth Steward (AYS), a program that strives to provide youth from rural Southeast Alaska with a well-supported pathway to becoming empowered, responsible, and productive leaders who contribute to the region's cultural vibrancy, ecological resilience, and economic prosperity. It emphasizes the importance of experiential learning, led by a strong network of partners. AYS provides rural and Indigenous youth with opportunities to learn marketable skills and grow as leaders, while advancing community driven projects that span from trailwork and salmon stream restoration to gathering and processing wild foods for elders.

AYS helps youth get on the path to higher education and employment opportunities. In the 2023 season, AYS will operate out of four communities within the region: Angoon, Hoonah, Kake and Prince of Wales Island.