



RE-EVALUATING LAND HOLDINGS IN THE HAINES AREA

Updated April 2023

Introduction

The University of Alaska, Land Management Office (UA Land) manages about 13,000 acres in the Haines/Chilkat Valley region. Originally, in 2018, UA Land 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.

As a land grant university, our primary role is to generate revenue from University lands to support our educational mission. Although the University remains committed to some timber development, we are looking at other development options to monetize University property.

New Carbon Credit Program

Thank you to all who took the time to submit comments to the public notice about the university's potential statewide carbon credit program in December. In the Chilkat Valley area, 7,636 acres are included in the plan. The next step will be to issue a request for proposals seeking a developer to administer the program for the University. The developer may determine that one or more parcels identified in the public notice are not suited for carbon offset credits. In that case, the parcel will be removed from the program; however, the public notice will remain in effect on the parcel. The developer may recommend additional lands for inclusion into a program. In that case, any additional lands will have a public notice in a similar process as this one.

Establishing a carbon credit program is just one part of what the Land Management Team is planning for development in the Chilkat Valley. We are still exploring small-

scale timber sales, biomass innovation, subdivisions, conservation easements, and other revenue-generating opportunities. We continue to support our fiduciary responsibility of monetizing the university's land assets to fund the university's endowment while stimulating the local economy.

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. Please reach out anytime.

How can someone engage in the process?

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

- **Website:** UA Land established a [special website](#) where community members will be able to find information such as surveys, reports and more.
- **Email distribution list:** Our email list is the fastest way to receive updates about the project including community meetings, employment, and new economic opportunities that may result from the project. Sign up on our [website](#).
- **Community meetings:** UA Land will continue to hold community-wide meetings in Haines 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.

Additional information

- UA Land will continue to update the Board of Regents on the project's progress.
- Kirsten Henning will serve as facilitator and point of contact for UA Land on issues relating to the Haines/Chilkat Valley community engagement. She can be reached directly at UALandHaines@gmail.com.
- As a land grant university, 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.