

Conference Agenda: Day 1

March 7th

8:30 a.m. Sign-in and poster session set-up

9:00 a.m. Land acknowledgement. Welcoming comments.

9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Panel Discussion: New Models for Sustainability and the role of Watershed Stewardship

Moderated by Rob Cadmus, SAWC and Samia Savell, NRCS

Overview: Community and tribal groups have been working for years towards a new model of sustainability for the region. More recently, the USDA's Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy (SASS) has become a driving force for investment in sustainability and prioritization of watershed restoration, forest partnerships, and stewardship work in Southeast Alaska. Recognizing that watershed work is only one small piece of creating sustainable economies and livelihoods, this session will explore new models for sustainability and the role watershed stewardship could play in advancing sustainability goals.

9:15 a.m. **President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson from the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska**, shares Tlingit and Haida's vision for what sustainability means for rural communities and the challenges and opportunities we face.

9:30 a.m. **Barb Miranda, Program Manager for USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainable Strategy**, discusses goals, objectives, and USDA strategy in a focused overview of SASS.

9:45 a.m. **David Schmid, Regional Forester, Alaska Region U.S. Forest Service**, shares how SASS will impact the Forest Service's way of doing business.

10:00 a.m. **Andrew Thoms, Sitka Conservation Society Executive Director & SSP Steering Committee Member**, speaks on SCS and Sustainable Southeast Partnership strategies for sustainability.

10:15 a.m. **Alan McBee, State Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service**, discusses how the SASS initiative will advance stewardship on private lands and mixed ownership watersheds.

10:30 a.m. **Audience Question and Answer**

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Panel Discussion: A Community Perspective on Watershed Restoration and Collaboration

Moderated by Rob Cadmus and John Hudson, SAWC

Overview: The first panel discussion explored new models for sustainability, including the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy & Sustainable Southeast Partnership, with regional leaders. In this panel, we focus to the community level to learn about watershed groups, forest partnerships, and other collaborative efforts. We will explore what is happening on the ground, the goals of these efforts, and the real-world challenges these efforts face.

11:00 a.m. **Quinn Aboudara, Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership**

11:10 a.m. **Hank Copsey, Keex Kwaan Community Forest Partnership**

11:20 a.m. **Tony Gallegos, Ketchikan Indian Community and Margaret Creek Restoration**

11:30 a.m. **Reuben Cash, Skagway Traditional Council & Invasive Plants, Taiya Inlet Watershed**

11:40 a.m. **Dustin Winter, Metlakatla Indian Community and Annette Island Watershed Plan**

11:50 a.m. **Audience Q and A**

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Independent Lunch

SAWC Office Hours! Each day for the first 30 minutes of lunch, meet up with staff members from SAWC to talk about what you need to get your restoration project on the ground.

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Tlingit & Haida Native Lands and Resources Overview

Moderated by Debbie Hart, SEAKFHP

- 1:45 p.m. Indigenous Guardians - **Ralph (Góos'k') Wolfe, Indigenous Guardians Network Manager, Native Lands and Resources**
- 2:05 p.m. Capacity Building Survey – **Jill Weitz, Natural Resource Manager, Native Lands and Resources**
- 2:25 p.m. Climate Adaptation – **Raymond (Kusataan) Paddock III, Environmental Manager, Native Lands and Resources**

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Lessons from the Field: Meet me in the Second Growth

Moderated by Khrystl Brouillette, SAWC

- 2:45 p.m. **Heath Whitacre, Forest Service Hydrologist**, reports on the recent East Ohmer Creek restoration project near Petersburg.
- 3:00 p.m. **Nate Catterson, Forest Service Fishery Biologist**, shares restoration projects around the Yakutat area.
- 3:15 p.m. **Riley Gallagher, Tongass National Forest and Trout Unlimited Southeast Alaska Restoration Biologist**, reveals how this shared position between TU and the Forest Service will serve to streamline and increase restoration throughout the Tongass.
- 3:30 p.m. **Impromptu updates:** Hold the floor for 3 minutes to share an update from your work last summer or current plans for this year - keep it quick, the buzzer sounds at 3 minutes!

3:45 p.m.
Poster Session: Watersheds that Work!

- 3:45 p.m. View and discuss posters from attendees and presenters on restoration activities, Forest Service initiatives, grant opportunities, and more!
- Take this time as a networking opportunity to meet people from around Southeast Alaska - they could be your next partner.
- Stick around until 4:30 - we're firing up the grill and serving drinks!**
- Raffle drawing at 5 p.m. Fill out 3 new contacts below and be entered into a raffle to win a prize.**

Partner Contacts

| Name/organization | Email/Phone Number | Notes |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------|
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Conference Agenda: Day 2

March 8th

8:30 a.m. Sign-in, and sign-up for the business card mixer!

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Watershed Case Study: Chilkat Valley

Moderated by Derek Poinsette, Takshanuk Watershed Council

Overview: The Chilkat watershed has supported people for thousands of years, boasts large runs of all 5 species of Pacific salmon, and attracts the world's largest congregation of bald eagles. Composed of a mix of land owners, land uses, and with numerous proposed developments, the Chilkat Valley is a case study for watershed management and planning. In this session, we will learn about the science and culture that is shaping the future of the Chilkat.

9:00 a.m. **Jones P. Hotch Jr., Vice President, David Strong, Cultural Resources Technician, and Jess Kayser Forester, Chilkat Indian Village**

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Moderated by Debbie Hart, SEAKFHP

11:00 a.m. **Brock Tabor and Terri Lomax, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**, are seeking public input on potential changes to human health criteria in state water quality standards.

11:30 a.m. **Stacie Evans, Takshanuk Watershed Council & Rebecca Bellmore, SAWC**, share updates on stream temperature monitoring at the local (Chilkat River) and regional scale.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Independent Lunch (with a twist!)

As we head off to lunch, we've done some mixing! Business cards have been paired in groups of 3 to 4 at random. Head by the sign-in table to find your pairing and enjoy lunch with some new faces.

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Restoration in a Changing Climate

Moderated by Rebecca Bellmore, SAWC, and Allison Bidlack, UAF

1:30 p.m. **Rebecca Bellmore, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition**, introduces session goals.

1:40 p.m. **Jeremy Littell, Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center**, shares thoughts on current and upcoming climate information for Southeast Alaska, what they tell us and what they don't, and how best to use them.

2:00 p.m. **Charlie Parr, Scenarios Network for Alaska and Arctic Planning (SNAP)**, provides overview of available and in-production SNAP downscaled climate data and tools and discusses limitations and opportunities.

2:20 p.m. **Mike Knapp, Alaska Department of Transportation**, shares ADOT's experience with planning and implementing infrastructure projects on and near aquatic resources under changing climate conditions.

2:50 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. Break

3:05 p.m. **Matt Sloat, Wild Salmon Center**, discusses the influence of flooding, climate change, and instream wood on Pacific salmon spawning habitat availability in Southeast Alaska.

3:25 p.m. **Ryan Bellmore, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station**, provides an overview of climate change impacts on freshwater ecosystems and salmon.

3:45 p.m. **Breakout groups to brainstorm climate change implications for restoration success, and data/tools needed to support decision-making.**

Conference Agenda: Day 3

March 9th

8:00 a.m. Sign-in

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Tools for Road Analysis and Prioritization
Moderated by K.K. Prussian, USFS

8:30 a.m. **Emil Tucker, Hydrologist USFS; Dean Anderson, Hydrologist USFS; and Bob Christensen, Sustainable Southeast Partnership**, present spatial tools used in analysis and prioritization of infrastructure projects with examples from Cube Cove, Kuiu Island, Prince of Wales Island and Kake. Considering stakeholder needs and increasing risk of roads associated with climate trends, how do we prioritize what roads to upgrade and maintain and what roads to close?

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Co-stewardship & Building Capacity for Infrastructure Projects
Moderated by Andrew Stevens, USFWS

9:30 a.m. **Christy Cincotta and Nicole Swenson, USFWS**, discuss the importance of interagency partnerships in rural fish passage projects and lessons learned from the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District.

9:45 a.m. **Discussion on applicability to Southeast Alaska.**

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Panel Discussion: How do we effectively collaborate to gain efficiencies in implementing infrastructure projects?

Moderated by Neil Stichert and Sheila Jacobson, USFS

Overview: As a restoration community, how do we ensure successful collaboration and engagement on infrastructure and restoration projects moving forward? How do we gain efficiencies throughout collaborative project planning?

Panelists Include: Heather Hanson, USFWS Fish Passage Engineer; Bob Gubernick, USFS Watershed Restoration Geologist; Justin Anderson, USFS Hydrologist; Carol Seitz Warmuth, USFS Tongass Roads Program Manager; Derek Poinsette, Takshanuk Watershed Council Executive Director; Ed Douville, Shaan Seet Corporation CEO

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Forests for the Future
Moderated by John Hudson, SAWC

11:15 a.m. **Scott Harris, Center for Applied Ecology** describes the simplified conditions in young-growth forest and the response of understory forage plants to artificial canopy gaps.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Independent Lunch

1:30 p.m. **Practical Applications of Silvicultural Treatments to Accelerate Young Stand Development**

Brett Foster and Mike Sheets, USFS Region 10, introduce the general principles of stand development as observed in Southeast Alaskan forests. They will touch on a variety of methods currently and previously employed to accelerate a stand through these stages, followed by a discussion of lessons learned from the Prince of Wales Commercial Thinning Study.

1:55 p.m.

Dave D'Amore, Forestry Sciences Lab, shares evidence that red alder retention in young-growth riparian forest has important benefits.

2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m. Break

2:35 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Forests for the Future

Moderated by John Hudson, SAWC

2:35 p.m.

Forest Restoration Opportunities on the Tongass National Forest

Bonnie Bennetsen, USFS Region 10, shares forest change from past even-aged timber harvest has resulted in a number of habitat concerns. However, there is a lot that we can do: a broad body of literature supports young-growth management techniques that benefit habitat needs and ecological function. This presentation will address these topics as well as accomplishments and opportunities for young-growth forest restoration on the Tongass.

3:00 p.m.

Translating Habitat Improvement Objectives into on-the-ground Treatment Plans

Ben Case, USFS Petersburg Ranger District, presents on the prescription process and silvicultural techniques used to improve habitat for fish and wildlife on the Tongass. We'll also explore some tips and lessons learned for implementing prescriptions.

3:25 p.m.

Quinn Aboudara and Jon Carle, Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership, share a case study on riparian and upland thinning to improve wildlife and fish habitat.

3:50 p.m.

Closing Remarks.

6:00 p.m. Cocktail Social at Amalga

Meet up with friends, colleagues, and see new faces at Amalga Distillery, 134 N Franklin St.

Notes:
