

ALASKA MEDIA ROAD SHOW 2011 NEWS - ENVIRONMENT TOPICS

Dead humpback whale discovered in south Chatham Strait by crew of Northern Song September 7, 2011



We live and breathe and love this area and we act as environmental stewards to preserve and promote a better understanding of our beautiful SE Alaska. Here are a few of the environmental concerns:

Whales Endangered

A recovering Alaska humpback whale population faced with increased cruise ship traffic means greater danger to whales. Incidents of whale strikes are on the rise as large cruise ship traffic continues to increase in areas of whale concentrations without speed reductions or avoidance guidelines.

Clear-cut logging on USFS lands north Kupreanof Island



Rain Forest Under Threat

The Northern hemisphere's last remaining vestiges of temperate rain forest is under continued threat to logging. USDA Forest Service transition of Tongass National Forest single use old growth timber harvest management to sustainable multiple use management.

Cruise ship transiting Endicott Arm within Tracy Arm/Fords Terror Wilderness



Nature Needs Help

Continued expansion of industrial tourism threatens Southeast Alaska's pristine wilderness environment. Producing some of the largest profits for the cruise industry, the ever increasing large ship traffic seems destined to destroy the very nature and attraction of wild Alaska that makes it one of the most beautiful wilderness destinations on the planet.

Small vessel operators and large cruise companies recently worked together to form an agreement in an attempt to mitigate a growing and imposing large vessel presence within the Tracy Arm - Fords Terror Wilderness Area

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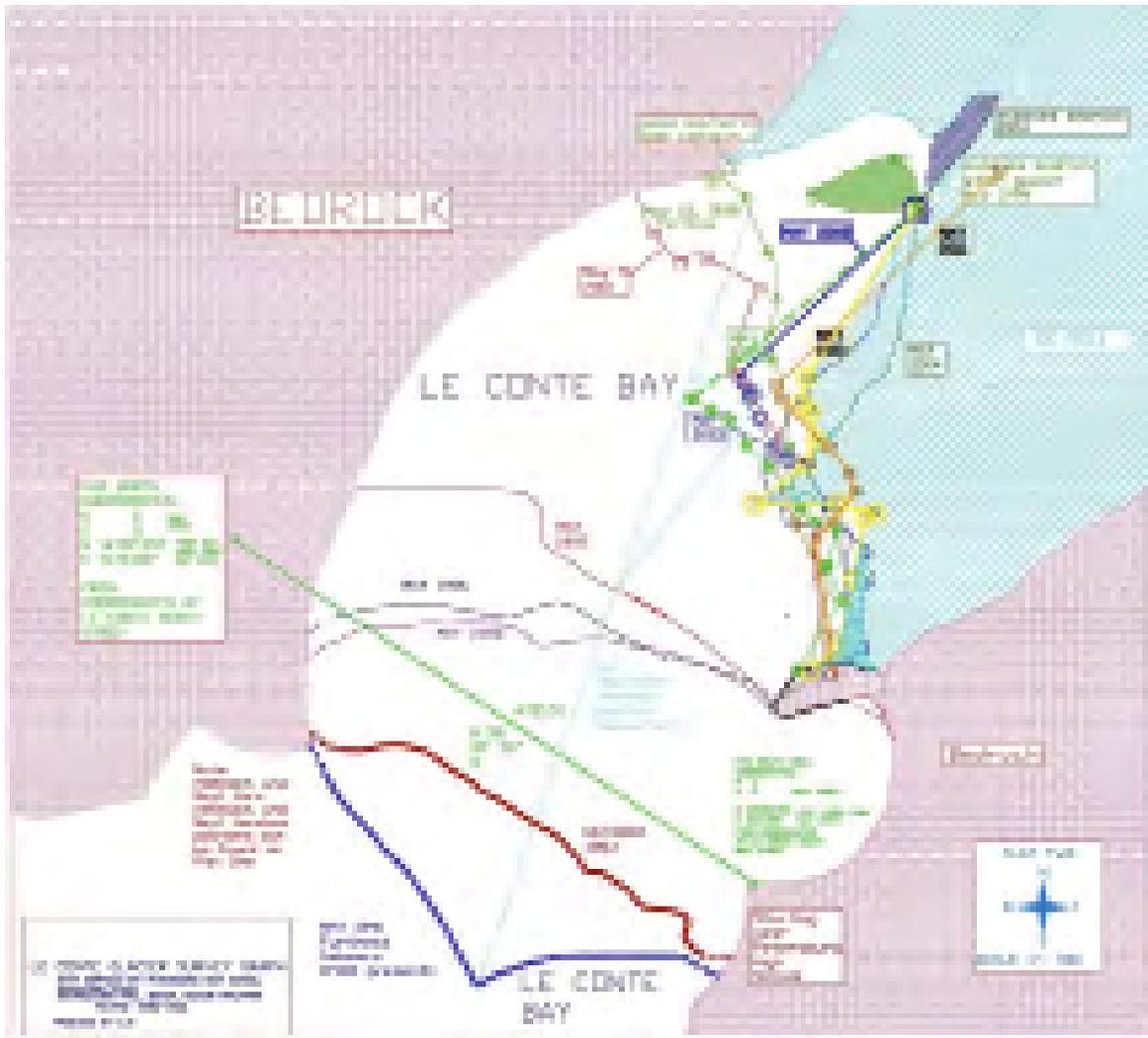
LeConte Glacier face



Petersburg High School survey team completes 28th year of LeConte Glacier annual surveys.

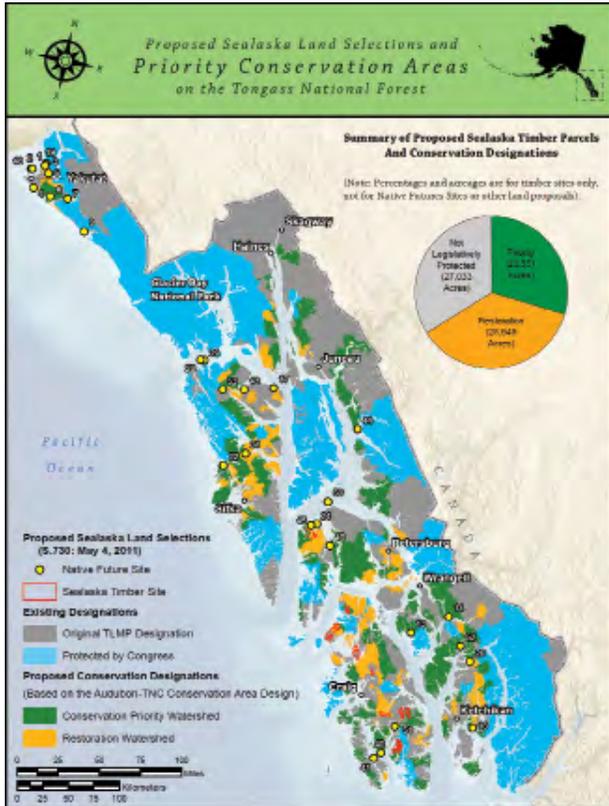
Petersburg High School geology teacher Paul Bowen original began taking a team of students to LeConte Bay in 1983 to survey and document the location of the face of LeConte Glacier. The program now continues under the instruction PHS teacher Victor Trautman.

Petersburg High School Survey graph



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Proposed Sealaska Land Selections and Priority Conservation Areas on the Tongass National Forest



Cascade Creek in Thomas Bay



Tongass National Forest public lands to ownership by Sealaska Native Corporation.

The 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act guaranteed a yet unfulfilled final selection of land to be conveyed to the SE Alaska native community. The highly controversial bills go beyond the original agreement to allow for region wide land selections of prime locations that threatens the integrity of the Tongass national Forest and the communities within as well as access by future visitors to the Tongass.

Cascade Creek LLC's controversial Thomas Bay hydroelectric project.

'Out of site – out of mind.' Little do Californians anxious to meet 2020 target goals of 33% 'renewable' energy realize that when they turn on their light switch with 'green' power, that they will be turning off the incredibly beautiful and pristine cascading water falls of little known remote Cascade Creek in Thomas Bay and that the nearby very aptly named Scenery Cove will no longer be so scenic.

Salmon and Ecosystem Connection

There is a fantastic new book, *Salmon in the Trees: Life In Alaska Rainforest* by acclaimed nature photographer Amy Gulick. Amy highlights the unique interconnect- edness of the natural elements of the Tongass National Forest, one of the rarest ecosystems on the earth.

