

The Southeast Steward

Newsletter of the Southeast Alaska Land Trust

Accomplishments, March, 2014

Its Official - We're Accredited!

We are proud to announce Southeast Alaska Land Trust was awarded accreditation this February by the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission. SEAL Trust is one of only 254 land trusts from across the country that are currently accredited. Accredited land trusts are authorized to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation. The accreditation process was years in the making. Thank you to the staff and donors who made this happen. Without your contributions we would not have been able to accomplish this important step in the evolution of Southeast Alaska Land Trust.



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A Note from our Executive Director



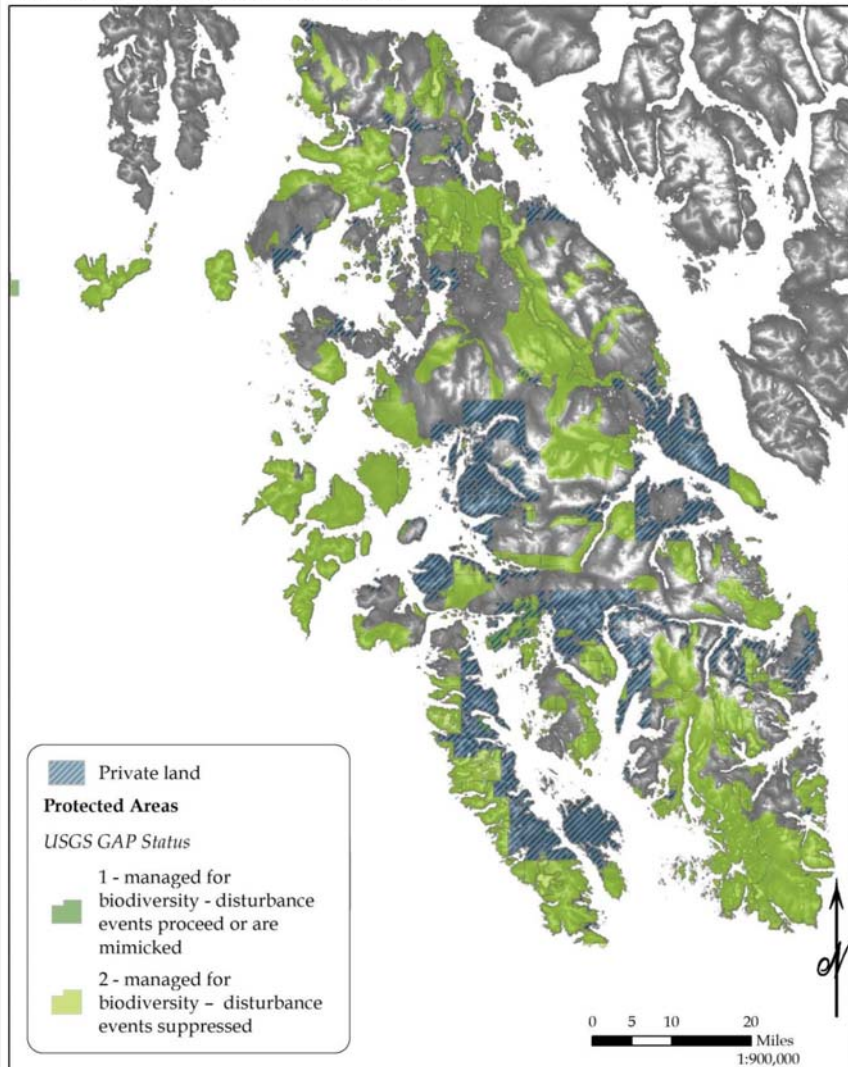
Mendenhall Peninsula, Juneau

There is still snow on the ground in Juneau, but spring is in the air. Things are about to burst back to life. From the primroses at Jensen-Olson Arboretum to the shorebird extravaganza on the Mendenhall Refuge, SEAL Trust properties will be a part of this annual renewal. This spring there is a little extra excitement in the air at SEAL Trust because we received the distinction of being accredited as a Land Trust by the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission.

This is a big deal. Behind the label are years of hard work by SEAL Trust staff, Board Members and donors who all played a part in developing SEAL Trust as an organization that can meet the highest standards of land protection and stewardship. The recognition of accreditation has put a little extra spring in our step as we face the opportunities of the new year. -Frank Rue, Executive Director

Prince of Wales GIS Prioritization for Conservation

Map 2: Prince of Wales Island Protected Areas



In early 2013, SEAL Trust Conservation Assistant, Bethany Wylie, completed a geographic analysis of conservation priority areas on Prince of Wales Island using various sources of digital data.

SEAL Trust staff will be traveling to Prince of Wales this summer to meet with local land managers and owners to discuss possible conservation properties. This GIS tool has been essential in our search for conservation projects. This tool has also been shared with other individuals and agencies for discussion of our priorities and for their own information. You can see this report and maps on our website.

Stewardship

Stewardship is an essential part of Southeast Alaska Land Trust's spring and summer season. With 10 fee-simple properties owned and managed by SEAL Trust and 13 conservation easements throughout Southeast Alaska we stay busy! Most of our properties are monitored once a year on the ground and we typically visit our remote properties once every three years on the ground and conduct aerial observations on the off years.



Volunteers Needed!

SEAL Trust is planning for Stewardship activities 2014 and wants to invite you to participate in assisting us this year. We hope to save on staff costs and allow our members to spend some hands-on time on our conservation easements and fee-simple properties. We will have volunteer opportunities in Juneau, Kake, Haines and Sitka this year. Let us know if you would like to be trained as a Stewardship Volunteer this spring or summer.

Email: angie@setrust.net or call us at
(907) 586-3100

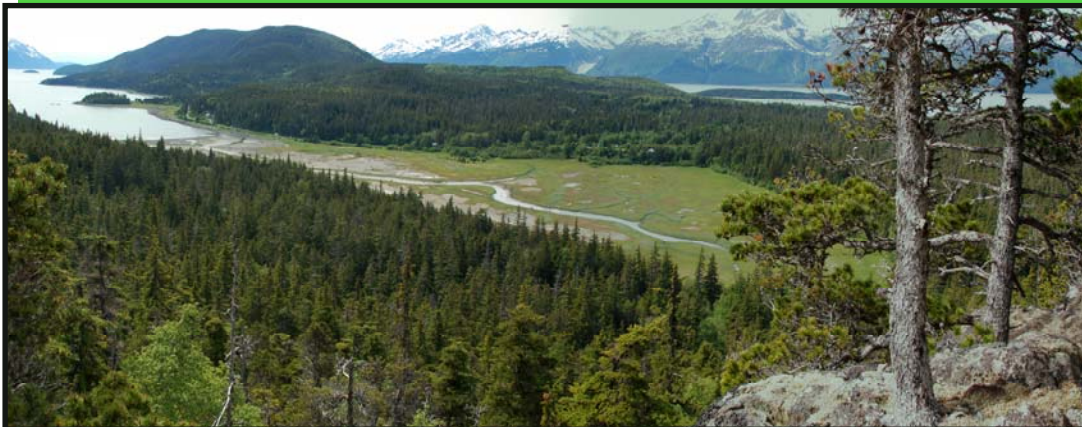
Since 1996 we have covered a lot of ground

Southeast Alaska Land Trust Board of Directors and staff want to thank you for contributing time and or money that contributed to our success in 2013. With your help Southeast Alaska Land Trust permanently preserved over 136 acres of important habitat throughout the region last year.

- We purchased 4 properties adjacent to the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge (8 acres)

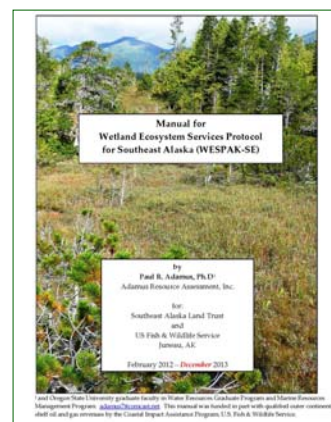


- The 128.5 acre historic Mud Bay/Nelson Homestead Conservation easement was donated by an anonymous landowner in Haines



WESPAK-SE V1.4

Thanks to SEAL Trust members and donors along with funding by the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, SEAL Trust was able to assist and facilitate the current updates to the WESPAK-SE Freshwater Wetland Assessment tool. The newest version of this tool along with WESPAK-SE literature can be found on our website.



Thank you to all of our 2013 donors!

Be on the look out for our 2014 events.

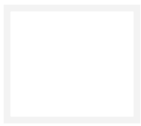
Check out our website for news,
publications and archived newsletters!
www.southeastalaskalandtrust.org

Email: setrust@ptialaska.net

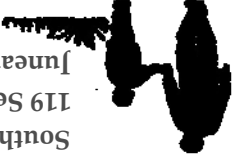
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Southeast Alaska Land Trust
119 Seward Street, Suite 2
Juneau, AK 99801



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WESPAK-SE site in Gustavus



Sunny Point, Juneau