



United States Department of Agriculture



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Alaska Board of Forestry Meeting

February 2021, Chris Tcimpidis, Central Hub Forester

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United States Department of Agriculture

About NRCS and NRCS Forestry Practices



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Our Mission



NRCS is an agency committed to “helping people help the land”—our mission is to provide resources to farmers and landowners to aid them with conservation. Ensuring productive lands in harmony with a healthy environment is our priority. With operations in the United States, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam, our agency touches the lives of a diverse range of individuals.



NRCS-Alaska Structure



State Office in Palmer - State Conservationist, Alan McBee

- Northern Hub – Joanne Kuyendall, District Conservationist
 - Field offices in Fairbanks and Delta Junction.
- Central Hub – Samia Savell, District Conservationist
 - Field offices in Juneau and Wasilla.
- Southern Hub – Kenai, Meg Mueller, District Conservationist
 - Field offices in Kenai, Homer and Kodiak.



NRCS - NIPF



Proposed change to:

- 1- Landowners who own fewer than with over 45,000 acres of forest land, and
- 2- Do not own or operate an industrial mill for processing wood products; or
- 3- Meet criteria established for a nonindustrial private landowner by NRCS in a State in consultation with the State Technical Committee.

State Conservationists, in consultation with State Technical Committees, will determine localized criteria for industrial scale mills. This will ensure that family forest landowners with portable saw mills are considered for NRCS financial and technical assistance. Additional information is available in the public notice.



Current NRCS Programs



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - A program to build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening current operations. Provides annual payments and Enhancement payments.

- [Conservation Stewardship Program | NRCS \(usda.gov\)](#)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – a voluntary program producers make conservation work for them. Landowners are provided financial assistance and technical assistance to plan and implement improvements.

- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program | NRCS \(usda.gov\)](#)

Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCPP) – A program that partners with other groups to offer value-added contributions to expand the collective ability to address on-farm, watershed and regional natural resource concerns. NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects.

- [Regional Conservation Partnership Program | NRCS \(usda.gov\)](#)

Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership



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NRCS Forestry Practices



Access Control (472)
Brush Management (314)
Critical Area Planting (342)
Early Successional Habitat Development (647)
Firebreak (394)
Forest Stand Improvement (666)
Forest Trails and Roads (655)
Fuels Break (383)
Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)

Structures for Wildlife (649)
Tree-Shrub Establishment (612)
Tree-Shrub Pruning (660)
Tree-shrub site Preparation (490)
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
Wildlife Habitat Management (644)
Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)
Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
Windbreak-Shelterbelt Renovation (650)
Wood Residue Treatment (384)



NRCS Forestry Financial Assistance and Forest Management

All forestry assistance requires that a landowner has a forest management plan prepared to specifications recommended by National NRCS, and approved by the State Conservationist, normally through the NRCS State Forester or NRCS Acting State Forester.

NRCS policy dictates what elements are in a forest management plan that NRCS can accept. Often there is confusion between specifications of various program standards, NRCS standards, and NRCS terminology.

Most forest management plans are prepared under the DNR, Department of Forestry, State Forester. These plans are prepared under the Forest Stewardship program. Plans need to meet NRCS planning criteria for financial assistance.

Some plans are writing by Technical Assistance Providers (TSP). Plans written by TSPs need to meet CAP (106) standards.



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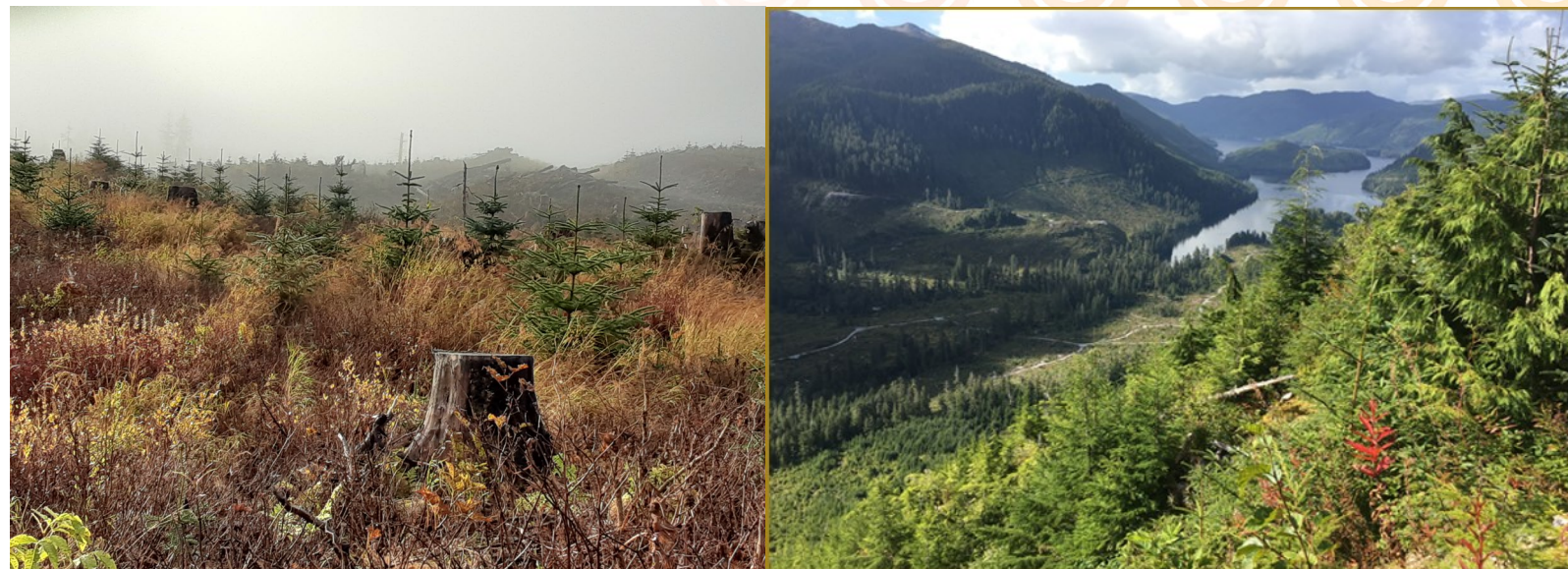


NRCS works with Private Landowners

On the right –
A 6-year-old planting on
Kodiak

Sulzer Forest – managed
with
NRCS assistance.

Bottom photo -
Fuel Break in
Soldotna/Sterling Area.



NRCS works with Private Landowners

Left photo – a Fuels break under construction on a private forest in Talkeetna.

Right Photo – Professor Todd Brinkman, UAF, working with volunteers on DNA sampling/deer population estimating project, POW.



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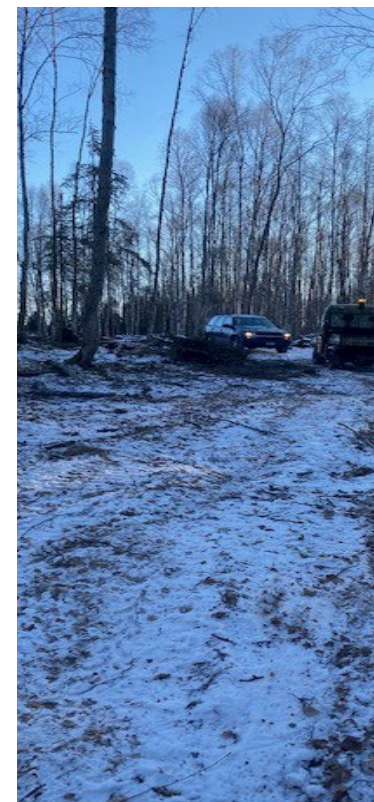
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NRCS Assistance to Alaska Natives

EQIP

- 2014-2020
 - 121 contracts
 - \$40 million invested
- 2020
 - 20 Contracts
 - \$6.8 million invested



<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ak/newsroom/factsheets/>



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NRCS Assistance 2020 Stats

FY 2020 Assistance

- EQIP
 - 72 Contracts funded
 - 118,000 acres
 - \$9.1 million
 - 84% to Historically Underserved landowners
- CSP
 - 2 New Contracts Funded for \$27,271
- RCPP
 - 1 new project awarded for \$2.6 million (Hoonah Native Forest Partnership).
- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
 - 33,000 plus acres applied
 - 162,000 plus acres of conservation plans written or updated
 - 30,380 staff hours

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ak/newsroom/factsheets/>



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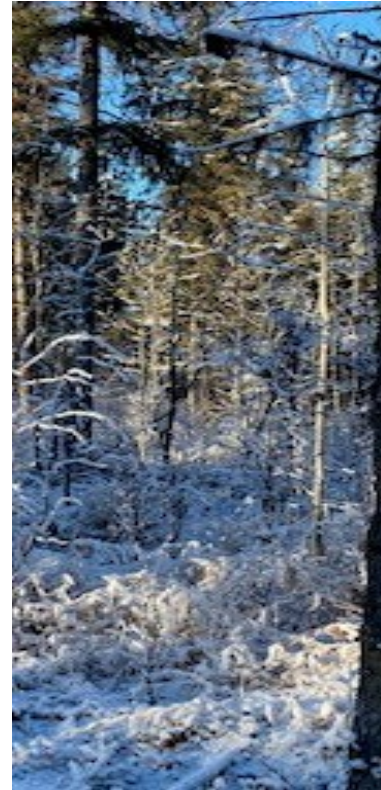
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NRCS Assistance 2020 Stats

Top Practices

- By number of contracts
 - **Forest Stand Improvement – 98**
 - Nutrient Management – 94
 - Conservation Crop Rotation – 48
 - Irrigation Water Systems – 43
 - High tunnel Systems – 30
 - **Tree/Shrub Establishment – 25**
 - Fence – 25
 - Cover Crop – 23
 - **Tree/Shrub Site Preparation – 21**
 - **Structures for Wildlife – 19**



<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ak/newsroom/factsheets/>



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NRCS Assistance 2020 Stats



Top Practices by Dollars Obligated

- **Forest Stand Improvement - \$3.5 M**
- **Tree\Shrub Establishment - \$1.4 M**
- Fence - \$1.4 M
- Pasture and Hay Planting \$793 K
- **Aquatic Organism Passage \$321 K (may also include ag. practices)**
- On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility \$221 K
- High Tunnel System \$231 K
- Brush Management – \$221 K
- **Tree/Shrub Site Preparation - \$183 K**
- Heavy Use Area Protection - \$168 K

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ak/newsroom/factsheets/>



NRCS - Alaska



Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership

- **PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND (POW), Alaska - Jan. 25, 2021** – “A public/private forestry project in Southeast Alaska was recently selected to receive nearly \$660,000 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the [Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership](#).”
- This was 1 of 8 projects funded this year! The project will restore habitat for wildlife, fisheries, stimulate the local economy and maintain or improve subsistence use.
- NRCS to invest \$422,028 in technical and financial assistance and Tongass National Forest will invest \$237,632 for restoration activities on adjacent federally managed lands.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ak/newsroom/releases/81feb002-93e3-496c-a24d-6e0e245e62c9/ka>



NRCS Success Stories – Hoonah Native Forest Partnership (RCPP)



A partnership between –
Hoonah Indian Association
Sealaska
Huna Totem
City of Hoonah
The Nature Conservancy
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
U.S. Forest Service
USDA NRCS

This “All Hands, All Lands” partnership is an alliance of landowners, organizations and stakeholders advocating for the Hoonah area. The HNFP works to assess resource conditions and identify projects intended to improve fish and wildlife habitat, ensure long-term timber production, and support sustainable watershed management.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ak/newsroom/stories/82714823-7b70-4725-9a00-9ffbfed0de21/>



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NRCS Success Stories – Hoonah Native Forest Partnership (RCPP)

Core Areas of Conservation -

- Forests, shrubs, and meadow plant communities
- Roads and Hydrology
- Fish
- Deer
- Subsistence

NRCS Conservation Practices

- Forest Stand Improvement
- woody Residue Treatment
- Roads / Trails Closure
- Obstruction Removal
- Aquatic Organism Passage
- Stream Bank and Shoreline Protection
- Stream Habitat Improvement

Story Map for Hoonah Native Forest Partnership

-Story map, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b14cc554ba9b400cb60c14184ed41c11>



*Photo by Bethany S. Goodrich,
Sustainable Southeast Partnership.*



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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

