



LAND  
MANAGEMENT

## RE-EVALUATING LAND HOLDINGS IN THE HAINES AREA

*Updated March 2024*

### **Introduction**

The University of Alaska, Land Management Office (UA Land) manages about 13,000 acres in the Haines/Chilkat Valley region. Originally, in 2018, the UA Land team was planning a 10-year timber project with the intention of coordinating with other agencies. However, the timber industry in Southeast Alaska continues to experience disruptions. The ongoing tariffs between the US and China, combined with Sealaska and the US Forest Service's departure from old growth logging, have all contributing to a shifting economic landscape in the region. As a result, the University is re-evaluating all of its land holdings in the Haines area which was presented to the University of Alaska Board of Regents during its committee meeting on November 4, 2021.

### **Next steps**

Although the University remains committed to some timber development, we are looking at other development options to monetize University property. We are exploring small-scale timber sales, biomass innovation, subdivisions, conservation easements, and other revenue-generating opportunities including a potential carbon credit program.

As a land grant university, our primary role is to generate revenue from University lands to support our educational mission. Our goal is to do that in ways that stimulate the local economy and meet community needs. The University of Alaska develops its investment lands to support its education mission in conformance with Board of Regents' Policy, University Regulations, and these guiding principles: Value, Best Practice, Community Engagement and Partnerships. You can read more at [alaska.edu](http://alaska.edu).

### **Community Engagement**

The UA Land team is grateful for all of the feedback and suggestions we have received from community members. We also appreciate everyone who has made time on the phone and in person and for your willingness to share your perspective. In 2018, the UA Land team set up a special website, email list and other materials, in order to foster a positive flow of information. As new projects in the Chilkat Valley area move forward,

UA Land will continue its community engagement by promoting communication and information exchange.

In addition to public comment periods for a potential timber sale in 2018 and a carbon credit program in 2022, we have held in-person community meetings, coffee times, and individual meetings with community groups and leaders in 2018 and 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and again in the spring and summer of 2022. We continue to keep in touch with community members via phone, Zoom and email.

### **History of 1982 Consensus Agreement**

The Haines/Chilkat Valley region has a unique history of consensus and cooperation when it comes to land management. In 1982, elected officials, leaders from SEACC, LCC and the conservation community, along with timber and mining executives came together and signed what is known as the “consensus agreement.” The document outlines their agreement on how to resolve conflicts on State land in the area. By doing this, legislation was passed that created:

- The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve
- Haines State Forest Resource Management Area

The writers referred to it as “Alaskan solution” that “should demonstrate to all Alaskans and to the Nation as a whole that protection and management of resource values and other interests can in fact be successfully accomplished.” UA Land respects all of the organizations that participated in the process in 1982 and those who are working in conservation and land management today. We are operating in the spirit of this agreement.

### **Please keep in touch!**

UA Land is committed to keeping the community informed about news related any new projects with the goal of a two-way information exchange.

- **Website:** Please visit our website to find information such as surveys, reports and more at [alaska.edu/ualand/haines](http://alaska.edu/ualand/haines)
- **Email distribution list:** Our email list is the fastest way to receive updates about the project including community visits, employment, and economic opportunities that may result from new development projects. Sign up on our [website](#).
- **Community visits:** UA Land will continue to hold community-wide meetings in the Chilkat Valley to inform and gather local input.
- **Reach out to us directly:** We are always happy to hear from you. Please email our liaison, Kirsten Henning, at [UALandHaines@gmail.com](mailto:UALandHaines@gmail.com). She serves as point of contact and facilitator for UA Land on all issues relating to Haines/Chilkat Valley community engagement.