

Alaska Resources Conference RDC 2019



SOUTHEAST
CONFERENCE

What's the Challenge?

N.I.M.B.Y – Not In My Back Yard

C.A.V.E.s – Citizens Against Virtually Everything

B.A.N.A.N.A.s – Build Absolutely Nothing
Anywhere Near Anything

N.O.P.E – Not On Planet Earth

F.E.A.R.S. – Fire-up Everyone Against Reasonable
Solutions



About Southeast Conference

- **Southeast Conference was incorporated in 1958**
- **After that success, stayed together to continue to advocate for issues that are priorities to the southeast region as a whole.**
- **Members from nearly every community, chamber of commerce, and economic development organization in the region.**
- **Focus on resource and workforce development, wealth creation – jobs!**
- **Southeast Conference is the federally designated Regional Economic Development District and the State-designated Alaska Regional Development**



About Southeast Alaska

- **34 Communities**
- **1,000+ Islands**
- **500 Miles**
- **18,500 miles shoreline**
- **10% of AK Economy**
- **96.5% federal lands**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Plan is winner of the 2018 NADO **Innovation Award**
- “The region’s current CEDS Southeast Alaska 2020 is **one of the best examples in the country...**”

Southeast Alaska 2020 Economic Plan

Southeast Conference’s Comprehensive
Economic Development Strategy
2016-2020



May 2016



Prepared by
Rain Coast Data



Southeast Alaska 5 Year Plan


Promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

Transportation



Minimize Impacts of Budget Cuts to AMHS and Develop Sustainable Operational Model.
Road Development.
Move Freight to and from Markets More Efficiently.
Ensure the Stability of Regional Transportation Services Outside of AMHS.

Energy



Work with Federal and State government to promote regional energy projects.
Diesel displacement.
Support community efforts to create sustainable power systems that provide affordable/renewable energy.
Complete Regional Hydrosite Evaluation for Southeast Alaska.

Maritime Maritime Industrial Support




Maritime Industrial Support Sector Talent Pipeline: Maritime Workforce Development Plan.
Increase access to capital for the regional maritime industrial support sector.
Harbor Improvements.
Examine Arctic Exploration Opportunities That the Region as a Whole Can Provide.

Seafood Industry




Mariculture Development.
Full Utilization and Ocean Product Development.
Increase Energy Efficiency and Reduce Energy Costs.
Regional Seafood Processing.
Seafood Markets.
Sea Otter Utilization and Sustainable Shellfish.
Maintain Stable Regulatory Regime.
Seafood Workforce Development.

Visitor Industry



Market Southeast Alaska to Attract More Visitors.
Improve Access to Public Lands.
Increase flexibility in terms of permit use.
Increase Yacht and Small Cruise Ship Visitations.
Improve Communications Infrastructure.
Advocate for Adequate Funding to Maintain Existing Recreational Infrastructure.

Timber Industry



Provide an adequate, economic and dependable supply of timber from the Tongass National Forest to regional timber operators.
Stabilize the regional timber industry.
Work with USFS to direct federal contracts toward locally-owned businesses.
Support small scale manufacturing of wood products in Southeast Alaska.
Continue old growth harvests until young growth supply is adequate.
Community-Based Workforce Development.
Update young growth inventory.

Other Objectives



Housing: Support Housing Development.
Food Security: Increase Production, Accessibility, and Demand of Local Foods.
Communications: Improved Access to Telemedicine in Southeast Alaska.
Marketing: Market Southeast Alaska as a Region.
Solid Waste: Regional Solid Waste Disposal.
Arts: Increase recognition of Southeast Alaska's thriving arts economy.
Mining: Minerals & Mining Workforce Development.
Attract Research Jobs.
Research: Attract science and research jobs to southeast Alaska.
Cultural Wellness: Support development of activities and infrastructure that promote cultural wellness.



TRANSPORTATION



MARITIME



VISITORS



TIMBER



ENERGY

Promoting strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.



MINING



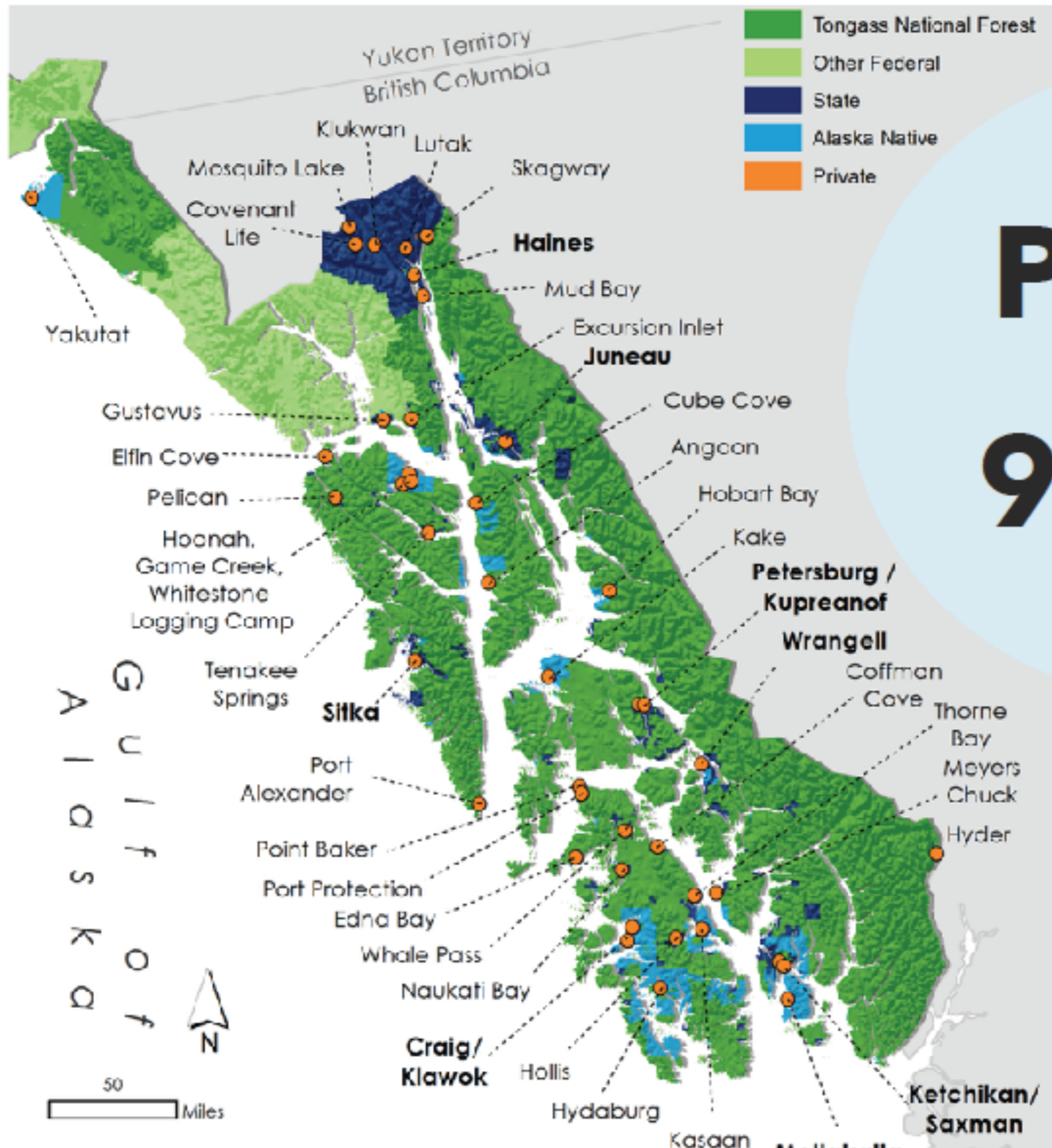
SEAFOOD

An aerial photograph of a dam construction site in a mountainous region. A large yellow tower crane is prominent on the left side of the image. The dam is a curved concrete structure under construction, with a reservoir behind it. The surrounding area is densely forested, and snow-capped mountains are visible in the background under a clear blue sky. The text "Promote Regional Energy Projects" is overlaid in white on the image.

Promote Regional Energy Projects

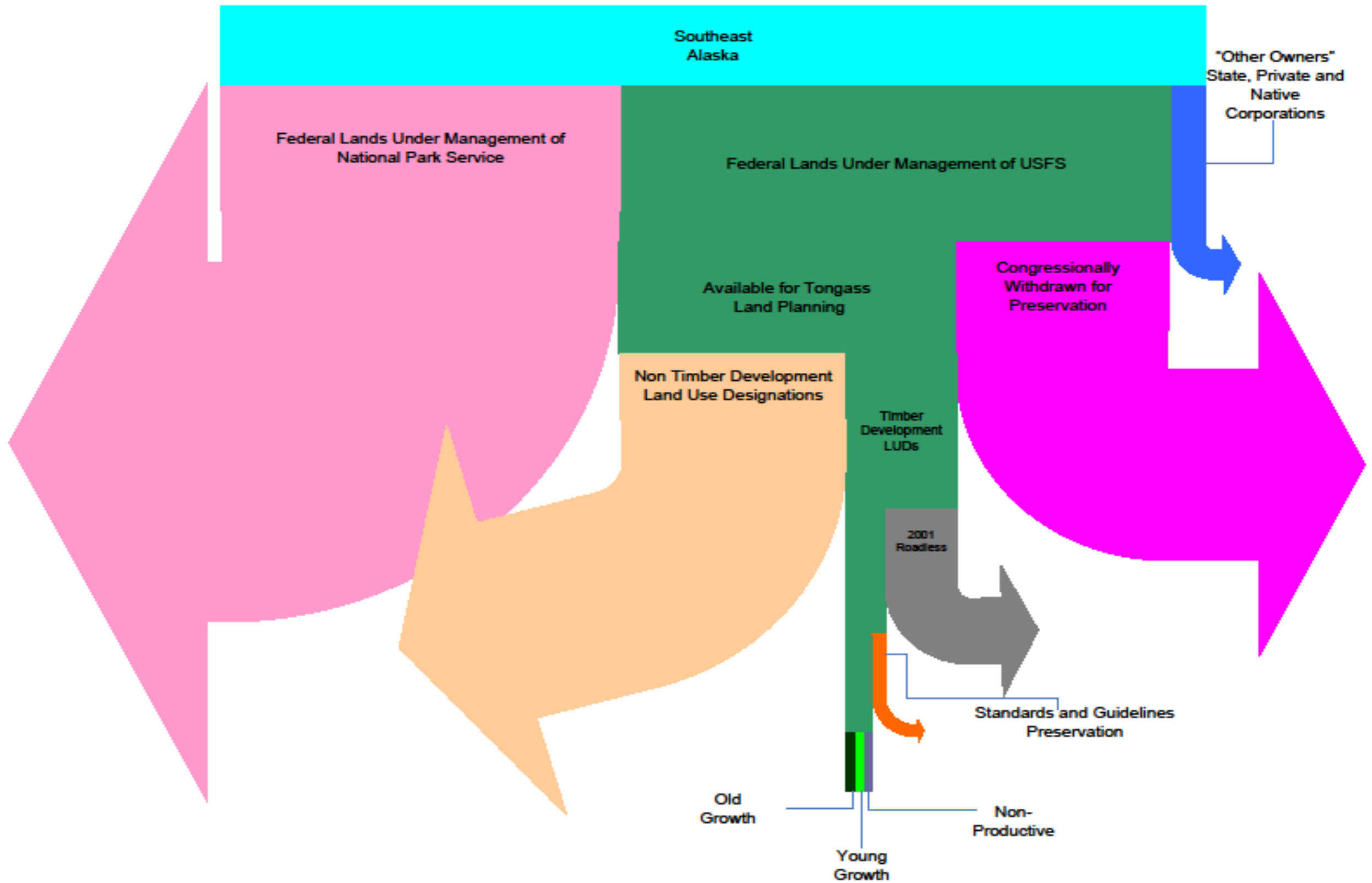
Secure an Adequate, Economic Timber Supply



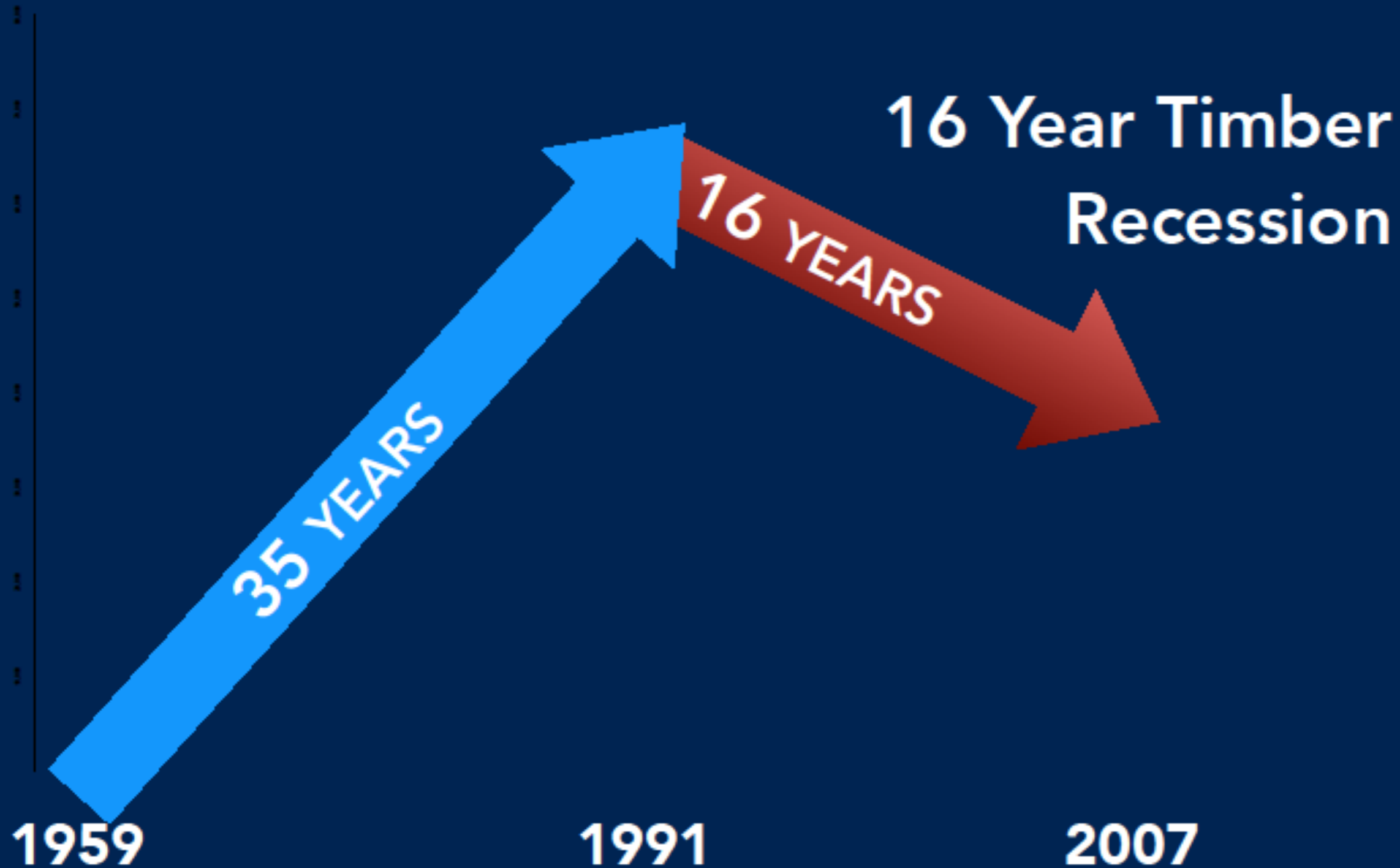


**Public
=
96.5%**

Southeast Alaska Lands and Preservation Status



Changes in Southeast Alaska: 1960 to 2007



Timber Industry

A loss of
3,300 jobs
= a loss of

\$183 million
in annual wages

Jobs
Board Feet



1983 1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

Federal Job Losses

A loss of

350

-41%

Forest Service jobs

= a loss of

\$28 million

in annual wages



Total Direct Job/Wage Losses

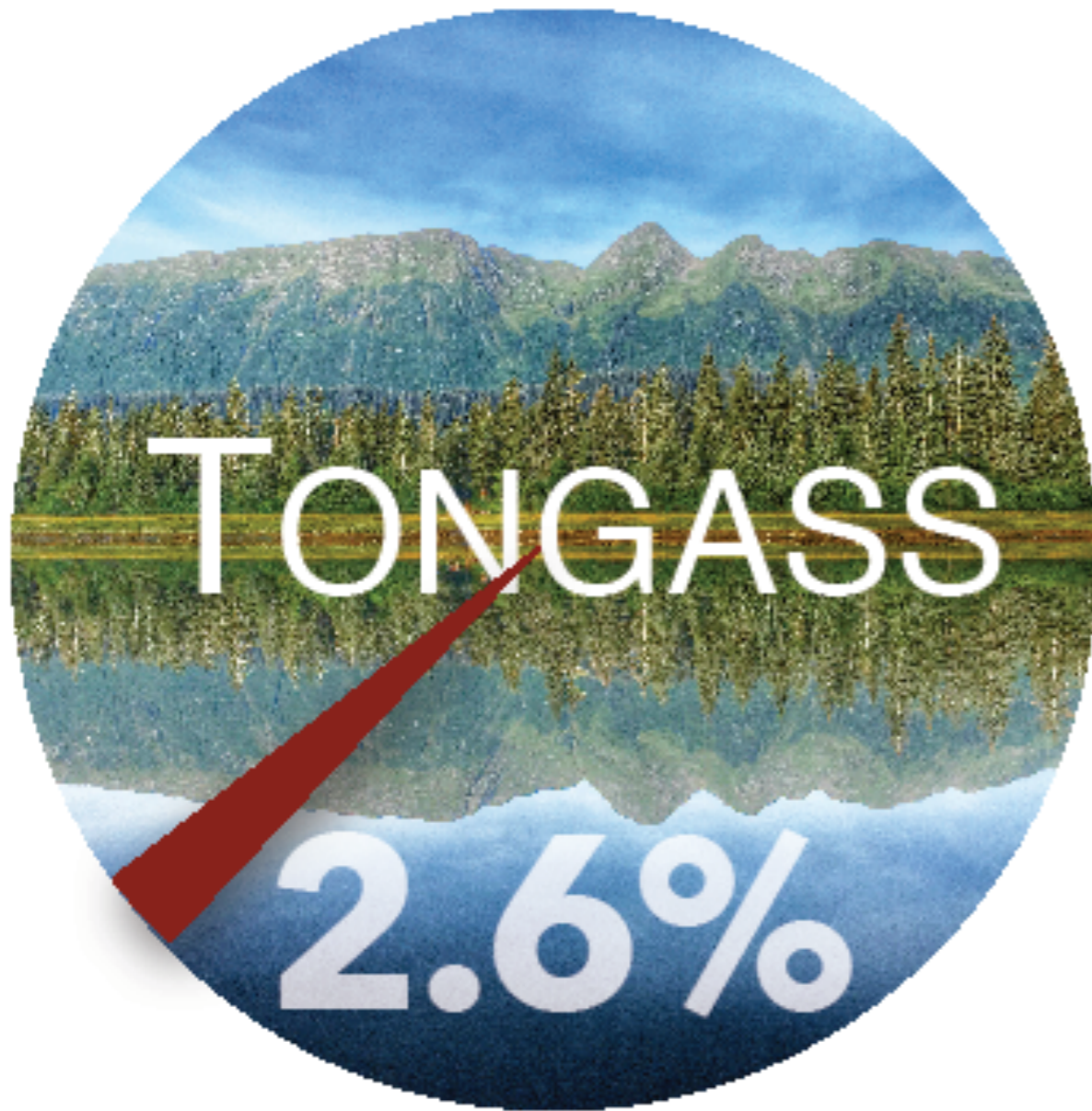
3,650 jobs

= a loss of

\$211 million

in annual wages

Logging Industry



- In last 100 years, only 2.6% of the Tongass has been logged (440,000 acres).



The CAC recommendations seek important new exceptions to the Roadless Rule. Specifically:

1. Allow road access to mineral operations authorized by the 1872 Mining Act (30 U.S.C. § 22 et seq.) for operators meeting the requirements of 36 C.F.R. Part 228 whether their mineral operations are on IRA or on non-IRA National Forest lands. The Total Exemption Alternative would eliminate this access barrier to mining.
2. Allow the cutting and removal of trees associated with mining exploration and development. Currently, 36 C.F.R. § 294.13(b)(2) only authorizes the cutting or removal of trees in IRAs that is “incidental to implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this subpart.” The level of exploration needed to develop a mine on the Tongass requires the cutting and removal of trees. Mine development requires even more cutting and removal of trees. The Total Exemption Alternative would eliminate this barrier to mining.
3. The Total Exemption Alternative to the 2001 Roadless Rule is needed to assure road access to renewable energy sites.
4. The Total Exemption Alternative to the 2001 Roadless Rule is needed to assure road access to leasable minerals (such as geothermal resources).
5. The Total Exemption Alternative to the 2001 Roadless Rule is needed to assure road access new hydropower sites.

CAC exception language inserts: “shall be permitted/authorized”

VS.

“if the Responsible Official determines” and “reasonable access”

Each of the CAC recommendations should be included as exceptions to the Alaska Specific Roadless Rule in Alternatives 2 through 5 in the DEIS.

Their implementation are assured by selection of the Total Exemption Preferred Alternative (#6).

BUT

This is a DRAFT EIS and final outcome is unknown.
Alternatives 2-5 should be as complete as possible to be a responsive document

Thank You

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Southeast Conference

www.seconference.org

For more info:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109834_FSPLT3_4876629.pdf

https://s31207.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/11/Alaska-Roadless-Rule-Citizen-Advisory-Committee-Final-Report_11.21.2018.pdf