

Forest Legacy Project

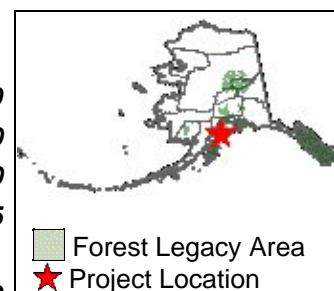


Diamond Creek, Homer (Kenai Peninsula Borough County), Alaska

FUNDING HISTORY

<i>Forest Legacy Program FY 2004 Funding</i>	<i>\$ 425,000</i>
<i>FY 2004 Non-Federal Cost Share</i>	<i>\$ 714,000</i>
<i>FY 2004 Project Costs</i>	<i>\$ 1,140,000</i>
<i>FY 2004 Project Acres</i>	<i>415</i>

<i>Forest Legacy Funding to Date</i>	<i>\$ 425,000</i>
<i>Total Project Costs</i>	<i>\$ 1,140,000</i>
<i>Total Project Acres</i>	<i>415</i>



<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>
Diamond Creek – Mandes	140	\$ 425,000	\$ 0	\$ 424,000	Funded 2004
Diamond Creek – University	275	\$ 715,000	\$ 425,000	\$ 290,000	Funded 2004
Total	415	\$ 1,140,000	\$ 425,000	\$ 714,000	

General Description – This project contains two parcels (140-acre and 275-acres) that are key to a community-based effort to protect forestland in the tourist-based community of Homer. The Mandes parcel is a potential CE and the other parcel (Diamond Creek–University) is fee. The parcels are approximately 4 miles from Homer and are adjacent to the Homer Demonstration Forest. The City of Homer will hold the title of the University parcel with Kachemak Heritage Land Trust as a partner and holder of any donated CE's that might occur.

PROJECT FEATURES

Important:

- Black spruce dominates the muskeg bog area providing the keystone link in a wildlife corridor stretching from Diamond Creek to the Anchor River. The upland portion of the property supports white and Sitka spruce in mosaic with coastal meadow vegetation.
- Parcel contains heavily used ski/hiking trails and is in the center of a highly used trail system.
- The property includes critical moose wintering habitat.
- The trail system over this parcel attracts regional and statewide races that bring economic benefit to the



community, as well as providing for the social well being of local residents who use this trail system year around.

- The trail system over this parcel is the backbone of the highly successful local ski program that begins in grade school and continues through high school and provides after school ski training opportunities.

Threatened:

- Current sellers must sell soon. Interim buyers are hoping to forestall purchase by developers, but will be unable to hold parcel for long.
- If not protected by the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust and the State of Alaska, it will be sold to developers for subdividing.
- If parcel not purchased, a road will be built across adjacent wetlands to proposed development. The road is already permitted, including a Corps permit to destroy 0.5 mile of wetlands and the contiguous nature of the forest on this and adjacent parcels.
- One parcel is currently being marketed by owners.

Strategic:

- Regional trail planning is built around the trail system in the Diamond Creek drainage. The upper end of the drainage is State land. The lower end is a State park. The land in the middle is of mixed ownership, including the University of Alaska and private parcels.

Ready:

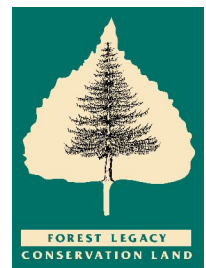
- \$70,000 of the match already raised in the community by Kachemak Heritage Land Trust.
- An initial appraisal was completed 11/14/03 with review appraisal on 1/08/04. Another appraisal was done 10/06/06 with review appraisal on 10/20/06.
- Ready to immediately work out purchase agreement
- Supporting parties include: City of Homer, Homer Foundation, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Nordic Ski Club, Rasmuson Foundation, USDA Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and Wells Fargo Bank

For more information on the Forest Legacy Program, contact:

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University of Alaska and Mandes Parcels (Diamond Creek)

June 1, 2006

