



P.O. Box 240605
Douglas, AK 99824

907.586.1254 phone
907.463.3433 fax
ftffoundation.org

2015 Annual Report

Neil MacKinnon
President

First things First Alaska Foundation has been active during 2015 in Juneau and Southeast Alaska to encourage economic and resource development.

Rosemary Hagevig
Vice President

Juneau Economic Development Plan

Joseph Kahklen
Secretary

FTFAF was successful in achieving many of its goals within the Juneau's Economic Development Plan. We emphasized the importance of mining activities and the need to increase the housing inventory with the hope that would allow more workers to settle in Juneau. We were also successful in getting disparaging side comments about Juneau Access removed from the final report.

Frank Bergstrom
Treasurer

Directors
Corey Baxter
Richard Burns
Naomi Hobbs
John Sandor
Scott Spickler
Karen Taug

FTFAF continues its partnership with the Juneau Chamber of Commerce working to see implementation of its recommendations.

Juneau Access and Southeast Transportation Plan

Denny DeWitt
Executive Director

FTFAF board submitted correspondence to Governor Walker in support of Juneau Access at the beginning of the legislative session. In addition the Board commented on the inclusion of funding for Juneau Access in the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' Southeast Transportation Plan. They also provided comments supporting Juneau Access in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)

We worked with Citizens Pro Road (CPR) with funding to help with a legislative tour to the end of the road including discussion of Juneau Access with legislators and staff who attended.

FTFAF funded a study, *Regional Economic Benefits of a Lynn Canal Highway*, by the McDowell Group, to show the positive benefits of Juneau Access to the individuals living in Southeast Alaska.

Tongass Forest and Land Management Plan

In commenting on the scope of the Tongass Forest and Land Management Plan, FTFAF emphasized the need to deal with hydropower and economic access to mining claims and timber. When activities are permitted without road access, the permits are hollow.

FTFAF expects to comment on the revised plan that was released in late 2015.

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.

Big Thorne Project Litigation

FTFAF has joined as interveners in defense of three cases brought by SEACC against the Forest Service. The cases are attempting to prohibit the sale of timber in the Big Thorne Project. The timber sale is critical to the continued viability of the Viking Lumber Company and the conservation activities in the Big Thorne area. The litigation will proceed in 2015 as we defend against an appeal to the 9th Circuit Court. Our brief has been filed and action is expected in spring of 2016

Roadless Rule Litigation

In November 2015 a request was filed for the US Supreme Court to hear an appeal of the 9th Circuit Court decision upholding the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest. FTFAF joined as a party to an Amicus Brief requesting a hearing at the Supreme Court Level. FTFAF is also a financial contributor to this appeal.

The case FTFAF is supporting as a party and financially in the federal district court in the District of Columbia is also continuing.

Waters of the United States Regulations

Understanding the devastating nature of the proposed EPA regulations, FTFAF President Neil MacKinnon penned a My Turn column for the Juneau Empire. US Senator Lisa Murkowski found it so strong that she sent the link out on her webpage and twitter account.

Other Activity

Support letter to the governor, legislators, and regulators for the Avista proposal to bring natural gas to Juneau and Southeast Alaska.

Letter to Senator Murkowski for the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on federal overreach. We focused on proposed EPA financial assurance rulemaking and its negative impact on mining.

Gold Rush Days

FTFAF continued its annual participation in Juneau's Gold Rush Days sponsoring a booth, shared with CPR, displaying many position papers supporting economic development.

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