



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Alaska—Rural Business & Cooperative Service

Community Building

Strategy for Jobs and Healthy Communities in Southeast Alaska

Outline Of Need:

The majority of rural communities in Southeast Alaska are experiencing declining populations, fewer job opportunities and increasing energy costs. USDA agencies, including the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Forest Service (FS), Rural Development (RD) and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) have partnered to revitalize these communities and restore public lands by supporting job creation in areas that offer growth potential in fisheries and mariculture; healthcare; forest management; recreation and tourism; renewable energy; and transportation.

How Rural Development Helped:

Through a collaboration with the four federal agencies, (FSA, FS, RD, EDA), we implemented the “USDA Investment Strategy for Jobs and Healthy Communities in Southeast Alaska” initiative. We are striving to revitalize by: creating quality jobs and sustainable economic growth; promoting small business creation, expansion, and retention; improving access to capital; and promoting job training and educational opportunities.



“USDA-RD Alaska State Director Jim Nordlund points to a chart during a press conference illustrating the more than \$153 million dollars of federal funding invested in Southeast Alaska for the past three years to promote economic development in the region. Along with Nordlund are Beth Pendelton, Regional Forester for the US Forest Service, Danny Consenstein, Executive State Director for the Farm Service Agency and Brian Holst, Executive Director for the Juneau Economic Development Council.”

The Results:

Over the last three years, all four agencies have invested \$153 million in guaranteed loans, grants and service to communities, businesses, and non-profits in Southeast Alaska. Of these funds, more than \$74 million was directly in support of initiatives similar to the Juneau Economic Development Council’s (JEDC) “Southeast Cluster Development Initiative”, with industry cluster groups including Forest Products, Visitor Products, Ocean Products, Renewable Energy and Community Facilities.

While significant steps have been taken and jobs have been created, a lot more is achievable and will be done. We continue to support the JEDC’s efforts and are charting a new path forward through collaborative commitment in the region to forge solid public-private partnerships, to create jobs and healthy communities in Southeast Alaska.

Fast Facts

Program: USDA Investment Strategy for Jobs and Healthy Communities in Southeast Alaska

Investment: Total between FY 09-11: \$153 million

Partners:

Farm Service Agency
Forest Service
U.S. Economic Development Administration
Rural Development

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