

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: Takshanuk Watershed Council

Federal Tax ID: 33-1069246

Project Title:

Takshanuk Watershed Council - Big Boulder Creek Enhancements

State Funding Requested: \$ 72,000

House District: 5 - C

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

The project would make modifications to Big Boulder Creek in order to preserve its usefulness as spawning habitat.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$72,000

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Local Funds	\$10,000					
Total	\$10,000					

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Big Boulder Creek is a significant spawning stream for Chinook salmon. Approximately 10% of the Chilkat River run spawns in Big Boulder Creek. Since the establishment of the Haines Highway and the restriction of the creek to a narrow bed there has been a decline in habitat quality. The former potential for the creek to migrate throughout its alluvial fan has been decreased. Effectively, the channel has downcut and become stabilized. In addition, a gravel pit just to the west of the creek lies below the grade of the creek and represents a significant threat to the future of the creek as usable spawning habitat. If the thin wall between Big Boulder Creek and the pit is breached the creek will begin headcutting back toward the highway resulting in a narrow and steep channel of little value to spawning Chinook. TWC has spent \$10,000 in planning enhancements and protective measures for the site and is currently seeking project construction funds through the Northern Fund.

Project Timeline:

Funding would be secured in July of 2008 with bids going out in the fall and construction to begin in the spring of 2009.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Takshanuk Watershed Council

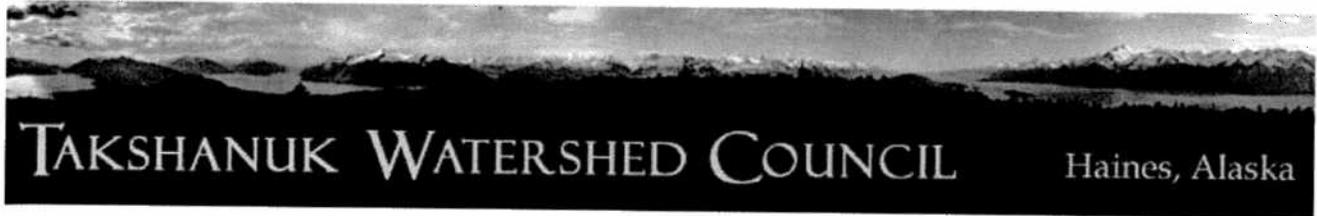
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Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Emily Seward
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Email: takshanuk@gmail.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



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Valley of the Eagles



Ecology, Economy & Quality of Life

Before there was an Alaska, before there was a Haines, the Takshanuk Watershed supported local residents for thousands of years with a rich and abundant fishery. The region continues to thrive ecologically, its glacially-fed watersheds teeming with five species of wild salmon, the

largest concentration of Bald Eagles anywhere in the world, as well as brown bears, black bears, moose and wolves. The Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC) ensures the future of this vital legacy through restoration, education, research and stewardship of the Chilkat, Chilkoot, and Ferebee river systems. With the help of citizen participation and scientific research, our work benefits the natural ecology, economy and quality of life valued by local residents.

Haines, Alaska

The town of Haines, Alaska helps define the lands and waters served by the Takshanuk Watershed Council. Nestled at the western base of the Takshanuk Range, with the Chilkat basin to the south and the Chilkoot and Ferebee basins to the north, Haines is economically linked to the fisheries resources abundant in these vibrant watersheds. For this reason, they are the Takshanuk Watershed Council's areas of emphasis. These estuarine ecosystems have also been the nexus of an ancient trade route connecting inland native groups to the sea, and the current Tlingit village of Klukwan is located at the confluence of the Chilkat, Tsirku, and Klehani rivers with the Pacific Ocean.

Check out the Haines Community Website.

Takshanuk Watershed Council

TWC promotes programs and projects within the Takshanuk Watershed which encompasses the Chilkat, Chilkoot, and Ferebee River systems, including all streams, lakes, and tributaries. A part-time Executive Director and a three-quarters time Development Director support the Board of Directors (BOD), which is comprised of eight community

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members. The organization focuses on four major project areas: education, restoration, stewardship and research.

Mission

The mission of the Takshanuk Watershed Council is to provide stewardship of the Chilkat, Chillkoot and Ferebee River systems. Through restoration, education, research and community involvement we will benefit the natural ecology, economy and quality of life valued by all residents.

Vision

Our vision for the Takshanuk Watershed Council is to promote the recognition and sustainability of the healthy, natural ecosystems within the area. Through our research initiatives, we will attain a better understanding of our watershed's ecology and will use this information to foster good stewardship of the streams, rivers, lakes and lands. We seek a balance between human and wildlife use within the watershed to benefit the entire community, the wildlife and the salmon populations we all depend upon.

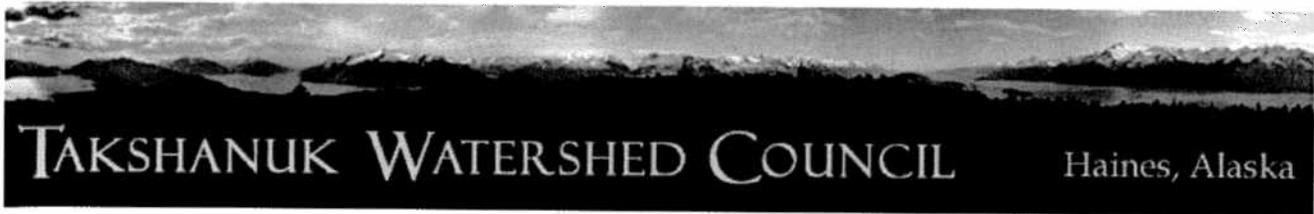
History

In fall of 2002, the Southeast Conference solicited communities throughout Southeast Alaska for interest in forming watershed councils to help protect, conserve, and enhance salmon fisheries and habitat. The Community Watershed Project (CWP) is a cooperative agreement between Southeast Conference and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game(ADF&G) to administer Southeast Sustainable Salmon Funds and to help establish community-based watershed councils. Though interest in forming a watershed council based in Haines was sparked as early as 2000, the organization got off the ground with the financial support provided through the CWP, and the Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC) formed in the spring of 2003.

Funders and Projects

CWP financial support was provided to the TWC through June, 2006. TWC is working toward achieving financial independence and organizational sustainability. The council obtained 501(c)(3) status in March 2004, and is actively pursuing funding reserved for nonprofit organizations. As a grassroots organization, the TWC also seeks community support through donations and volunteer time.

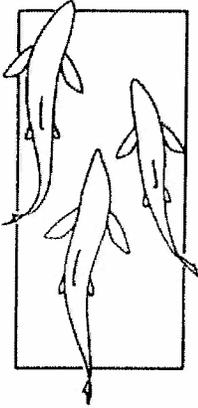
Takshanuk Watershed Council Strategic Plan (.pdf)



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Our Work, Projects, and Programs



Our Program Areas

In our Strategic Planning, we have identified four major programs: Education, Restoration, Stewardship, and Research. Over the years we have made significant progress in each of these areas.

Education

Education is the delivery of knowledge derived from study to those who need and want it. TWC has education as one of its major goals. For children, this includes work within the Haines Borough School District, other area schools and home-school families. In addition we work to raise awareness among adults as well through community events and opportunities to volunteer.

In the last three years we:

- Conducted three years of EcoStudies classes for Haines Elementary students in third, fourth and fifth grades. The classes began as a collaboration with Discovery Southeast, a regional outdoor education organization, and have since gained funding from the EPA's Environmental Education Grants Program. Our 2005-2006 EPA grant allowed us to expand service to second through eighth grades, and to introduce a Service Learning component. EcoStudies classes include frequent field trips to Sawmill Creek in Haines. During these field trips, children have helped with fish trapping studies and rescue of stranded juvenile salmon and trout after the creek was diverted into a restored stream bed. Students have also helped in re-vegetating stream banks within the restored reach of Sawmill Creek.
- Led an 8th grade field trip to Chilkoot River to study spawning eulachon. This trip involved presentations by Tommy Jimmie, Jr. on Tlingit relations with eulachon and help from Andrew Eller, a graduate student researching the biology of the species.
- Established an internship program which began in the Fall 2004 semester. Two Haines High School students have gained academic credit for assisting in field studies and research in area watersheds. Our intern's projects have included a Holgate Creek assessment, Watershed Weekly production, EcoStudies curriculum development.
- Tim Shields conducted a summer education program with students from Covenant Life Center, a local private school, to study declining western toad populations in the Klehini Valley.

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In the future we will work to develop after-school and summer school programs and seek to acquire an Outdoor Science Laboratory for use by all Haines educators. We will continue to incorporate Native environmental culture and knowledge into learning experiences by inviting the participation of Tlingit elders and teachers.

Education is a two-way street. There is much that we of the TWC can and should learn of the community member's knowledge of and desires for the watersheds in which they live. Toward the goal of gaining this awareness we have been conducting a series of meetings with community groups and individuals such as commercial fishermen, tour operators and others. Through these meetings we hope to raise awareness of TWC work but also to learn more about the community's knowledge and desires for their watersheds.

Restoration

Nature has tremendous powers of regeneration. Restoration projects are one way for humans to work with nature to repair damage done in the past. We have actively involved in the following restoration projects:

- TWC applied for and received US Fish and Wildlife Service funding to participate in a stream re-routing project on Sawmill Creek, a stream that runs through residential Haines. Water was shunted from a straight sided ditch into a more winding, natural course. The diversion was done in the fall of 2003 and we are currently in the monitoring stage of the project, observing the effects of the restoration. Now each spring, we can see cutthroat trout spawning in the restored reach of the stream!
- We facilitated a culvert replacement project on Muskrat Creek near Mile 25 on the Haines Highway. A cooperative project of TWC, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Haines Borough, this work opened one mile of of coho spawning and rearing habitat by removal of an undersized and too-steep culvert and its replacement with a culvert designed to allow unhindered fish passage. Replacement was completed in early September 2004, in time for that year's coho run.

Stewardship

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We are blessed with large and relatively intact watersheds in the area. A well designed sustainability strategy will maintain the health and productivity of our land and water indefinitely. TWC is dedicated to helping this effort.

- We are currently working with a private landowner toward purchasing and placing a sustainability easement on the Sawmill Creek restoration site. On this parcel we hope to establish an Outdoor Education Science Laboratory for all Haines Borough school children.

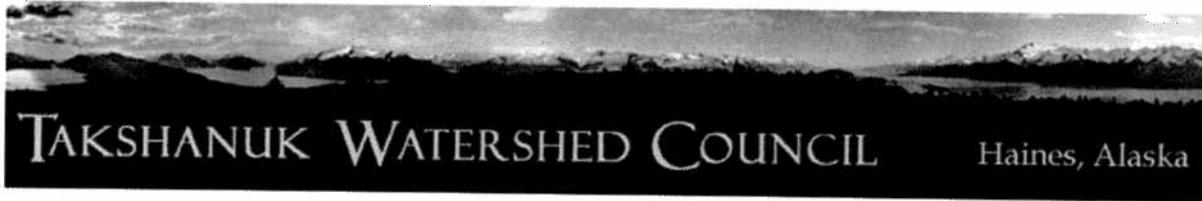
Research

Our watershed assessment effort will help us identify other areas which may be good candidates for sustainability projects. Research is the basic component which underlies our efforts. We are dedicated to understanding the functioning of our watersheds and sharing the information we gain. This research includes field work but also compiling information about our watersheds which has already been gathered by others.

- Completed a stream survey of Sawmill Creek for baseline data during the spring of 2004 using ADF&G's Stream Survey Protocol.
- Organized a benthic macro-invertebrate training with the Environment and Natural Resources Institute (ENRI) for staff and key volunteers. The group collected at three sites on Sawmill Creek and found a predictable pattern of increasing health and

diverstiy in the system.

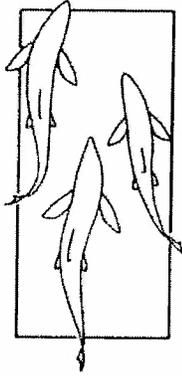
- Conducted two years of spring, summer and fall fish trapping in Sawmill Creek to investigate species populations and movement back into the restored reach.



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Will Work for Fish

Commercial fisheries provide thousands of jobs for Alaskans and millions of dollars to local economies. By demonstrating a direct link between quality of life and fisheries health, TWC connects members of the community to the value of their watershed resources. The communities of Haines and Klukwan are home to over sixty commercial fishing permit holders, and many residents rely on subsistence fishing to supplement their diet. While the link between a healthy, sustainable

fishery and the Haines Borough's economy is clear to most residents, we seek to make that connection evident in the minds and the practices of all residents.

A Community Resource

The TWC is a community resource. We gather data for public use and are creating a resource library for use by citizens, local government and developers. By increasing the availability of watershed information we will participate in improving the quality of development decisions made in the community. Our information sources include: existing research, the knowledge of local elders, and the results of research projects in progress. As we gain knowledge through our own research and gather more from other sources, our library will continually grow and help to provide a clearer understanding of the relationship between us humans and the land and waters we inhabit and use. This clearer understanding will help ensure that the changes we make will have maximum benefits and do minimum damage to natural systems.

Local Streamkeepers Groups

TWC fosters local landowner stewardship and awareness of the habitat value in local watersheds. We encourage rehabilitation, creek clean-up, and creek awareness by all landowners in our smaller, urbanized watersheds. We do this by contacting individual landowners, facilitating Streamkeepers meetings, and organizing activities such as yearly creek clean-ups.

Given a rising population and the documented water quality problems associated with independent sewage disposal systems there is a need for discussion of the relationship between residents and the creeks which flow through their neighborhoods. In addition, habitat quality has been affected by the forms of development in the area. TWC can be a technical and funding resource for fixes for these problems but active involvement of the landowners is crucial in accomplishing them.

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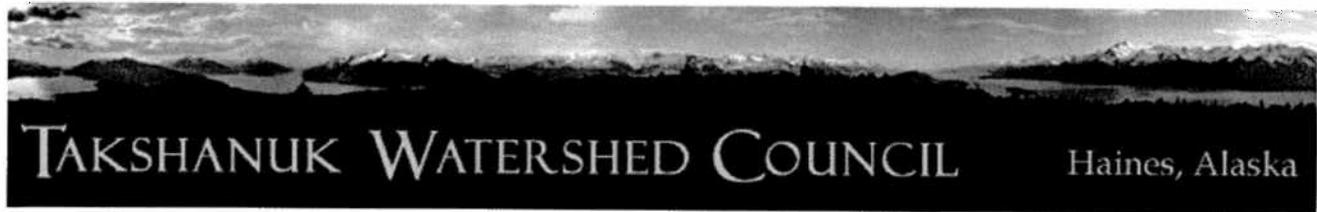
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October 2007 (not scheduled yet) at the TWC office

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The Watershed



The Takshanuk Watersheds

There are three drainages included in the Takshanuk Watershed Council's area. These are the Chilkat, Chilkoot and Ferebee valleys. The name for the council comes from the Takshanuk Mountains, the high ridge which divides the Chilkoot and Chilkat valleys. Peaks like Mt. Ripinsky, 3920, and Tugahoe are part of the Takshanuk Mountain.

Within this vast area exists a wide variety of landscapes and habitat types- everything from glacial ice to dense forest to wide expanses of wetland and

bog. For instance, a drop of rain landing high up on the southwest side of Mount Ripinsky will travel over rock, through forest, and the settled area of the Haines townsite before emptying into the Chilkat River via Sawmill Creek. Along the way it will help sustain living creatures dependent on water- not only aquatic plants and animals but landlubbers as well. It will absorb both natural and man-made compounds as it travels downhill before joining with the Chilkat near Jones Point.

Some of our watershed work focuses on restoration projects in "urban" streams like Holgate Creek and Sawmill Creek.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is the drainage basin of a river or stream. All the precipitation, whether rain or snow, that falls in the basin eventually drains downstream and collects in larger and larger watercourses. Tiny brooks join to form streams, these combine to become creeks and these drain together into rivers. A watershed is actually an area of *land* from which water drains into a single river. Water ties this tract of land together.

Takshanuk History

- **Geological**

The geological history of the area plays an immense role in the present day biology of the area. As recently as 9,000 years ago most of Haines Borough was still under massive sheets of ice. For example; Pyramid Island, the Chilkoot river corridor below the lake, and the spit at Taiyasanka Harbor all are terminal moraines of the most recent glacial advance. The steep slopes of local mountains and their myriad avalanche chutes speak of their relative youth and instability. The yearly melting of glaciers washes massive amounts of sediments and nutrients downstream, enriching the

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productivity of local habitat.

- **Ecological**

Salmon are the key species in the dynamics of the watersheds of our area. Salmon are anadromous- they hatch in fresh water, move to salt water sometime later where they do the bulk of their growing. As they reach maturity they return to their freshwater birth streams to spawn, thereby continuing the cycle. The adults of all five species of local salmon- king, sockeye, coho, chum and pink- die following spawning. In so doing they make a huge contribution of ocean grown nutrients to the terrestrial system. Scavengers and predators such as brown and black bears, bald eagles, ravens and gulls transport salmon carcasses into adjacent forest land, greatly enriching it. Thus are the fates of forest and fish mingled- the salmon need healthy forest streams in which to breed and the forest benefit greatly by having large salmon runs in the watershed. For this reason the Takshanuk Watershed Council focuses much attention on the well-being of our salmon.

- **Social**

The biological richness of the local streams and forest made possible the social richness reflected in thousands of years of development of the Tlingit culture. The yearly tide of salmon and eulachon ensured the well-being of the village and allowed a cultural flowering reflected in the rich array of carvings and weavings of the Chilkat and Chilkoot Valleys. The respect showed to salmon and wildlife by the first residents of the area ensured the survival of all- human, salmon, bear, eagle and raven.

A look at the Haines Small Boat Harbor, local campgrounds, and sport fishing spots confirms that salmon still support the local economy to a large degree. Those who come to see eagles and bears are dependent on healthy salmon runs as well. TWC is dedicated to maintaining the salmon runs that are so vital to the local economy.

Despite the importance of salmon to so many in our area there is much we don't know about these fish and their needs. Basic research on salmon habitat will tell us much about how to care for these vitally important fish.

2008 Updated Project List for Takshanuk Watershed Council

ORGANIZATION

GAAP training- Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

TWC wishes to improve and streamline accounting for the organization. GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) training would be particularly useful for our staff and would lead to improvement in the organizations accountability. It would be useful to conduct this training with other organizations as an in-kind donation from a parent organization. Estimated budget: Not to exceed \$5,000

Grant Reporting and Organization Training

TWC has a large number of projects active and in the development stage. Training in grants organization and tracking would be useful in organizing and efficiently reporting on grants activities. Trainings are available from the Foraker Group in Alaska and are held throughout the year. TWC could host a training for local Haines and Klukwan non-profit organizations and make the training more cost-effective for all. Normally, the cost for this training would be included in an organizational budget. Estimated budget: Not to exceed \$5,000

RESEARCH

Fish Distribution Database

TWC is currently conducting a wide ranging assessment of the distribution of salmonid species in local watersheds. The initial phase of this project is currently funded. The project has significantly improved the State's fish distribution database for our area in the first six months of this grant. We are currently seeking to extend this project beyond the duration of the current grant, which concludes in June 2008. This baseline information is vital to decision makers in assessing future development proposals. To complete the assessment for the Haines Borough would take at least three more years of work. Estimated budget: \$32,000/year

RESTORATION

Mud Bay Road /Sogge Fish Passage Block

Approximately one-half mile of habitat exists upstream of a fish passage block at 6.5 Mile Mud Bay Road. Correcting this problem would entail replacement of the current perched culvert and adjustments to a water impoundment just downstream of the road. Coho salmon have been trapped up to the impoundment but not beyond and good quality habitat exists upstream. Estimated budget: \$50,000

Comstock Road Culvert Replacements

A series of problematic culverts on Comstock Road have stranded considerable habitat upstream. The problem is serious. For example, the downstream end of one culvert is perched more than a meter above the stream bed. This project would require an extensive re-engineering of the current streambed-road interface. Estimated budget: \$60,000 per culvert

Sawmill Creek Sediment Control

Considerable time and expense have been expended in restoration and monitoring of Sawmill Creek, an important urban watershed in the Haines Townsite. In the course of

researching the creek we have identified numerous sources of sediment that are damaging the quality of the creek as spawning habitat for cutthroat trout and coho salmon. Controlling this sediment flow into the creek will entail a series of small projects- settling ponds, bank stabilization and plantings. These projects are more cost effective when completed as one larger project than a series of smaller projects. Estimated budget: \$200,000, which includes some potential in-kind funding from construction costs

Rex Gravel Pit Restoration

TWC is in contact with the future owner of a soon to be inactivated gravel pit at the end of Jones Point Road. The site shows great potential as rearing habitat for juvenile salmon, particularly Coho and has been documented as a breeding site for the rapidly declining western toad. We propose to reconfigure the shallow portions of the pond and the fringe surrounding the site to increase their habitability by desirable species. The future landowner, in discussion with the current owner, has expressed interest in cooperating on the project. Estimated budget: \$150,000

Union Street Fish Passage Project

The current culvert draining the DOT Maintenance Yard beneath the Duck-In Carwash and emptying into the main channel of Sawmill Creek west of Union Avenue is problematic. Significant flooding of the area occurred in November of 2005 with the southwest corner of the DOT yard and the adjacent area of Union Avenue and Main Street under water. In addition, the current configuration of channel and culverts upstream is less than ideal for fish passage, spawning and rearing. TWC has spent time, effort and funds examining the problem and developing design alternatives. We have discussed the situation with local and state DOT representatives. We are interested in pursuing solutions that improve both public safety and fish habitat quality. The upcoming improvements to Union Avenue represent an ideal opportunity to address this problem. Estimated budget: \$200,000+, which includes some potential in-kind funding from construction costs

Big Boulder Creek Enhancements

Big Boulder Creek is a significant spawning stream for Chinook salmon. Approximately 10% of the Chilkat River run spawns in Big Boulder Creek. Since the establishment of the Haines Highway and the restriction of the creek to a narrow bed there has been a decline in habitat quality. The former potential for the creek to migrate throughout its alluvial fan has been decreased. Effectively, the channel has downcut and become stabilized. In addition, a gravel pit just to the west of the creek lies below the grade of the creek and represents a significant threat to the future of the creek as usable spawning habitat. If the thin wall between Big Boulder Creek and the pit is breached the creek will begin headcutting back toward the highway resulting in a narrow and steep channel of little value to spawning Chinook. TWC has spent \$10,000 in planning enhancements and protective measures for the site and is currently seeking project construction funds through the Northern Fund. Estimated budget: \$72,000

Chilkoot Corridor Streambank Stabilization and Protection

In 2005 TWC constructed a trail near Deer Rock and to provide initial stream bank stabilization work. Given the high value of this area as habitat and recreational land and the heavy use it receives, the protection of the river's bank is vital. There are numerous places in

the corridor that show the effect of heavy human use and TWC is interested in studying the problem, proposing solutions and thereafter doing the work itself. Estimated budget: from \$20,000 to \$50,000

OUTREACH and EDUCATION

Purchase of Brown Parcel

TWC seeks to conserve a parcel of undeveloped land near the intersection of 6th St and Dalton near the new school. Our purpose is to establish a conservation easement on the property or to hold the property as an asset and act as conservator of the land, allowing minimal trail and facility development. This tract has been used as an outdoor lab for TWC's EcoStudies program for the past four years. It's proximity to the school and students' familiarity with it makes it very valuable. In addition the parcel is the site of a successful creek restoration project completed in 2003. We have pursued traditional land acquisition avenues without success: the parcel is small and lacks the pizzaz sought after by larger organizations. However, the education value of the land is disproportionate to its small size. Acquisition of the parcel would insure its indefinite availability to Haines students and would allow TWC to develop a long-term database derived from our work with students on the site. Estimated budget: \$120,000

Watershed Weekly

For the past three years TWC has been producing this five minute radio show for broadcast on KHNS. We have refined our recording techniques and delivery. The show is consistently and frequently complimented by listeners. TWC is in the midst of developing an in-depth series on fish management in the area. Our goal is to produce the separate segments as a single half hour program on this topic and to then market the show to other radio stations. We are continually seeking funds to keep the project in production and make the project self sustaining. Estimated budget: \$15,000 per year

Green Careers

In cooperation with the Haines Borough School District TWC is developing an internship program with local employers in the natural resource management and natural history interpretation fields. These organizations include the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Parks Division of DNR as well as Alaska Nature Tours, Alaska Mountain Guides and Chilkat Guides. High school students and possibly post-secondary age young adults will be instructed in the fundamental skills needed for careers with these employers, will receive specific training from project partners, and be assisted in gaining local employment after completing their internships. TWC has applied for funding but still seeks long-term support for the program. The idea has been enthusiastically received by both the educational establishment and potential employers. Estimated budget: \$30,000 including in kind contributions

EcoStudies

Now in the program's fifth year, EcoStudies is an outdoor education series whose goal is to provide watershed education for all students in the elementary and middle school grades in Haines. TWC conducts field trips to demonstrate ecological principles and to explore the relationship between humans and the environment. The program has been very successful in fostering awareness of the value of natural resources to the community. Beyond that, our goal is to make nature studies a lot of fun. We find that a playful structure greatly increases

the enthusiasm of all those involved. The program has been supported by local, state and national funding sources and serves as a model for the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition. Estimated budget: \$20,000 per year

Local Trail Development

(1) CIA trail extension- Chilkoot Indian Association has informed TWC of their intention to extend the nature trail that currently ends at an overlook over a wetland near the Haines schools. We look forward to participating in this project and would like to involve school kids in design of the trail itself and in exploring interpretive materials.

(2) Portage Cove trail project- TWC has proposed a nature trail between the cruise ship dock and the small boat harbor to the Haines Borough. A small patch of woods along the shore is an ideal location for a trail offering an alternative to walking along the sidewalk. Such a trail would feature interpretive signs and plantings of native shrubs and wildflowers as well as the possibility of a tide pool component. TWC is currently developing conceptual drawings as a first step in the process. Estimated budget: \$12,000

(3) Community trail system- We believe that a trail system in and around the townsite has potential to introduce visitors to the natural features of the area, increasing their enjoyment of time spent in town. This concept should be developed within the community and has the potential to bring together local businesses, landowners and community service organizations. It would be a multi year planning project that could be started with the Haines Borough Planning Commission. TWC would like to see the project developed and help to design and install interpretive signs throughout the area. By increasing attractive walking areas, we can promote alternatives to traditional transportation. Estimated budget: \$200,000

Library Aquarium

TWC is planning and fundraising for a freshwater aquarium in the Haines Borough Public Library that would house local species of fish. This live display would be a great way to draw attention to Takshanuk Watershed Council and its partners and to bring people a close up view of our beautiful and fascinating aquatic species. Given the high number of people using the library and the inherent attractiveness of such species as cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, coho salmon, and three-spined stickleback, a good aquarium display will be a high profile addition to the community. Estimated budget: \$15,000 initial set up and \$2,000 power and maintenance annually.

Statewide Watershed Council Coalition

Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition (SAWC) has been collaborating and planning for future activities and funding since 2003. Four member organizations currently work together and have been supported by a variety of funders at the local, state and national level. Our councils serve the communities in which they live and also share materials and expertise at the coalition level. A statewide watershed conference has been held in conjunction with the Community Watershed Project (CWP) for three years. With the conclusion of the CWP, funding has not been available for the annual conference of watershed councils. SAWC would like to plan and host a conference in Alaska in 2008. Estimated budget: \$30,000 with funding for travel scholarships

Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition Request for
FY 2009 Continuing Improvement Project

Project Description: Administrative support for member watershed coalitions

Requested Amount: **\$250,000**

Matching Amount: **\$250,000**

Duration of funding: **FY 2009 – FY 2011**

Annual Allocation: **\$83,333**

Annual Allocation for Watershed Councils in Haines, Skagway and Yakutat: **\$27,778**

<i>Member Community</i>	<i>FY 2009</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>FY 2010</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>FY2011</i>	<i>Match</i>
Haines	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778
Skagway	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778
Yakutat	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778	\$27,778
Total	\$83,333	\$83,333	\$83,333	\$83,333	\$83,333	\$83,333

Budget Description:

The intent of this funding is to provide basic support for the three watershed councils working in Northern Southeast Alaska. Basic support needs include utilities, office supplies, rents, and staff wages for seeking project-specific grant funding. This funding would be a continuation of state support which historically occurred through the Southeast Conference and Alaska Department of Fish & Game Community Watershed Project from 2003-2006.

Match amounts will be met through administrative costs associated derived from awarded grant funding.

The requested amount will function as a buffer throughout the year as grant funding is often delayed and not all grant requests are successful.

Community Profiles:

Haines

Location

Haines is located in the Upper Lynn Canal about 70 miles North of Juneau. The town of Haines, Alaska helps define the lands and waters served by the Takshanuk Watershed Council. Nestled at the western base of the Takshanuk Range, with the Chilkat basin to the south and the Chilkoot and Ferebee basins to the north, Haines is economically linked to the fisheries resources abundant in these vibrant watersheds. For this reason, they are the Takshanuk Watershed Council's areas of emphasis. These estuarine ecosystems have also been the nexus of an ancient trade route connecting inland native groups to the sea, and the current Tlingit village of Klukwan is located at the confluence of the Chilkat, Tsirku, and Klehini rivers with the Pacific Ocean.

History & Culture

The Haines area was called "Dei Shu" by the Tlingit, meaning "end of the trail." The Chilkat Tlingit controlled the trading routes between the coast and the Interior. The first non-Native to settle here was George Dickinson, an agent for the North West Trading Co., in 1880. In 1881, S. Young Hall, a Presbyterian minister, received permission from the Chilkat to build the Willard Mission and school. The mission was renamed Haines in 1884 in honor of Mrs.

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F.E. Haines, Secretary of the Presbyterian Women's Executive Society of Home Missions, who had raised funds for the mission's construction. During the Klondike gold rush in the late 1890s, it grew as a mining supply center, since the Dalton Trail from Chilkat Inlet to Whitehorse offered an easier route to the Yukon for prospectors. Gold was also discovered 36 miles from Haines in 1899 at the Porcupine District. Four canneries had been constructed in the area by the turn of the century. The first permanent U.S. military installation was constructed south of Haines in 1904, Fort William H. Seward. In 1922, the fort was renamed Chilkoot Barracks. Until World War II, it was the only U.S. Army post in Alaska. It was deactivated in 1946 and sold as surplus property to a group of veterans who established it as Port Chilkoot. The City of Port Chilkoot was incorporated in 1956. Haines Borough formed as a third-class borough on August 29, 1968. In 1970, Port Chilkoot merged with Haines into the City of Haines. In 1972, the post was designated a national historic site and the name, Fort William Seward, was restored. The last of the early canneries closed in 1972 due to declining fish stocks. Expansion of the timber industry in the early 1970s fueled growth. In 1974, the Borough annexed 420 square miles to the south, including Excursion Inlet. In 1978, it annexed the former military petroleum distribution facility at Lutak Inlet. The City of Haines and the Haines Borough were consolidated on October 17, 2002, resulting in the establishment of a home-rule borough.

Land, Environment & Climate

The Haines Borough encompasses 2,343.7 sq. miles of land and 382.1 sq. miles of water. Haines experiences a maritime climate characterized by cool summers and mild winters. Summer temperatures range from 50 to 70; winter temperatures range from 10 to 35. Haines is home to the world's largest congregation of bald eagles, who feed from the warm spring-fed rivers. The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is a major attraction in Southeast.

Land Ownership

Land ownership in the Borough includes: Alaska Department of Natural Resources; Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; Haines Borough; Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and private land owners.

Population Served

The population of the community consists of 15.6% Alaska Native or part Native. During the 2000 U.S. Census, total housing units numbered 1,419, and vacant housing units numbered 428. Vacant housing units used only seasonally numbered 301. U.S. Census data for Year 2000 showed 992 residents as employed. The unemployment rate at that time was 13.66 percent, although 46.78 percent of all adults were not in the work force. The median household income was \$40,772, per capita income was \$22,090, and 10.67 percent of residents were living below the poverty level.

Gender - The gender population of Haines is relatively even with 50.6% (1,211) males and 49.4% (1,181) females. This can be compared to the state as whole where the percentages are 48.3 percent and 51.7 percent, respectively.

Age - The median age in Haines (40.7) is eight years above the average of the state (32.4). The 2000 population (total of 2392) was distributed 18 and over: 1,779, age 21 and over: 1,719 and age 62 and over: 307.

Income and Employment -The Borough School District, retail trade, business and transportation services, fishing and forestry provide the majority of employment in the Borough. 128 area residents hold commercial fishing permits. Many jobs are seasonal. Tourism and the traffic Haines draws as a result of its road connection to the State Ferry are important. In 2001, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines ceased serving Haines as a port of call.

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Today, around 45,000 cruise ship passengers visit yearly. The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve draws visitors from around the world. Haines is a major trans-shipment point because of its ice-free, deep water port and dock, and year-round road access to Canada and Interior Alaska. It is a northern terminus of the Alaska State Ferry System, and a hub for transportation to and from southeast Alaska. Haines has a 4,600' airport runway. In 2000, 13.7% of the available workforce (age 16+) was unemployed and seeking work. The per capita income in 2000 was \$22,090, with 10.7% of residents living below the poverty level.

Skagway

Location

Skagway is located at the northernmost point of the Inside Passage in Southeast Alaska—100 air miles north of Juneau and 108 road miles south of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada. Skagway lies at approximately, latitude 59.458 and longitude -135.314.

History & Culture

The northern Lynn Canal was the ancestral territory of the Tlingits before the discovery of gold in the Klondike in 1896. The Chilkoot Tlingits occupied land east of the Chilkat Peninsula ridge line, and included the Dyea and Skagway valleys. Pre-1887 - Skagua, as it is known by the Tlingit, meaning windy place, is used by Chilkoots and Chilkats for hunting and fishing. A few of these Native Americans settle in the quieter areas of Smuggler's Cove, Nahku Bay and Dyea, head of the Chilkoot trail, a centuries-old Indian trading route becoming popular with early prospectors heading into the Yukon. In the 1880s, U.S. Navy and Army patrols establish federal presence in the area. The Klondike Gold Rush era began when gold was discovered on Bonanza Creek of the Klondike River in 1896. The resultant gold rush that occurred between the years 1896-1899 brought 20,000 prospectors through the Skagway River and Taiya River Valleys to climb either the Chilkoot Pass or the White Pass trail to the gold fields. By 1900, when Skagway became Alaska's first incorporated city, there were already platted streets and lots, schools, hospitals, wharves, electric street lights, and a post office. After the prosperous gold rush years had passed for Skagway, the population and the economy stabilized around the White Pass and Yukon Route built from tidewater to Whitehorse, Yukon. During World War II, Skagway experienced an economic boom as the town became an important center in Alaska's defense system. Skagway also experienced healthy years in the late 1960's through the mid 1970's with the opening of the Cyprus Anvil lead-zinc mine in Faro, Canada. In 1976, the U.S. Congress authorized the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park and funded restoration work of historic buildings and trails in and around Skagway. In recent years, the cruise ship industry has boomed throughout Southeast Alaska and today, the tourism industry is Skagway's economic mainstay.

Land, Environment & Climate

The entire Borough encompasses 452.4 square miles of land and 11.9 miles of water. Skagway experiences a maritime climate with cool summers and mild winters. Average summer temperatures range from 45-67 degrees Fahrenheit and winter temperatures average 18-37 degrees Fahrenheit. Within the shadow of the mountains, Skagway receives less rain than is typical of Southeast Alaska.

Land Ownership

Land ownership in the Skagway Borough includes: National Park Service, Alaska Department of Natural Resources; Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; Skagway Borough; Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and private land owners.

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Population Served

The population of Skagway from the 2000 census was 862¹, however, the summer population almost triples in size due to the influx of the cruise ship industry and related local businesses. Skagway is a homogenous community with a population made up of 94% whites and 6% Alaska Natives.

Gender – The population of Skagway (862) is relatively even with 52.2% (450) males and 47.8% (412) females. This can be compared to the state as whole where the percentages are 48.3 percent and 51.7 percent, respectively.

Age – The median age in Skagway is 39.2, which is almost seven years above the average of the state (32.4). The 2000 population (total of 862) was distributed 18 and over: 685, age 21 and over: 671 and age 62 and over: 93.

Income and Employment – The primary types of employment in Skagway revolve around seasonal tourism industry. Employment by occupation includes management and professional, construction and maintenance, service and sales. A variety of industries represents the services available to tourists including: retail trade, transportation, arts, entertainment, recreation, accomodation and food services. The local school is also a primary employer in Skagway. In 2000, 14.1% of the available workforce (age 16+) was unemployed and seeking work. The per capita income in 2000 was \$27,700, with only 3.7% of residents living below the poverty level.

Skagway's economy is primarily centralized around the tourism industry, although other economic attractants includes:

Recreation and Sports: Hunting, sport fishing, crabbing, hiking, kayaking, beach combing, bicycling, rafting, canoeing, boat tours, camping, flightseeing, nature tours, mountain climbing, whale watching, bird and wildlife viewing, glacier viewing, skiing, horseback riding, dog sledding

Nature and Wildlife: Birds and wildlife in the region include black and brown bears, mountain goats, wolves, deer, bald eagles, sea lions, seals, whales, salmon and trout. Glaciers and wilderness areas are also tourist attractions.

Culture and History: Tlingit Native Culture Trail of '98 Museum in Skagway, Tlingit Native Culture, and abundant Klondike Gold Rush history, Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park, City of Skagway Historical Museum and Archive, Ghost Town of Dyea

Yakutat

Location

Yakutat is located on the Gulf of Alaska, 225 miles northwest of Juneau, at the mouth of Yakutat Bay. Because it is one of the few refuges for watercraft along a very long coastline, this mild, often rainy location has a long history as a port and trading center.

History & Culture

Yakutat, meaning “the place where the canoes rest,” has a cultural history that is strongly tied to the traditional Tlingit and Eyak cultures. More recent influences include Russian, English and American traders. The area's diverse cultural history has been originally traced to Eyak-speaking people from the Copper River area. Conflict with Tlingits from the south led to Tlingit settlement of the area and the expansion of the Tlingit cultural influence. In the 18th and 19th centuries, fur traders and explores came to the region from England, France, Spain and Russia. The next major influence came at the end of the 19th century with the

¹ State of Alaska, Community Database Online

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area's black sand beaches being mined for gold. A cannery, sawmill, store and railroad were constructed beginning in 1903 by the Stimson Lumber Co. Most residents moved to the current site of Yakutat to be closer to this cannery, which operated through 1970. During World War II, a large aviation garrison and paved runway were constructed. Troops were withdrawn after the war, but the runway is still in use. The City of Yakutat was formed in 1948 and in 1992 was combined with the Borough.

Land, Environment & Climate

The City and Borough of Yakutat encompasses 7,650.5 square miles of land and 1,808.8 square miles of water². The area is characterized by a maritime climate, meaning relatively mild and often rainy weather. Yakutat receives some of the heaviest precipitation in the state, averaging 132 inches, including 219 inches of snowfall. Temperatures range from 42 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer to 17 to 39 degrees in the winter³.

Land Ownership

Land ownership in the City and Borough includes: Alaska Department of Natural Resources; Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; Yak-tat Kwaan (an ANCSA corporation); City and Borough of Yakutat; Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and private land owners.

Population Served

In 2006, the population of the City and Borough of Yakutat was 634 individuals (DCCED, 2006). This figure is a decline from the Census 2000 figure of 808 individuals. Of those counted in 2000, just under half, 46 percent, identified themselves as Alaska Native. Fifty percent of the population in 2000 was white, with the remaining percentages being split among the Asian, Hawaiian native or black populations. It should be noted that Borough formed in 1992, increasing the area of the City substantially.

Gender - The population in Yakutat is slightly skewed toward a higher male population with 40.7 percent female and 59.3 percent male. This can be compared to the state as whole where the percentages are 48.3 percent and 51.7 percent, respectively.

Age - Compared with the state, Yakutat has a much higher percentage of the population in the 45-64 age group, 28.7 percent compared to 22.3 percent for the state. This is also reflected in the median age which is 37.2 for Yakutat and 32.4 for the state.

Economy

Overview - Fishing is integral to both the lifestyle and economy of Yakutat. Most Yakutat residents depend on subsistence hunting and fishing. Much of the area's economy is dependent on fishing or fish processing. In recent years, tourism based on hunting and fishing has become an increasingly important sector of the local economy.

Income and Employment - Both the per capita income and median household income are similar to the statewide income figures which are \$22,660 and \$51,571, respectively. The employment picture in Yakutat is heavily dependant on, as mentioned above, fishing, fish processing and government. The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and the services it provides to the community is another significant employer locally. In 2000, 162 residents held commercial fishing permits.

² State of Alaska, DCCED, Community Database, November 2007.

³ Ibid.



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February 27, 2008

The Honorable Bill Thomas
State of Alaska, District 5 Representative
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Thomas:

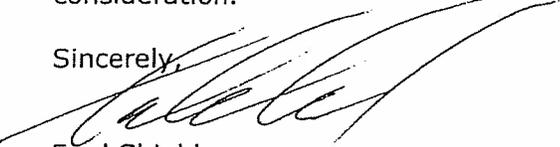
On behalf of the Haines Borough Assembly, I am writing to express support for the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition's (SAWC) request for operating support in the FY09 Capitol Budget. Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC), a member organization of Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, has been working with the Haines Borough on watershed issues for the past five years. The group has brought more than \$350,000 in grant funding to the borough. A small investment by the State of Alaska could generate up to three times the amount in matching funds by federal and private granting organizations. This makes the investment good for the State and regional economies.

The borough has invested funding into TWC's work through an afterschool program, many in-kind donations, and project support. The important work TWC has accomplished includes local school educational programs, restoration of salmon habitat, and completion of local watershed assessments for use by the local government and developers. The group fills a niche in Haines by working *with* many different groups in the community, rather than against them. We believe the council's work accomplishes its mission to improve the ecology, economy, and quality of life valued by all local residents.

Taiya Inlet Watershed Council in Skagway, TWC in Haines, and Yakutat Salmon Board formed a coalition in 2004 to continue to support one another's projects and programs. SAWC seeks to act as a regional network that promotes watershed stewardship throughout Southeast Alaska, while supporting each council's individual efforts. The objectives of SAWC are to (1) promote stewardship of watershed resources region-wide; (2) provide region-wide skill, resources and knowledge sharing; and (3) ensure sustainability of watershed council services by diversifying the councils' funding bases.

We believe this request, if approved by the State Legislature and Governor Palin, will be a wise investment in our economy and ecology for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Fred Shields
Haines Borough Mayor