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## Tongass Forest Protection

<b>Applying Organization</b>	SalmonState	<b>Application Date</b>	5/17/2026
<b>Applying Contact</b>	Tim Bristol	<b>Status</b>	Submitted
<b>Record Type</b>	Member Collective	<b>Created By</b>	Tim Bristol, 5/15/2026, 4:34 PM
		<b>Create Account</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Project Overview

<b>Project Name</b>	Tongass Forest Protection	<b>Requested Amount</b>	\$50,000.00
<b>Project/Campaign Name</b>	Tongass Forest Protection		
<b>Type of Project</b>	Management Planning	<b>Project Multiple Locations</b>	
<b>Project Location (State or Territory)</b>	AK	<b>Longitude</b>	134.4201 W
<b>Latitude</b>	58.3005 N		

### Organization Details

<b>Organization Name</b>	SalmonState	<b>Primary address for organization</b>	201 Main Street Juneau, Alaska 99801 United States
<b>Contact Name</b>	Tim Bristol	<b>Contact Title</b>	ED
<b>Contact Email Address</b>	timsalmonstate@gmail.com		
<b>Annual Operating Budget</b>	\$4,700,000.00	<b>Tax Status/Organization Type</b>	501c3 Organization
<b>Staff Size</b>	13	<b>Main Phone</b>	19073213291
<b>Total Membership</b>		<b>Organization Website/Social Media Feed</b>	http://www.salmonstate.org
<b>BIPOC-led</b>	No	<b>C-Suite Staff</b>	

### Grant Details

<b>Awarded Amount</b>		<b>Awarded Date</b>	
<b>Funding Program</b>			
<b>Primary Project Type</b>		<b>Secondary Project Type</b>	
<b>Term Start Date</b>		<b>Term End Date</b>	

### Proposal Questions

<b>Mission/History Of Organization</b>	SalmonState, an 11-year-old initiative housed at the New Venture Fund, works to protect habitat and promote policies that will guarantee Alaska remains the SalmonState; the home of the world's	<b>Location Details</b>	Southeast Alaska Tongass National Forest and adjacent Transboundary region are one of the most productive and important wild salmon producing regions of the world. The region's old
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largest, healthiest and most abundant wild salmon resource, providing culture, food, income, employment and recreation to Alaskans, Americans and the rest of the world.

growth temperate rainforests and transboundary rivers produce millions of wild salmon each year, providing income and employment, supporting ancient aboriginal cultures, and feeding the ecosystem from orcas to trees. This “salmon forest” fuels a spectacular array of marine and terrestrial wildlife from whales to eagles, from sealions to brown bears. The Tongass is the crown jewel of the national forest system. It covers over 85 percent of the land mass of Southeast Alaska, providing jobs, food, culture and unique way of life for its 73,000 residents. And once again, its future is driven by partisan politics rather than what the region wants and what the region needs.

Once again, the Tongass is at a crossroads. The environmental urgency of climate change and the shift of the regional economy away from logging mean we desperately need a new, more conservation focused forest plan.

Unfortunately, this reality is in direct conflict with present day politics. Last year, we were guardedly optimistic that the profound changes in Southeast Alaska’s economy and by association, its communities, would lead to the desired conditions for the creation of a modern, conservation forward forest plan.

Instead, the Administration has just launched a planning effort focused heavily on increasing old growth logging. In response, we will work to “stop the bad while “building the new,” for America’s largest national forest.

This will be achieved by mobilizing the public, using strategic communications, and building partnerships with recreation, tourism, fishing industries, local governments, tribes, and conservation NGOs.

**Final Success**

The Forest Service adopts a new Forest Plan that protects 5million acre of primary fish producing watersheds, leads to no net loss of winter range for Sita Black tailed deer, identifies and expands local recreational opportunities, and preserves resources necessary for the customary and traditional uses of renewable forest resources for rural and aboriginal residents.

**Impact on Climate and Bioversity**

A new Tongass Forest Plan that protects all the primary fish producing watersheds and allows for no net loss of deer winter range while setting aside acreage for community hunting, fishing, gathering and a wide range of additional recreation activities will result in a world class conservation success. In summary, these prescriptions will lead to maximizing climate resiliency and connectivity. A key consideration was to find a way to talk about these important concepts that connect with average resident of Southeast Alaska. Salmon and deer are two of the most important species for humans and are those most directly impacted by logging and roadbuilding operations. Talking about these critically important renewable resources in a positive proactive way helps create conservation “on ramps” for individuals who do not necessarily identify as environmentalists to speak in support of a more protective forest plan. Adding a strong voice for recreation adds

an additional layer to the conservation vision and gives the Forest Service its marching orders.

**Expected Economic & Recreational Impact**

A key feature of our Tongass Planning effort started with the creation of the Tongass Recreation Partnership. The TRP, thanks to the leadership of SalmonState's Dan Kirkwood and Alaska Venture Fund's Natalie Dawsion, now has the capacity to meaningfully engage in the Tongass plan revision by mobilizing local recreation users and supporting a tourism economy that benefits Southeast Alaska while sustaining landscapes and infrastructure. Increased Forest Service attention to recreation and tourism management will promote a more balanced, durable land management approach and reduce an exclusive focus on extractive uses. Key activities include:

- Expanding the partnership network through listserv growth and monthly recreation updates.
- Sharing of timely updates with Southeast Alaska recreation users via email, media, and direct outreach
- Travel to Southeast Alaska communities to participate in Forest Service meetings, convene recreation users, and strengthen the network
- Tongass Recreation Partnership subsequently defines the recreation management strategy in the EIS analysis for the new Tongass Land Management Plan.
- Tongass Recreation Partnership leads the creation of a recreation zoning framework that reflects local priorities, rural economic opportunities, and conserves the unique landscapes of the Tongass. This mapping will create a more rigorous and durable protection of landscapes using recreation classes across the entire forest landscape. Changing these maps would require an amendment to the plan and additional public input.

**Strategy & Timeline For Final Success**

**Goal(s)**

- A. Strengthen the role of the Tongass Recreation Partnership (TRP) in the forest planning process.
- B. Carry out a strategic marketing and communications campaign to promote our vision for the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska.
- C. Conduct community organizing efforts throughout Southeast Alaska.
- D. Work with core partners to build forest plan that works for locals while achieving core conservation goals.
- E. Build and support Prince of Wales for Environmental Responsibility (POWER)
- F. Conduct educational trips with key staffers and decision-makers.

Timeline: 24-36 months

**Key Decision Makers**

Key decision makers include the White House, Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, the head of the US Forest Service, the Tongass Forest Supervisor, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, Southeast Alaska Mayors, and the leaders of the Southeast Alaska's federally recognized tribal governments. Each entity requires a different approach. For the White House, the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress, we envision enlisting the support of commercial fishing organizations, hunting and angling groups, and business associations like CA, along with individual business owners. For the Alaska Congressional Delegation, it's much the same approach but with more emphasis on local and regional business interests and tribal governments and the

**Working With Business Community**

Business community support is critical to the creation of a Forest Plan that maximizes climate resiliency and habitat connectivity. As described above, the Administration is attempting to roll back the clock by dramatically increasing logging and roadbuilding in the Tongass. This flies in the face of economic reality for a region where tourism and recreation are now the largest private employer and fishing is second. In fact logging now only comprises one half of one percent of the region's total jobs. The voices from these sectors are most effective as delivering the "we are not going back," message to the Administration.

Tongass Recreation Partnership. For local governance, it's all the above plus SalmonState and its supporters. While we advocate for a new forest plan for the Tongass, we will also be advocating for the retention of Roadless Rule protections for the Tongass, which are presently at risk of elimination by the Administration.

**Elevate Voices**

We work with a broad array of constituencies across the social and political spectrum including Alaska Native Tribal governments at the local and regional level. SalmonState is an advocate for the greater incorporation of traditional Indigenous knowledge in forest management decisions. We also work to protect provisions of federal law that safeguard customary and traditional uses of forest resources. The Tongass Recreation Partnership is engaging in communities throughout Southeast Alaska to help create the recreation opportunity framework described elsewhere in this proposal. Finally, we are working with residents on the largest and most heavily logged island in Southeast Alaska, Prince of Wales, to build a network of local residents committed to pushing back against planned large scale environmentally damaging timber sales. This group will be comprised of fishermen, small tourism business owners, educators, independent timber operators, tribal leaders and more.

**TCA Funding Plan**

TCA financial support is critical but we also hope to be able to partner with the Alliance in much the same way we did on our D-1 campaign, where TCA communications, government relations and business membership assists in bringing our issues to Washington D.C. where these decisions will ultimately be made. TCA's ability and willingness to serve as tremendous amplifier of efforts in Southeast Alaska will once again be of great help.

**Other Relevant Application Details**

**Measurable On-Ground Outcomes**

accomplish over the next year? (1,000 characters max)

- All primary fish producing watersheds in Southeast Alaska are off limits to logging and roadbuilding
- No net loss of deer winter range due to logging or other forms of habitat destruction
- Forest Plan includes recommendations of Southeast Alaska Recreation Partnership

**Confidential Items**