



P.O. Box 240605
Douglas, AK 99824

907.586.1254 phone
907.463.3433 fax
FTFAKFoundation.org
firstffinc@gmail.com

2022 Annual Report

Joseph Kahklen
President

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) has been active in 2022 by educating the public about economic development and sustainable resource management. FTFAF is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) educational foundation.

Corey Baxter
Vice President

Funding for FTFAF activities is through the generosity of its donors. FTFAF is exceedingly grateful to all its donors.

Scott Spickler
Secretary

Priority Issues

Frank Bergstrom
Treasurer

The FTFAF focuses on six issues as priorities. The issues are Juneau Access, Mining, Roadless Rule, Solid Waste, Tourism, and Wants & Needs. FTFAF activities for each priority are summarized below.

Directors
Scott Bergmann
Richard Burns
Wayne Coogan
Dennis DeWitt
Edward King
Neil MacKinnon
Mac Meiners

Juneau Access

Juneau Access education and advocacy continued during the year. The focus was on integrating shuttle ferries with improved land-based road linkages. Implementing an integrated short-run marine highway and land-based roadway system throughout SE Alaska recognizes the aging and costly ferry system as an unsustainable transportation model.

In Memoriam
Rosemary Hagevig
John Sandor

Juneau Access projects include the Cascade Point ferry terminal to allow the utilization of shuttle ferry operations in Northern Southeast intended to improve transportation frequency and reliability. Also included is the permitting, design, and construction of shuttle ferries and roadway systems as envisioned in Sec. 4407 Map 92337. In addition, FTFAF educates and advocates for the Corps Section 404 permitting process in completing the land-based right of way as authorized by the SAFETEA-LU Act 2005.

Don Habeger
Executive Director

Mining

FTFAF education and advocacy on mining issues include comments to state and federal permitting agencies during public comment periods. Through media channels, FTFAF also provided education on the importance of the mining industry's economic impact on Alaska.

Specific projects include submitting letters asking Alaska DNR to approve the Kensington Mine exploration drilling permit, asking the BLM to approve Alternative B on the Willow Project, and the *Factoid* campaign.

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.

The *Factoid* campaign was launched in 2022 to increase message frequency and impact to the adult workforce demographic on the importance of mining to quality of life. *Factoids* are short, attention-generating messages reinforcing that *our daily activities depend on mining* and that the industry's positive impact on Southeast Alaska should be supported.

Roadless Rule

FTFAF holds that the 2020 full exemption to the 2001 Roadless Rule adopted by the USDA Forest Service correctly balances resource protection and responsible development. Accordingly, in 2022 FTFAF submitted public comment opposing the Forest Services' intent to overturn the 2020 rule and revert to the access-restricting 2001 Roadless Rule.

The FTFAF joined a statewide responsible resource development coalition formed to educate and advocate for an updated comprehensive evaluation of mineral resources within the Tongass. The alliance requested Secretary Vilsack to update the 1990 Bureau of Mines mineral resource inventory before reimposing the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Tourism

Tourism's return to Southeast Alaska was an economic bright spot for the region. FTFAF supports our businesses' re-engagement after several pandemic-influenced non-tourism seasons. In addition, FTFAF continually seeks opportunities to educate and advocate for tourism's positive infrastructure development projects needed for industry growth.

Wants & Needs

FTFAF used radio and social media to educate the public on potential adverse impacts to long-term economic growth due to local government overspending. Debt financing major capital projects without a long-term plan covering maintenance and replacement costs were the focus. Also, voters were educated on when and when to vote during the municipal election through radio and social media.

FTFAF's Executive Director and Board Members were guests on KINY's Action Line during each quarter of 2022.