

OVERVIEW OF HAINES 10-YEAR TIMBER PROJECT

Updated Fall 2020



Introduction

The University of Alaska, Land Management Office (UA Land) manages about 13,000 acres in the region and together with the Alaska Mental Health Trust and the State of Alaska we are working on a 10-year timber supply. This agreement was executed in 2018 with a Statement of Intent. These organizations have complementary missions regarding resources with lands bordering on or in proximity to one another. A collective effort supports the separate missions of UA, DOF and TLO for access, staging and marketing of their respective timber resources.

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Land Management continues its in depth analysis of the timber market and the effects of economic factors and the tariff increases between China and the United States on the Haines Timber Sale.

The current economic volatility provides Land Management leeway to further evaluate the timber price forecasts and focus on long-term activity in order to maximize returns on timber projects. Part of the on-going research includes evaluating the resources and responsibilities that can be shared to achieve a successful partnership with the operators in order to negotiate a favorable contract for a timber sale.

Economic Impact

Like all UA Land Trust projects, income generated from the Haines timber sale supports University programs. The current project is expected to contribute to the local economy and provide more than 20 jobs. As the project develops, the university and buyer are committed to working with the Haines community to utilize the local workforce.

UA Land anticipates that community input will benefit residents, the buyer, and the university. The hope is that the information exchange will enhance the project's positive economic impacts for local businesses and individuals in a long-term, iterative way.

The ultimate goal is to identify and share positive opportunities, ideas and related actions that will support the health and economy of the Chilkat Valley.

Community Engagement

Thank you again to everyone who has signed up for email updates from the UA Land Haines timber project. We also appreciate everyone who has made time on the phone

and in person and for your willingness to share your perspective on the UA Haines timber sale project.

As the Haines timber project moves forward, UA Land will continue its community engagement in the Haines/Chilkat Valley area by promoting communication and information exchange. UA Land has set up a website, email list and other materials for that purpose, and will engage with any local community group. The goal is to foster a two-way positive flow of information regarding the 10-year timber project.

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. More information is available online.

How can someone engage in the process?

UA Land is committed to keeping the community informed about news related to the timber project. Its primary focus is to provide a two-way information exchange.

- **Website:** UA Land established a webpage where community members will be able to find information such as surveys, reports and more.
- **Email distribution list:** UA Land created an email list so that people can receive updates about the project including community meetings, employment, and new economic opportunities that may result from the project.
- **Community meetings:** UA Land will continue to hold community-wide meetings in Haines to inform and gather local input on the timber sale/harvest process.

Community groups

Many people in the Chilkat Valley have expressed an interest in participating in a committee or community group to give feedback on the timber project. UA Land will engage equally with any locally-formed community group but is not involved in forming them.

Additional information

- 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
- The Statewide Office of Public Affairs will continue to handle all media inquiries. Staff can be reached at robbie.graham@alaska.edu
- Any community group or individual will have the opportunity for input.
- UA Land will continue to update the Board of Regents on the project's progress.