



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Programs for Alaska

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What is NRCS?

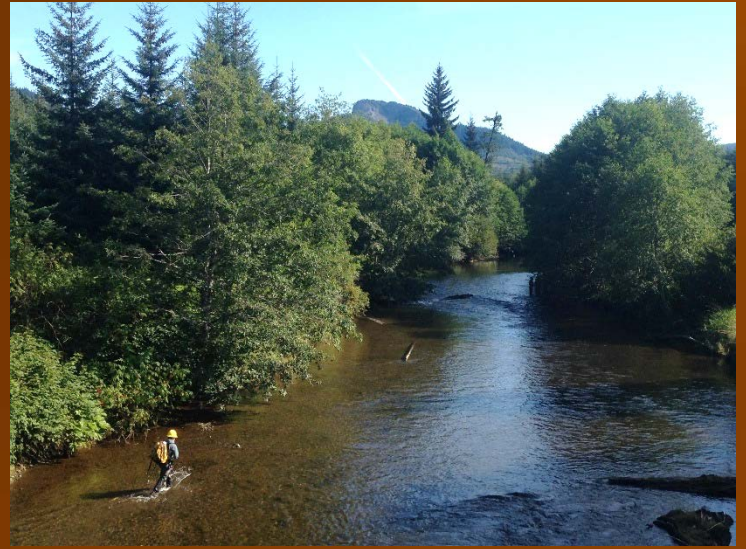


- Established to help farmers and ranchers
 - *Assist private landowners with resource conservation in agriculture*
 - *Funded/administered through Farm Bill*

Agriculture...



Conservation Assistance



- Technical assistance
 - *Information, coordination*
- Financial programs
 - *Support for conservation – which can also improve food/fiber production*

Financial Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - *Set payment rates for implementing conservation practices.*
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - *New as of 2015. Focused on collaborative conservation projects.*
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Program Eligibility



- Applicants and land must be eligible
 - *Applicants may be individuals, partnerships, corporations, tribes... but not units of government*
 - Control land for the contract length
 - *Land must be under cultivation/production*
 - Meets Food Security Act wetland and highly erodible land requirements

Cooperators and Partners

- Cooperators
 - *Individual landowners*
 - *Agricultural operators*
 - *Alaska Native Corporations*
 - *Tribes*
- Partners
 - *Local/state/tribal governments*
 - *Nonprofit organizations*
 - *Other resource agencies*



Photo courtesy of Ian Johnson

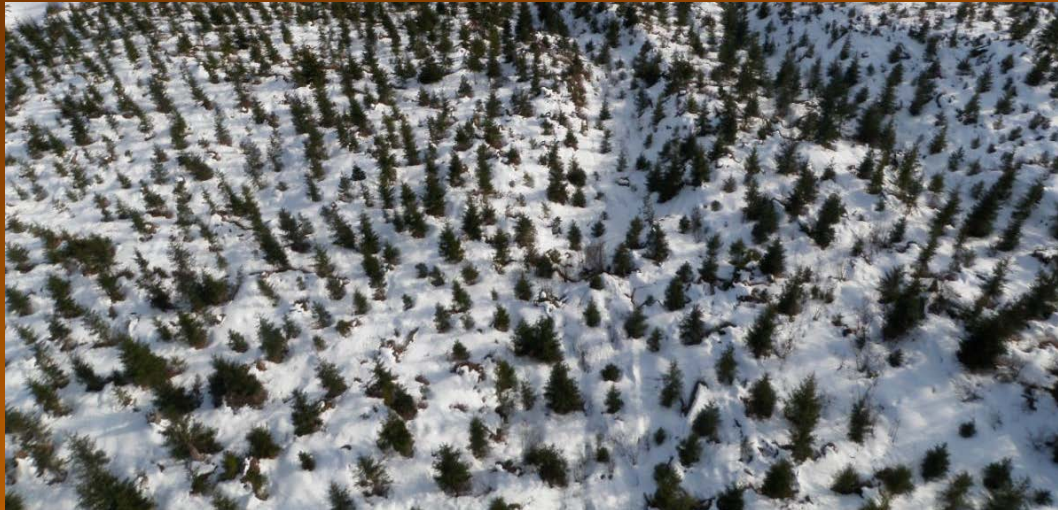
SEAK Forestry

- Forest management for traditional foods and wildlife habitat



SEAK Forestry through EQIP

- Alaska Native Corporations, State, City, individuals. Since 2006:
 - *>50,000 acres thinned*
 - *> 9,000 acres of slash treatment*
 - *~2,500 acres pruned*



EQIP Collaboration

EQIP contracts are typically directly between NRCS and the landowner. Collaborative projects are possible. Here is an example...



- Kasaan-Mental Health Trust
 - *MHT owned land, but not eligible*
 - *Agreement with OVK developed*
 - *Tribe trained local workers and supervised work*

EQIP Collaboration



- Goldbelt-Forestry Sciences Lab-UAS
 - *Yellow cedar study plot established by FSL in 2010*
 - *Prescription for whole unit, plus cedar plot*
 - *2017 UAS Field Forestry class remeasured seedlings*

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

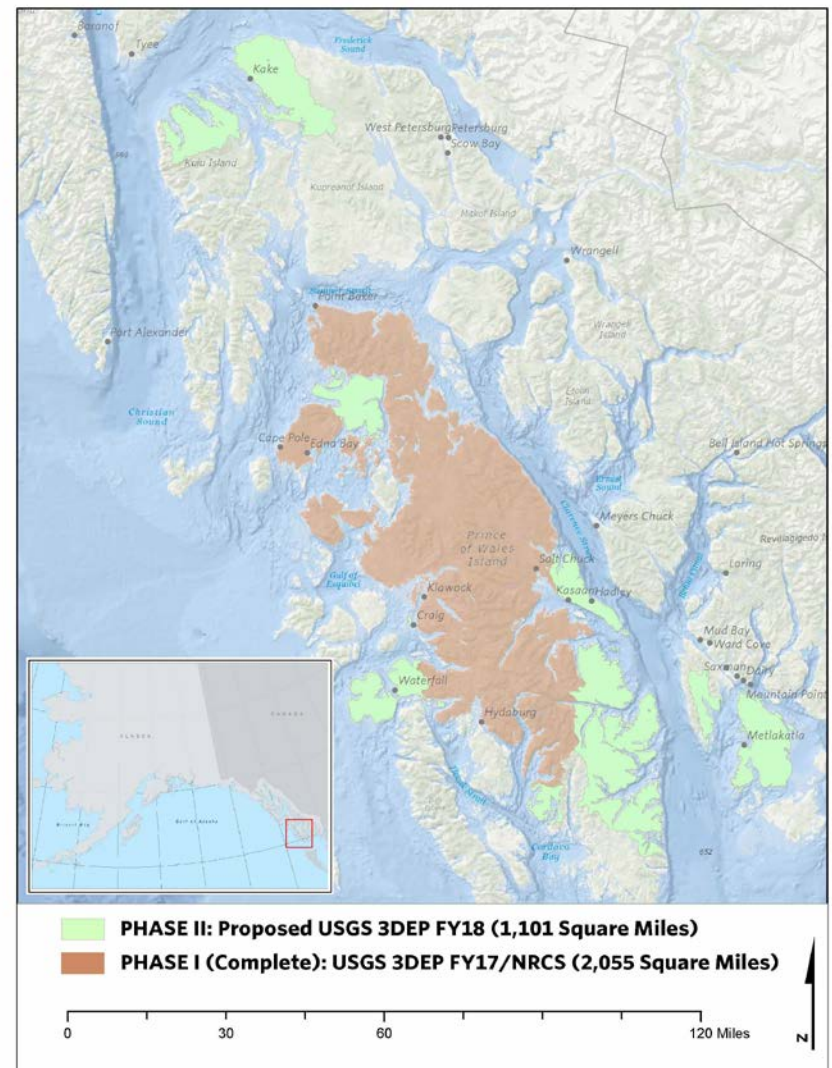
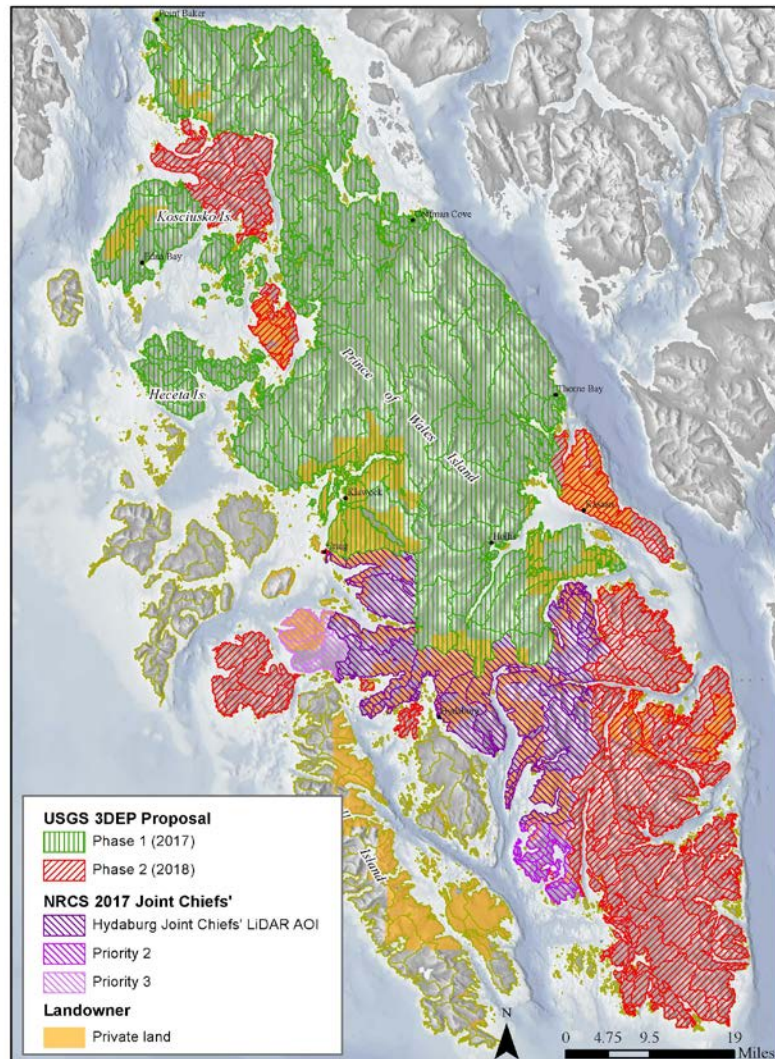
- Hoonah Native Forest Partnership
 - *First “draft” was a Conservation Innovation Grant submission in 2013*
- Through RCPP, NRCS will co-invest in...solutions to agricultural production and resource management challenges. These solutions will benefit not only individual...operations, but also local economies and the communities and resource users...that depend on the quality of the natural resources.

Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Initiative

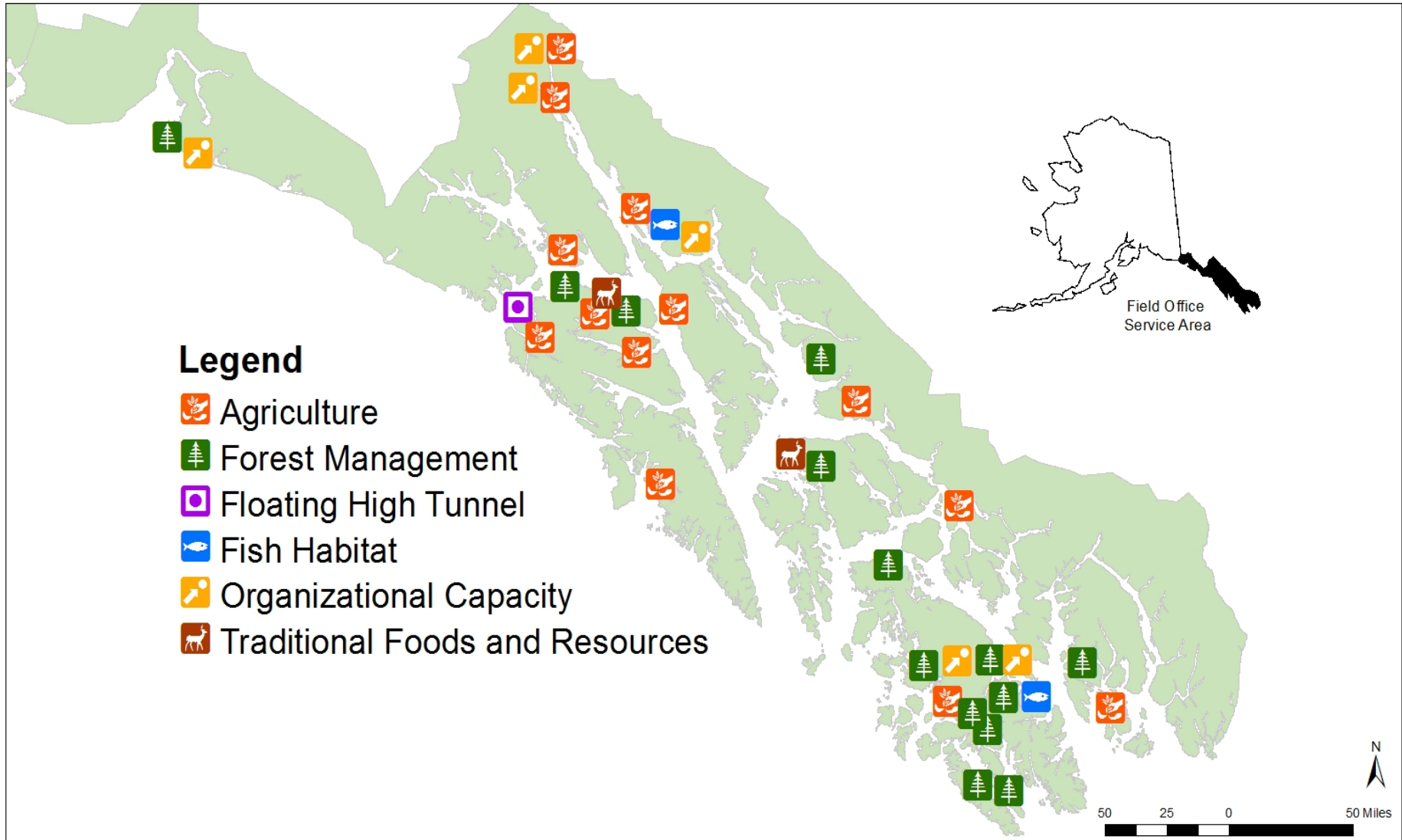
- EQIP funding to “match” USFS funding
- 2017 Prince of Wales JCLRI project
 - *Lidar acquisition through USGS 3DEP in conjunction with USFS*
 - *NRCS project work targets forest management on lands near Hydaburg*



Through Joint Chiefs Initiative, NRCS helped expand POW lidar acquisition efforts by the USFS and The Nature Conservancy. Additional funds have been allocated for phase II, which will include Metlakatla and Kake.



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Juneau Field Office Projects



Questions?

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