



The Hoonah Native Forest Partnership: An Innovative Approach to Natural Resource Stewardship In Southeast Alaska

Community Driven

Landscape Scale

Workforce Development

The Hoonah Native Forest Partnership (HNFP) is a science-based, landscape scale, community forest approach to watershed management in southeast Alaska. The overall goal of the HNFP is to achieve a resilient blend of timber, salmon and deer production while supporting a diversified local economy and healthy watersheds.

This project is unique in southeast Alaska because public and private land managers are working together to develop a comprehensive and consistent inventory and assessment for natural resources as part of a collaborative process that is identifying project priorities that will enhance the social, ecological and economic resilience of Hoonah.

How We Work

Where We Work

Diverse Partners



The HNFP core partners are Sealaska, Huna Totem, The Hoonah Indian Association, The City of Hoonah, The Nature Conservancy, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Division and the US Forest Service. Each party contributes a unique set of assets and resources that increase our collective impact. We have developed a Memorandum of Understanding that spells out the commitments, roles and responsibilities for each party involved in the Partnership.

Skin in the Game



The Partnership successfully secured four years of start-up funding from the NRCPS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Initial support also includes a 30% match by the partners in cash and in-kind technical support. Additional funding is being sought through USFS appropriated dollars and a variety of grant opportunities. Our long-term goal is to fund stewardship work with sustainable business management and payments for ecosystem services.

Cutting Edge Science

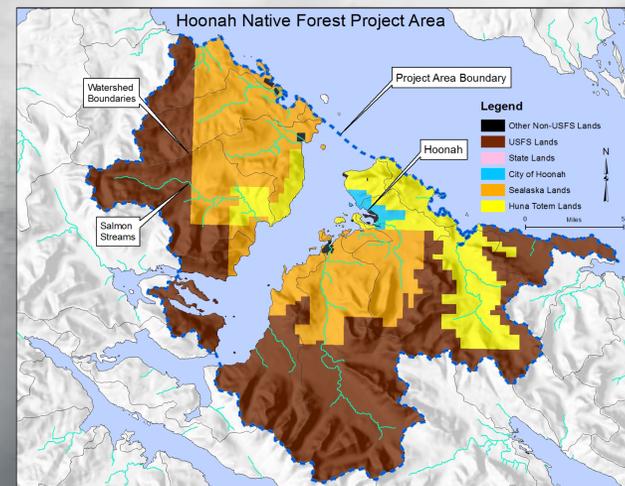


The HNFP is testing the utility and cost effectiveness of cutting edge scientific tools for local land management such as LiDAR data. This 'light-radar' data not only provides a high resolution topography model, but can also be used to generate detailed information about forests and streams. By integrating LiDAR data with proven models for timber, salmon and deer we hope to demonstrate increased capacity for achieving project goals while saving money over the long-term.

Collaborative Structure



The HNFP structure is designed to support collaboration between a (1) Steering Committee – which provides overall program oversight and focuses on identifying community priority outcomes and the financial sustainability of the program; (2) Technical Team – which provides direction on natural resource inventory, assessment and planning; and (3) Field Crew – who are the eyes and ears of the work on the ground, the leaders of investing in local knowledge and the practitioners of community-based stewardship.



The HNFP project area is approximately 150,000 acres covering all complete watersheds within which Regional Native Corporation (Sealaska) and Village Corporation (Huna Totem) lands exist. Hoonah is a rural community located on West Chichagof Island in Southeast Alaska.



The local field crew works from Spring to Fall, collecting data and carrying out natural resource work in the forests and streams surrounding Hoonah. HNFP partners work in the community throughout the year, engaging stakeholders of all ages in the management of Hoonah's natural resources.

Sharing Our Work Across the Region

Measuring Success with Target Metrics



Hoonah is a partnering community of the Sustainable Southeast Partnership (SSP). SSP is a diverse network of partners working together to support resilient peoples and a resilient place in Southeast Alaska. As a partner, the work of the HNFP is shared with communities across the region to expand impact and influence natural resource stewardship in Southeast Alaska.

To learn more, please visit: www.SustainableSoutheast.net

Contact Us and Learn More

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The HNFP is developing a set of trackable metrics as an integral part of community engagement and long-term monitoring. These metrics will include the full spectrum of the Triple Bottom Line by including social, economic and ecological indicators. For example, we are developing metrics that measure success in the following areas:



Tradition and Subsistence

We are working to protect and enhance opportunities for traditional cultural practices such as subsistence hunting, fishing and berry-picking.



Economic Localization

We aim to keep more dollars in the local economy by using natural resources to plug leakages in the food, energy, and construction sectors.



Workforce Capacity

We are increasing local workforce capacity for timber, fish, wildlife and infrastructure inventory, assessment, enhancement and monitoring.



Business Development

We are exploring and stimulating new local business opportunities in renewable energy, recreation and tourism, timber and non-timber forest products.



Watershed Health

We aim to maintain and enhance overall watershed health across public and private lands surrounding Hoonah. We will begin to measure ecosystem health by monitoring deer forage availability, deer numbers, miles of stream accessible to salmon and the condition of spawning and rearing habitat.