



### **Sealaska Invests \$1.5 Million in Silviculture Treatments in 2009**

Juneau, Alaska— Sealaska Corporation is investing \$1.5 million in silviculture treatments on its lands in Southeast, Alaska in 2009, creating over 40 jobs in rural communities. Sealaska is the Native regional corporation for Southeast and a large landowner in the region. The company's natural resources department has been providing management and forestry services, known as "silviculture", since 1993.

"By providing silviculture on Sealaska's land and providing the service to other landowners, Sealaska has gained extensive experience in delivering silviculture treatments, restoration, riparian management and young-growth forest planning from Dixon Entrance to Chichagof Island," said Ron Wolfe, Sealaska natural resources manager.

President Obama's economic stimulus programs, also known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), is providing funds to create new jobs and to help rural communities through the recession. Sealaska believes that there are significant opportunities to use stimulus funds to enhance young growth forest stands in Southeast Alaska according to Chris E. McNeil, Jr., Sealaska president and CEO. "Increasing silviculture in the region is good for the environment and essential to strengthening the region's economy. It can immediately create new jobs, especially in the region's rural communities."

"Investment in the health of our young forests is an obligation of land managers to future generations and is a way to recognize Native values and traditions of both utilizing and revering the land," said Dr. Rosita Worl, Sealaska board vice chair and chair of Sealaska's Lands Committee. "We are the indigenous people of this region and have a connection to all the land of Southeast. The combination of our experience and tribal values guide us to promote and participate in developing healthy lands in both the private and public sectors."

Silviculture work primarily consists of pre-commercial thinning, tree planting and basal pruning. The natural reforestation in the region can result in dense young growth stands. By thinning the stands down tree diameter growth is accelerated and the diversity of forest floor plant growth is enhanced.

Tree planting is not normally necessary in the region but is conducted in defined areas where regeneration may not occur due to competition from brush growth.

Basal pruning is the process of removing lower limbs on young trees to enhance the quality of the wood and to promote sunlight penetration to the forest floor.

"Sealaska has the model and capacity to compete for ARRA contracts and to offer quality services to a broader group of clients," said McNeil.

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Sealaska Corporation  
Natural Resource Department Facts

Since 1993 Sealaska has conducted the following silviculture activity in the region:

- Pre-commercially thinned over 35,000 acres
- Hand planted over 1.6 million seedlings on more than 8,320 acres
- Basal pruned 1,050 acres
- Restoration management of more than eight miles of anadromous fish streams
- Restoration management and enhancement of more than 500 acres of wildlife habitat

Current activity scheduled for 2009 on Sealaska lands:

- Pre-commercial thinning of 3,400 acres
- Hand planting more than 40,000 seedlings
- Basal pruning of more than 480 acres

Core cultural and tribal values guiding Sealaska management:

- *Haa Aaní* – Revering the land and utilizing the land
- *Haa Shagóon* – Current generation tie to past and responsibilities to future generations.

Additional information about Sealaska's land management and silviculture programs can be found at [www.sealaska.com](http://www.sealaska.com). To contract with Sealaska for land management and silviculture services contact Ron Wolfe, Sealaska natural resources manager, at 907.586.1512.

### **Sealaska, a Growing Tradition**

Sealaska has strengthened business with culture since 1972. We are a Native corporation owned by more than 20,000 tribal member shareholders and guided by our traditions of environmental stewardship and positively impacting our communities. Learn more about Sealaska's extraordinary story at [www.sealaska.com](http://www.sealaska.com)

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