

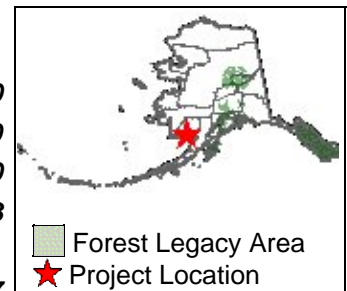
Forest Legacy Project



Agulowak River Cons. Easement & Native Allotments, Dillingham (Bristol Bay Borough County), Alaska

FUNDING HISTORY

<i>Forest Legacy Program FY 2008 Funding</i>	\$ 2,834,300
<i>FY 2008 Non-Federal Cost Share</i>	\$ 792,500
<i>FY 2008 Project Costs</i>	\$ 4,049,000
<i>FY 2008 Project Acres</i>	6,608
<i>Forest Legacy Funding to Date</i>	\$ 590,867
<i>Total Project Costs</i>	\$ 6,583,072
<i>Total Project Acres</i>	10,722



<i>Tract Name</i>	<i>Size (acres)</i>	<i>Tract Cost</i>	<i>FLP Funding</i>	<i>Non-Fed Cost Share</i>	<i>Status</i>
R Nicholson Parcel	80	\$ 187,000	\$ 130,900	\$ 56,100	Proposed 2008
Agulowak River CE Phase I	1,093	\$ 552,296	\$ 414,222	\$ 138,074	Funded 2006
Agulowak River CE Phase II	2,771	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 350,000	Proposed 2007
Johansen parcel	50	\$ 106,584	\$ 79,958	\$ 26,626	Funded 2006
Etuckmelra parcel	40	\$ 128,916	\$ 96,687	\$ 32,229	Funded 2006
Agulowak River CE Phase III	6,213	\$ 3,074,000	\$ 2,151,800	\$ 500,000	Proposed 2008
Andrew parcel	160	\$ 346,276	\$ 259,931	\$ 86,345	Proposed 2007
Chaney parcel	80	\$ 188,000	\$ 131,600	\$ 56,400	Proposed 2008
E Nicholson parcel	155	\$ 416,000	\$ 291,200	\$ 124,800	Proposed 2008
Chukwuk parcel	80	\$ 184,000	\$ 128,800	\$ 55,200	Proposed 2008
Total	10,722	\$ 6,583,072	\$ 4,735,098	\$ 1,425,774	

General Description – The State of Alaska with multiple partners proposes to acquire a conservation easement on 6,213 acres of high value habitat dominated by palustrine wetlands in phase III of a 20,213 acre, three phase project. Aleknagik Natives Ltd owns the property, which includes the entire length of the four-mile long Agulowak River and extensive shoreline along Lake Aleknagik and Lake Nerka. It is the most strategic tract in the 1.6 mile acre Wood-Tikchik State Park (near the towns of Aleknagik and Dillingham). Subsurface rights will also be purchased in full fee from Bristol Bay Native Corp. This conservation easement is complemented by the acquisition of four highly strategic Native allotments (395 acres) in the vicinity. This is a regional effort in SW Alaska to protect strategic habitats along the many large anadromous fish systems. The rich salmon runs are the foundation for the ecology, economy and social fabric of SW Alaska. These acquisitions will provide model agreements and create significant interest among other Native landowners to enter into similar large-scale agreements. Partner contributions are high with a 20% increase over the required project match.

PROJECT FEATURES

Important:

- Agulowak River, Lake Nerka and Lake Aleknagik form a world-class resource with wild salmon and intact habitats as the foundation supporting a suite of cultural, economic and recreational uses.
- Dozens of migratory bird species widely use the area. Notably, the four species of Arctic nesting geese, tundra swans, sandhill cranes and several species of ducks.
- Pacific salmon, a federal trust resource are the foundation of Southwest Alaska's ecology, economy and culture. Protection of this trust resource has broad significance to FWS, NPS, BLM, NOAA, and BIA (Native Alaskans).
- Public and private land managers consistently identify incompatible development of inholdings as the largest long-term challenge to sustaining the conservation values of Southwest Alaska.
- The Agulowak is a major contributor to the average 65,000 salmon harvested annually in the Nushagak River Drainage for subsistence. It is also very important for subsistence hunting of moose and fishing for rainbow trout and Dolly Varden.
- The Agulowak is the most heavily used recreational site (boating, sport fishing and hunting) in Wood-Tikchik State Park and one of the most important sites in Southwest Alaska.
- The Agulowak River and surrounding area have been culturally important to indigenous people since before recorded history based on archeological evidence.
- The Agulowak River is a world-class anadromous fish stream; spawning grounds for up to 200K sockeye salmon (harvest value ave. \$8-10 million annually); 1.2 million sockeye pass through, plus chum, pink, Chinook, & silver salmon pass through or spawn here.
- The Agulowak River is also a premier trout fishing stream, with a fish density approaching 4,000 rainbows per mile, the second highest density of rainbow trout in Alaska. The river also supports large numbers of Dolly Varden and grayling.
- The project area is dominated by riparian habitats and values with four miles of the Agulowak River and 42 miles of shoreline along Lakes Aleknagik and Nerka.
- The project area provides important watershed functions for the Wood River system. It is the portion of the watershed most likely to be disrupted in the future.



- The rich salmon runs are the foundation for the ecology, economy and social fabric of Southwest Alaska.
- The timbered riparian habitats best serve to perpetuate the project area's rich fish & wildlife populations. Their conservation will ensure the land's continued provision for subsistence, fishing, hunting, salmon spawning, tourism and other benefits.
- The Wood River System, of which the Agulowak is a major contributor, produces sockeye salmon worth \$8–10 million annually to commercial fisherman on average, but the value has been as high as \$42 million.
- This area is highly scenic. It has been the subject of numerous books and other publications including the recently published "Rivers of Life" and "Wood–Tikchik; Alaska's Largest State Park" featuring photos of Robert Glenn Ketchum.
- This project has multiple links to federal lands – six national wildlife refuges, three national parks and a designated wild river plus large tracts of BLM land are within Southwest Alaska and share its common resources and problems.
- Up to 20% of the sockeye spawning in the Wood River System spawn in the 4–mile long Agulowak River.

Threatened:

- Alaska Native corporations typically are land rich and cash poor, increasing the pressure to sell their land to raise cash.
- All terrain vehicle (ATV) use is common in the region and related impacts such as erosion, sedimentation and petroleum pollution will continue to accumulate if the land is not protected.
- Change is imminent! There are numerous new lodges in the area in the past five years, and many of the existing lodges have expanded their operations.
- Demand for fish/wildlife property combined with declines in commercial salmon industry and other economic needs by AK Native landowners creates an active, high pressure real estate market to convert land use from subsistence/recreation to development.
- Land is being converted from historically benign subsistence use to lodge development, subdivision and recreational property development with little regard for watershed and habitat impacts.
- Other private lands in the area are rapidly being developed demonstrating the reality of the threat.
- The area is unzoned, and environmental monitoring and enforcement is almost non-existent.
- The lands that are the focus of this project are highly desirable for development, and that development would have tremendous negative impacts on fish, wildlife, subsistence, recreation, and other Park uses.
- The real estate market is built upon the region's prolific anadromous and resident fisheries, abundant wildlife, spectacular scenery, high quality recreation and close proximity to the communities of Aleknagik and Dillingham.

Strategic:

- Acquisition of the conservation values of this property is consistent with the goals, objectives and management policies of the recently completed Wood–Tikchik State Park Management Plan.
- Over two million dollars has been donated and more pledged by the partnership working on this project. A large coalition has formed to further this project.
- Partners: Gordon & Betty Moore Fdn, Donner Fdn, Wildlife Forever, Vital Ground Fdn, Orvis Co., Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, General Communications Inc, ConocoPhillips AK, Woolrich, Bristol Bay Native Corp, Bristol Bay Native Assoc, & others.
- Protection of these lands will allow for consistent land management by Alaska State Parks.
- The conservation project has strong support from the local communities of Dillingham and Aleknagik plus numerous businesses including lodges, service providers and the commercial fishing industry.
- This action is supported by the Southwest Alaska Conservation Coalition, a regional partnership of commercial, native, private, non–profit and government interests working cooperatively to secure native allotment in–holdings within parks and refuges for conservation purposes.

Ready:

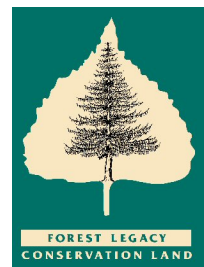
- Appraisals for all Native Allotments have been completed.
- Appraisals received federal review approval in October 2005.
- Conservation easement has been negotiated.
- Four properties have already been acquired in the project area: two allotments on the Agulowak River, one on the Agulukpak River and one at Elva Creek an important sockeye spawning system.
- Purchase Agreement completed in March 2006; Ready to close in Fall 2006.
- Supporting parties include: Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Native Corp, ConocoPhillips AK, Donner Foundation, General Communications Inc, Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation, Orvis Co., Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, The Conservation Fund, Vital Ground Foundation, Wildlife Forever and Woolrich

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**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
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