

# SEALASKA'S FINAL ENTITLEMENT LEGISLATION

## Fulfilling a promise to all Southeast communities and its indigenous people



“It is important for all of us who live in the Tongass, as well as those who cherish it from afar, to recognize that the **Native people of the Tongass are committed to preserving it as the land of our ancestors** and the foundation of our spirituality, values and beliefs. We have fought so long for the return of productive, meaningful land for our people. The Tongass is our home. We have nowhere else to go and wish for no other place.”

**BYRON MALLOTT**

Sealaska tribal member shareholder and director

### Setting the record straight:

Sealaska's proposed land legislation is an overwhelming “win” for the environment and all people of Southeast:

1. **Unprecedented public access** will be explicitly guaranteed in federal law.
2. The Tongass will **gain**, not lose, the option to preserve roadless and old growth acreage.
3. Hundreds of culturally significant **sacred and historic sites will be returned to Native ownership — forever.**
4. New green energy and economic diversification projects will address critical community needs of **affordable energy and sustainable jobs.**
5. We are asking for no more land than is originally promised under ANCSA.

In a recent opinion survey of 600 Southeast residents, the majority indicated their **most pressing 10-year community goals are jobs and the economy, and the creation of renewable energy alternatives.** When they learned how Sealaska's land legislation specifically addressed these priorities, a strong majority support its passage.

“This legislation is the culmination of years of effort, guided by our cultural values and the priorities expressed by Southeast stakeholders.

This legislation is a **new model for balancing social, cultural, environmental and economic values throughout the region.** The benefits of this legislation align with community priorities,” said Chris E. McNeil, Jr., Sealaska tribal member shareholder and President and CEO.

Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971 to settle aboriginal land claims in Alaska. Under ANCSA Sealaska believes it is eligible for up to 375,000 acres. **Yet, to date only 290,000 acres have been conveyed, leaving up to 85,000 acres remaining. To give some perspective, the Tongass is 17 million acres total.**

“The economic, Native Futures and Sacred sites represented in the legislation fulfills Sealaska's final entitlement. Sacred sites are culturally significant to our people. Native Futures sites are selections that capture our rich culture and heritage — they are intended to diversify local economies and preserve environmental sustainability into the future,” said Dr. Rosita Worl, tribal member shareholder and board vice chair.

**Learn more at [www.sealaska.com](http://www.sealaska.com)**

