

Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership

Prince of Wales Island Landscape Restoration Partnership

2017–2019



Prince of Wales Island

Prince of Wales Island is located in southeast Alaska and the fourth largest island in the U.S. The local economy is centered around the island's diverse natural resources. In particular, the island is known as a premier outdoor destination for fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Local communities depend upon healthy forests and streams for timber as well as subsistence hunting and fishing. Partnerships are also a cornerstone of the vibrant communities in this rugged landscape. Because most of the island is part of the Tongass National Forest, the USFS works closely with the City of Hydaburg and Alaska Native villages, Associations, Regional Corporations, and Village Corporations. The Joint Chiefs' project addressed several restoration needs on the island including protecting the drinking water supply, research into the local wolf population, better understanding the condition of the forests and streams, improving forest health, and restoring altered stream reaches.

PROJECT IMPACT:

7,526 acres

USFS & NRCS JCLRP funds awarded 2017–2019: \$7,729,395
Total USDA and partner project funds: \$11,187,135

Acres of forest stand improvement to better support wildlife habitat and forest diversity.

PROJECT RESULTS



Wolf rubbing on hair trap



Protecting water supply: completed an engineering study on improving the delivery of drinking water to the City of Hydaburg.



Improving fish habitat: using LiDAR to target restoration activities such as re-introducing large wood and removing fish barriers to support native salmon.



Studying wolf populations: working with ADF&G and Hydaburg Cooperative Association to collect DNA and monitor yearly population estimates.

USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to improve the health of forests where public forests and grasslands connect to privately owned lands. Through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, the two USDA agencies are restoring landscapes by reducing wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protecting water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat.

Photos in this document are public domain or stock imagery unless otherwise noted.

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PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP



Trail camera image of wolf rubbing on scented hair trap

Hydaburg Wolf Population Assessment

This Joint Chiefs' project supported the effort to estimate the population of Alexander Archipelago wolves on Prince of Wales Island through genetic analysis of hair samples. The work was done in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), the Nature Conservancy, the Hydaburg Cooperative Association (HCA), and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Wolf population management is a nationally contentious issue, and a serious concern for residents who rely on the local deer population.

"Any predator management is important for a community that relies on deer like Hydaburg does," said Anthony Christianson, Natural Resources Director for the HCA. "Past predation has had detrimental impacts on people's ability to support their subsistence lifestyle by harvesting deer. We joined the process to have an active role and ensure managers are able to make well-informed decisions."

The ADF&G uses DNA-based mark/recapture methods for their population estimates. Barbed-wire adorned pieces of wood are covered in a scent, enticing wolves to roll over them. These "hair boards" were placed in 143 locations across the island (61 managed by the HCA). DNA gathered from captured fur combined with associated trail camera images provides a long-term data set for wolf population estimates.

Joint Chiefs' funding supported the HCA's part of the process through employment of wildlife technicians, purchase of materials and trail cameras, and more.

"The funding has been essential in building a team of trained staff to take part in the process and ensure locals have a hand in the management of our resources," said Christianson, who is also Mayor of Hydaburg. "We've spent a few years building up the capabilities of our team, and continued commitment through this program allows us to ensure managers make fully informed decisions."

For more information, please visit nrcs.usda.gov/JointChiefsReports



Anthony Christianson, Mayor of Hydaburg

Key Partners

City of Hydaburg
Sealaska Corporation
Haida Corporation
Hoonah Native Forest Partnership
Klawock Cooperative Association
Craig Tribal Association
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Hydaburg Cooperative Association
The Nature Conservancy
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
US Geological Survey

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