

May 21, 2021
UA Lands – May 2021 Update

The University of Alaska Land Management team hopes everyone is healthy and well.

Timber project update

Although the market for timber is promising, the ongoing tariff war between the U.S. and China continues to affect the Haines timber sale. There are some exemptions to the tariffs but they are only temporary. Without any assurance that the exemptions will be extended, we continue a hold status for the Haines timber sale.

In addition, as Sealaska continues to wind down its operations this year, the potential impacts of Sealaska's exit from the Southeast Alaska timber industry are still uncertain. Because the industry workforce and its customers are interconnected, it's still too early to determine how these factors may affect the industry as a whole.

Ripinski Trail Easement

In case you missed the last update, the Haines Borough Assembly recently passed a resolution to support the Alaska Division of Forestry's partnership with Haines Huts to apply for a Recreational Trails Program grant to acquire easements through Mental Health Trust and University lands for the Ripinski Trail. The Land Management Team is currently working with the Division of Forestry and Haines Huts on the next steps for acquiring the public easement. We know this has been an important ask of the community and we are pleased to collaborate on this effort.

As always, we will communicate with you as soon as we have new information. Our plan was to meet with you in person last year, and of course, with the pandemic, we have all been on hold. Once we have more information to share, we hope to gather with you, possibly by the end of summer—whether in person, or through a Zoom gathering.

Anytime you have questions, please reach out to UALandHaines@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Henning
Liaison for the UA Land Management Office