



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Alaska Region | R10-TP-166 | August 2023

A photograph of a forest stream with large green leaves in the foreground and a person in the background.

Economic Impact of the USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investment Spending 2022

Economic Impact of the USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investment Spending, 2022

R10-TP-166

AUTHORS: Jean M. Daniels, Ph.D., USDA Forest Service Alaska Region
Meilani Schijvens, Rain Coast Data

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Economic Impact of the USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investment Spending 2022

This economic impact analysis of the USDA’s Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy investment funding spent in calendar year 2022 was performed by Southeast Conference in partial fulfillment of Challenge Cost Share Agreement 22-CS-11100100-004, Sustainability Strategy Investment Economic Monitoring

Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investments: 2022 Economic Impact

Summary..... 1

Project Background 2

 Analysis Approach..... 3

 Data Collection 3

 Projects Included..... 5

Results 6

 Total Economic Impact..... 6

 Total Project Spending Impact..... 7

 Total Employment Impact..... 7

 All Jobs Created..... 7

 Employment by Month..... 8

 Employment Impacts..... 9

 Total Wages Impact 9

Conclusion 10

Appendix A: 2022 Project Intake Form..... 12

Appendix B: Open-ended Responses 12

 Question 1: Describe the economic impact of the project in 2022 12

 Question 2: Describe non-market impacts, such as cultural, social, ecological, or other impacts of the project in calendar year 2022 14

Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investments: 2022 Economic Impact Summary

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy (SASS) would be undertaken in Southeast Alaska and on the Tongass National Forest with \$25 million committed for initial investments. Through an engagement and selection process, funding for 59 projects was awarded to partners across Southeast Alaska. for multi-year natural resource, infrastructure, community capacity, and tribal-focused projects.

The USDA Forest Service engaged Southeast Conference to measure the overall economic impact of SASS investments on an annual basis. Southeast Conference partnered with Rain Coast Data to develop an intake tool (see Appendix A) to collect quantitative and qualitative information from SASS recipients about the benefits arising from SASS funding. Rain Coast Data developed a regional economic impact model from the quantitative data using Regional Input-Output Modeling System (RIMS II) data to estimate annual direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits. Responses to the qualitative questions about SASS investment benefits are provided in Appendix B.

In 2022, the first year of the initiative, SASS partners spent \$1.3 million of the total USDA funding, representing five percent of the total \$25 million. This expenditure catalyzed \$1.9 million in economic activity, created 45 jobs including part-time and temporary positions (equivalent to 22 year-round jobs), and paid \$745,727 local wages to Southeast residents. Since many projects did not begin until late 2022 or were not awarded funding until 2023, more significant economic impacts are expected in 2023.

Table 1. Economic impact summary of SASS investments project spending, 2022

Category	2022 Impact
Total investment by USDA in 2022 into SASS projects ¹	\$1,311,374
Indirect and induced economic activity	\$597,710
Total Impact of SASS Investment Spending 2022	\$1.9 million
Year-round equivalent direct Jobs	14.3
Year-round equivalent Indirect and induced jobs	7.5
Total Direct, Indirect & Induced Annualized Jobs Created in 2022	22

¹ Direct spending reported by SASS investment recipients as spent in 2022.

Project Background

On July 15, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the new *Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy (SASS)* to help support a diverse economy, enhance community resilience, and conserve natural resources in Southeast Alaska. A key element of the strategy included **identifying short- and long-term opportunities for investments that reflect the diverse opportunities and needs in Southeast Alaska**. USDA made an initial commitment of \$25 million for such investments. A OneUSDA team comprised of the Forest Service, Rural Development, and Natural Resources Conservation Service engaged Southeast Alaska partners, communities, Tribes, and Alaska Native corporations using a process to pair investment dollars with local priorities inclusive of the values and peoples in the region.² More than 270 investment proposals, amounting to more than \$276 million were submitted to the USDA. After a rigorous selection and vetting process, 59 of these projects were funded and assigned to the USDA to award funding and support project partners.

Strengthening agreements were formed with three regional organizations:

- Spruce Root;
- Southeast Conference; and
- Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

Together, these three strengthening agreements provide pass-through funding for 25 projects. The remaining 34 projects are being administered directly by the partner organizations responsible for implementation.

Approximately half of the initial SASS funding was awarded to tribal and indigenous organizations for projects focused on workforce development, food security, and cultural use of forest products. A quarter of the funds focused on natural resource management, while the final quarter was invested into community infrastructure, capacity, and economic development:

- Tribal and Indigenous Interests - \$12.5 million (50%)
- Natural Resources - \$6.25 million (25%)
- Infrastructure - \$3.125 million (12.5%)
- Community Capacity - \$3.125 million (12.5%)

To evaluate the benefits generated by the SASS investments, USDA partnered with Southeast Conference to develop a regional economic impact model to quantify the impact SASS investments over time. Project level spending from SASS investments will be collected annually and used to develop activity level employment and wages multipliers. Southeast Conference is the state- and federally designated regional economic development organization for Southeast Alaska. The mission of Southeast Conference is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska. Rain Coast Data

² For more information about the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy see the project website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=FSEPRD950023>

collaborates with Southeast Conference to conduct regional economic impact modeling and economic analysis. Rain Coast Data is a Juneau-based research and consulting firm specializing in Southeast Alaska economic analysis, socioeconomic impact studies, survey research, and public outreach.

Rain Coast Data and Forest Service Alaska Region staff developed an intake tool to collect quantitative and qualitative information from partners about their projects. The resulting questionnaire will be sent to partners annually to gather data to monitor both quantitative economic outcomes of SASS spending and qualitative responses to open-ended questions provided by partners. All SASS funding recipients are required to respond as a part of their annual reporting. Project-level annual monitoring can inform discussions about both market and non-market benefits arising from federal investments across the region. The intake instrument and responses to open-ended questions are provided in Appendices A and B.

Analysis Approach

To conduct a full economic analysis of public-sector investment programs like the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, a systematic analysis of the economic impacts of SASS investment at the regional level should be undertaken. Regional input-output multipliers are useful tools for regional economic impact analysis. A multiplier analysis accounts for the interindustry relationships within Southeast Alaska because these largely determine how an economy responds to public investments. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) developed a method for estimating regional input-output multipliers known as RIMS II (Regional Industrial Multiplier System), which Southeast Conference used to determine the full economic impact of the SASS investments. RIMS II multipliers can be estimated for any region composed of one or more counties and for any industry or group of industries.

To effectively use the multipliers, Southeast Conference is collecting detailed information from SASS recipients regarding initial changes in output, earnings, and employment associated with SASS on an annual basis. Once collected, the multipliers will be used to estimate the total economic impact of SASS investments in Southeast Alaska.

Data Collection

2022 SASS Projects: Southeast Conference reached out to the 19 SASS partner organizations that are managing the 34 projects which are part of the initial 2022 SASS investment. Of these, Southeast Conference determined that 17 projects had begun in the study year 2022. Projects not yet funded were excluded but will be included in the 2023 analysis.

NAICS Codes: The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy. To estimate the regional input-output impact, project activities

conducted in 2022 were assigned an industrial category before being input into the economic impact model. SASS funding recipients were asked to describe the work completed in calendar year 2022 so that it could be assigned a NAICS code. Based on analysis of SASS investments and communications with SASS recipients, the following NAICS categories were selected:

Table 2. Economic Impact of SASS Investment Summary Results, 2022

NAICS Code	NAICS Description
50	Professional, scientific, and technical services
52	Administrative and support services
562000	Remediation services and waste management
54	Educational services
60	Recreation industries
111400	Greenhouse & nursery production
113000	Forestry and logging
114000	Fishing and hunting
115000	Support activities for agriculture and forestry
541700	Scientific research and development services
561400	Business support services
813A00	Grantmaking, giving, and social advocacy

Overall Spending: SASS funding recipients were also asked how much of their organization's USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investment funding was spent in 2022, and what percentage of that funding was spent within the region. A total of \$1.3 million was spent across all projects, approximately 5 percent of the total \$25 million of SASS funding that will be invested throughout the entire program. Partners reported that 85 percent of SASS funding spent in 2022 was spent directly within the Southeast region.

Wages: Investment recipients also reported that 40 percent of all spending had been utilized directly for wages to employ staff to implement the SASS projects.

Jobs: Finally, SASS recipients were asked how many workers were employed through SASS funding agreements during each month of the 2022 calendar year.

Projects Included

The projects that had SASS funding expenditures in 2022 are presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3. SASS investment projects implemented in 2022

Project name	Partner	Project location	Investment category
Storytelling and Public Engagement	Sitka Conservation Society	Sitka	Community capacity
Investment Economic Monitoring	Southeast Conference	Juneau	Community capacity
Tongass Young-Growth Transition	Alaska Division of Forestry	Southeast AK	Natural resources
Tourism and Visitor Products	Juneau Economic Development Council	Juneau	Community capacity
Regional Biomass Strategy and Pellet Mill	Southeast Conference	Ketchikan	Infrastructure
Wildland Fire Program	Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska	Southeast AK	Tribal and indigenous interests
Snow Pack Monitoring and Deer Strategy	Hoonah Indian Association	Hoonah	Tribal and indigenous interests
Alaska Native Heritage Signage Juneau	Sealaska Heritage and Trail Mix, Inc.	Juneau	Tribal and indigenous interests
Klawock Indigenous Steward Partnership	Shaan-Seet, Inc.	Klawock	Natural resources
Cultivating Ecotourism Opportunities	Kootznoowoo, Inc.	Angoon	Infrastructure
Investment Focused on Watershed Restoration	Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition	Southeast AK	Natural resources
The Teqe'heit Stewardship Program	Organized Village of Kasaan	Kasaan	Tribal and indigenous interests
Coordination, visioning and navigation services	Spruce Root	Southeast AK	Tribal and indigenous interests
Watershed Restoration Workshop and Capacity Exchange	Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition	Juneau	Community capacity
SEAK Youth Education 4H Expansion Project	Sitka Conservation Society	Southeast AK	Community capacity
Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Regional Strengthening Agreement	Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska	Southeast AK	Tribal and indigenous interests
Southeast Conference Regional Strengthening Agreement	Southeast Conference	Juneau	Community capacity

Results

Total Economic Impact

The total economic impact of Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy investments in calendar year 2022, including the multiplier effect, was 22 year-round-equivalent jobs and \$1.9 million in total economic activity, including \$0.7 million in wages. The multipliers were developed to specifically focus on the larger Southeast Alaska economy using the RIMS Type II multipliers from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) US Department of Commerce 2023. An analysis of the full economic impact of SASS investments in calendar year 2022, using RIMS Type II BEA multipliers, is presented in table 4 below:

Table 4. Multiplier impact of SASS investments, 2022

SASS Investment Earnings and Jobs Multipliers 2022										
NAICS Code	NAICS Description	Total Spent by Partners	Direct Annualized Jobs Reported	Direct Wages Reported	Final-demand Output Multiplier	Direct-effect Earnings Multiplier	Direct-effect Jobs Multiplier	Total output	Total earnings	Total jobs
50	Professional, scientific, and technical services	\$264	-	-	1.45	1.29	1.44	\$382	\$-	0
52	Administrative and support services	\$167,095	2.1	\$171,046	1.43	1.35	1.33	\$238,110	\$231,220	2.8
562000	Remediation services and waste management	\$222,370	3.0	\$29,960	1.38	1.46	1.66	\$305,914	\$43,673	5.0
54	Educational services	\$104,617	1.8	\$58,087	1.47	1.29	1.20	\$153,505	\$74,845	2.1
60	Recreation industries	\$25,300	1.2	\$11,984	1.41	1.37	1.23	\$35,784	\$16,466	1.4
111400	Greenhouse & nursery production	\$425,000	0.4	\$31,292	1.44	1.36	1.30	\$612,808	\$42,598	0.5
113000	Forestry and logging	\$153,488	2.9	\$137,870	1.67	1.62	2.06	\$257,000	\$222,894	6.0
114000	Fishing and hunting	\$8,655	0.2	\$1,000	1.27	1.32	1.20	\$10,984	\$1,320	0.2
115000	Support activities for agriculture and forestry	\$90,004	1.2	\$40,593	1.44	1.23	1.13	\$129,570	\$49,779	1.3
541700	Scientific research and development services	\$79,893	0.8	\$12,190	1.43	1.37	1.61	\$114,599	\$16,745	1.3
561400	Business support services	\$14,600	0.5	\$15,000	1.50	1.34	1.41	\$21,842	\$20,072	0.7
813A00	Grantmaking, giving, and social advocacy organizations	\$20,088	0.3	\$20,088	1.42	1.30	1.37	\$28,587	\$26,114	0.5
	Totals	\$1,311,374	14.3	\$529,110				\$1,909,085	\$745,727	22

Total Project Spending Impact

The impact of the \$1.3 million in direct SASS project spending in 2022 resulted in an additional indirect and induced impact of nearly \$600,000 in economic activity throughout all businesses and industries in the region. Therefore, the total SASS-related investment across all industries had a total economic impact of \$1.9 million in 2022.

Table 5. Total output impact of SASS investments, 2022

NAICS Code	NAICS Description	Total Spent by Partners	Final-demand Output Multiplier	Total output
50	Professional, scientific, and technical services	\$264	1.45	\$382
52	Administrative and support services	\$167,095	1.43	\$238,110
562000	Remediation services and waste management	\$222,370	1.38	\$305,914
54	Educational services	\$104,617	1.47	\$153,505
60	Recreation industries	\$25,300	1.41	\$35,784
111400	Greenhouse & nursery production	\$425,000	1.44	\$612,808
113000	Forestry and logging	\$153,488	1.67	\$257,000
114000	Fishing and hunting	\$8,655	1.27	\$10,984
115000	Support activities for agriculture and forestry	\$90,004	1.44	\$129,570
541700	Scientific research and development services	\$79,893	1.43	\$114,599
561400	Business support services	\$14,600	1.50	\$21,842
813A00	Grantmaking, giving, and social advocacy	\$20,088	1.42	\$28,587
	Totals	\$1,311,374		\$1,909,085

To explain the overall wages multiplier analysis, the forestry sector is used: the *final demand* output multiplier for forestry is 1.67, so for every dollar spent on forestry or timber projects, an additional 67 cents of economic activity was generated.

Total Employment Impact

Data gathered about employment impacts of SASS projects include the job titles of positions created with funding, employees hired by month, and the employment impacts generated by the economic impact model.

All Jobs Created

SASS funding recipients were asked to describe jobs created through their SASS projects. In 2022, 45 positions were created through SASS partnership project spending. Some of these positions were short-term, temporary, or began near the end of 2022. For this reason, the “year-round equivalent” number of jobs created was 14.3, or 22 with the multiplier effect. The full list of jobs created through the SASS initiative in 2022 appears in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Jobs created from SASS investments, 2022

Biomass Intern	Program Associate
Boat Operator	Program Officer
Business Manager	Restoration Biologist
Communications Catalyst	Rock and Road Construction Contractors (5)
Communications Director	Senior Ethnologist
Consultant	Sitka Youth Community Development Catalyst
Cultural Heritage & Education Senior Director	SSP Deputy Director
Deputy Director	SSP Program Director
Director of Tourism and Natural Resources	Stewardship Coordinator
Economic Development Catalyst	Storytelling Specialist
Environmental Coordinator	Tribal Conservation District work crew laborers (5)
Executive Director	Wildland Fire Program Manager
Forester	Wildlife Viewing Expert
Grant and Projects Manager	Watershed Coalition Communication Coordinator
Ketchikan Indian Community work crew laborers (3)	Watershed Coalition Director
Natural Resource Planner	Watershed Coalition: Executive Director
Natural Resource Technician	Workforce Development Catalyst
Natural Resources Trainee	

Employment by Month

Jobs were counted and measured monthly, as some jobs were extremely short-term. Peak SASS-funded jobs were in December of 2022, when 32 workers held SASS funded positions (Figure 1).

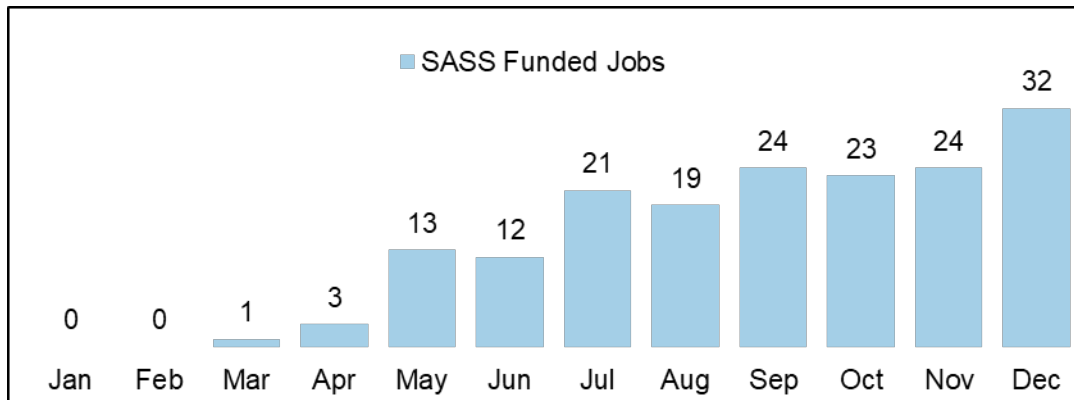


Figure 1: Workers in 2022 funded by SASS investments into Southeast Alaska projects, measured monthly

Employment Impacts

To determine the overall impact of SASS investment on employment in the region, SASS recipients were asked to report total workers employed under SASS agreements by month, and those monthly totals were annualized for 2022. Jobs were annualized by adding the jobs in each month and dividing by 12. An average of 14.3 direct SASS jobs were generated in 2022. Using direct-effect multipliers, the 14.3 jobs had an overall impact of 22 year-round equivalent jobs across the regional economy in 2022.

Table 7. Employment impact of SASS investments, 2022

NAICS Code	NAICS Description	Direct Annualized Jobs Reported	Direct-effect Jobs Multiplier	Total jobs
50	Professional, scientific, and technical services	-	1.44	0
52	Administrative and support services	2.1	1.33	2.8
562000	Remediation services and waste management	3.0	1.66	5.0
54	Educational services	1.8	1.20	2.1
60	Recreation industries	1.2	1.23	1.4
111400	Greenhouse & nursery production	0.4	1.30	0.5
113000	Forestry and logging	2.9	2.06	6.0
114000	Fishing and hunting	0.2	1.20	0.2
115000	Support activities for agriculture and forestry	1.2	1.13	1.3
541700	Scientific research and development services	0.8	1.61	1.3
561400	Business support services	0.5	1.41	0.7
813A00	Grantmaking, giving, and social advocacy	0.3	1.37	0.5
	Totals	14.3		22

To explain the overall jobs multiplier analysis results, the forestry sector is used as an example. The direct-effect *employment* multiplier for the Forestry and Logging Sector in Southeast Alaska is 2.06. This indicates that for each job created in the forestry sector, another 1.06 jobs were created in other businesses and industries in the region. Since the total number of jobs created is known from reporting from funding recipients, the direct-effect metric was used.

Total Wages Impact

Wages disbursed through newly created jobs, established to implement SASS projects was reported to the Southeast Conference team by funding recipients. In 2022 total direct wages were reported at \$529,100. Applying the multipliers, the total regional income impact of SASS investments amounted to \$717,468 in 2022.

Table 8. Wages impact of SASS 2022 Investments, 2022

NAICS Code	NAICS Description	Direct Wages Reported	Direct-effect Earnings Multiplier	Total earnings
50	Professional, scientific, and technical services	-	1.29	\$-
52	Administrative and support services	\$171,046	1.35	\$231,220
562000	Remediation services and waste management	\$29,960	1.46	\$43,673
54	Educational services	\$58,087	1.29	\$74,845
60	Recreation industries	\$11,984	1.37	\$16,466
111400	Greenhouse & nursery production	\$31,292	1.36	\$42,598
113000	Forestry and logging	\$137,870	1.62	\$222,894
114000	Fishing and hunting	\$1,000	1.32	\$1,320
115000	Support activities for agriculture and forestry	\$40,593	1.23	\$49,779
541700	Scientific research and development services	\$12,190	1.37	\$16,745
561400	Business support services	\$15,000	1.34	\$20,072
813A00	Grantmaking, giving, and social advocacy organizations	\$20,088	1.30	\$26,114
	Totals	\$529,110		\$745,727

To explain the overall wages multiplier analysis, the forestry sector is used: the direct-effect *earnings* multiplier for the Forestry and Logging Sector in Southeast Alaska is 1.62. This indicates that for every dollar paid as wages in forestry projects, an additional 62 cents in wages were created in other businesses and industries within the region.

Conclusion

Year one economic impacts of the SASS investment program are summarized as follows:

SASS Funding Recipients

Total number Southeast organizations selected to receive SASS funding = 31

Southeast organization with SASS spending in 2022 = 12

SASS Investment Projects

Total SASS projects envisioned = 59

Total projects began in 2022 = 17

SASS Investment Funding Outcomes

Total multi-year spending planned SASS investment = \$25 million

Total spending by project partners in 2022 = \$1.3 million

Percent of total federal dollars invested so far = 5%

Average spending in 2022 by partner = \$77,140

Proportion of funding spent in region = 85%

Total spent in wages in 2022 = \$529,110

Average spending on wages by partner in 2022 = \$31,134

Total economic impact 2022 = \$1.9 million

In 2022, 12 partner organizations began work on a combined 17 SASS investment projects across Southeast Alaska, using \$1.3 million of total SASS funding. The total economic impact of that spending was \$1.9 million. Although 45 job positions were created, due to jobs being temporary, or starting late in the year, the total direct, indirect and induced jobs created on an annualized basis was 22. Overall, 2022 SASS spending accounted for five percent of the entire envisioned investment of \$25 million. We anticipate that economic impact estimates will rise in 2023 when all projects are fully funded with work underway.

Results are influenced by aspects internal to the federal agencies tasked with implementing the investments strategy. Another benefit of the first year SASS investment effort was identifying and overcoming challenges and barriers to streamlining of federal administrative procedures to get funding out faster. The public engagement, partner led proposal solicitation, project selection, contracting, grants, agreements, and budget work required to allocate the funds by the three One USDA agencies was accomplished in FY2022 through novel approaches and spending authorities. However, after the initial commitment of \$25 million in 2021, USDA funding arrived late in FY2022 when the field season was mostly over for many partners. Several SASS project and sub-awardee agreements were not finalized until 2023. That 17 projects were underway in 2022 demonstrates the commitment of agency staff and project partners to the success of the Sustainability Strategy and its goals to improve the economic conditions and well-being of communities across Southeast Alaska.

Appendix A: 2022 Project Intake Form

Rain Coast Data reached out to all SASS funding recipients with an intake form asking the following questions:

1. What is the name of your project?
2. How much of your organization's USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investment funding did you spend on your project in 2022?
3. What percent of this above amount was spent directly in Southeast Alaska?
4. Which of the following categories best describes the work primarily completed for the project in 2022?
5. How many workers were employed through this project's agreement funding during each month of the 2022 calendar year?
6. Please list the job titles of the jobs described above.
7. How much did you pay in wages for the above workers in calendar year 2022 (excluding benefits)?

Appendix B: Open-ended Responses

Question 1: Describe the economic impact of the project in 2022

In 2022, diverse projects in Southeast Alaska had varying degrees of direct economic impact, ranging from preliminary planning and exploration to creating employment opportunities with livable wages. These efforts encompassed sectors like tourism, fisheries, and indigenous stewardship, with a shared vision of growth, local empowerment, and sustainable development, even as many projects primarily geared up for more pronounced impacts in 2023.

Open-ended responses:

- In 2022 the economic impact of this project was small, but the programs outlook is very promising. Once the program is fully operational it will create 20+ jobs in Southeast.
- 2022 was used for project planning, and initial exploration of future tourism sites. The local economic impact was hiring a local boat operator.
- There will be greater economic impact of this work once we get going. We hope to protect the economy of fish by having better data for planning and decision making. We will be increasing our local hire in the summer of 2023 through SASS.
- Describing the economic impact of the Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership (KISFP) in 2022 has had and is continuing to have positive economic impacts for the local communities of Craig and Klawock. This includes the economic impact of being capable of employing four individuals with year-round employment and providing livable wages to said individuals when compared to common seasonal employment, which often pay the bare minimum, and which are often paid based upon how much an individual can produce. Additionally, because said individuals can earn a year-round livable wage their quality of life

- has increased, resulting in secondary economic impacts as they spend money within their communities, whether that is being able to buy food, pay their bills in a timely manner, etc. Additional economic impacts include local purchasing, the equipment, and supplies that we have purchased through the SASS funds have been locally sourced from local businesses through a combination of large and small purchases made throughout the year as we identify equipment needs, equipment maintenance and repair needs, etc. And because we are able to offer year-round employment through the KISFP the individuals are experiencing financial stability, they are able to plan accordingly and are able to begin building up financial savings to make purchases on large items such as a car, they're able to look at better housing options, they're able to take out personal loans, etc.
- Firms in the visitor industry identify challenges and opportunities and then approaches to growing opportunities for their businesses.
 - In 2022, we initiated a working forest analysis on non-federal lands (private, Trust and State) in Southeast to combine with the Tongass National Forest young growth forest data collected previously. Once the combination is made, we will have a full picture of young growth forest acres and stand characteristics in Southeast Alaska that are potentially available for forest management.
 - Job quality is phenomenal, the stories that are being crafted empower the people of Southeast Alaska.
 - Mostly gearing up for impacts in 2023.
 - Once the agreements were signed in the fall of 2022, Spruce Root was able to launch the SASS project, coordinating with program participants through various meetings and work planning sessions. Meetings and events were held at locations around Southeast Alaska providing benefit to hotels, restaurants, transportation providers and supply contractors in the region. Administrative and program staff (located in Southeast Alaska) were sustained during the period of performance.
 - Regional workshop that brought in over 140 people to Juneau. Economic impact was many times larger for local hotels, cabs, venues, etc.
 - The economic benefit was in the wages paid to an employee working in Juneau, AK.
 - This allowed us to create "science based" research with "Indigenous Science" and create local support to conduct biomass research on ANCSA village corporation land. We are training recruited employees for "qualified local hire" that are transitioning from commercial logging and commercial fishing to natural resource conservation and protection.
 - This project was awarded through a contract in 2022. No economic activity has occurred yet as work is planned to begin in 2023.
 - While serving in the Interim Sr. Director position, I scheduled meetings with local culture bearers and completed outreach with Indigenous educators. We will draft Interpretive curriculum in 2023.

Question 2: Describe non-market impacts, such as cultural, social, ecological, or other impacts of the project in calendar year 2022

In 2022, projects in Southeast Alaska yielded cultural, social, and ecological impacts. The region saw enhanced community ties, empowerment of indigenous voices, and ecological restoration efforts. Traditional practices were revitalized, providing both cultural and practical benefits, while youth engagements and environmental stewardships underscored a commitment to sustainability and heritage preservation.

Open-ended responses:

- Businesses are exposed to Purpose-Driven strategy.
- Coordinated with sub-awardees and program participants on 2023 work plans, connected and learned about exciting SASS projects through storytelling and knowledge sharing.
- Empowering local tribal and community members to restore and steward their salmon streams!
- Increased capacity for climate change monitoring and local knowledge
- The non-market impacts have been minimal since the program only started in October 2022, however, information about the program has been spreading with lots of community interest.
- There are cultural and educational benefits to Alaska Natives and the wider community from this activity designed to educate the public about Alaska Native language, culture and history.
- This helped build regional capacity for watershed restoration and stewardship.
- We are also providing two sorts of firewood for communities: firewood and firewood for smoke houses. Most don't have access to get these.
- With the Meridian Institute as a cooperator, we reconvened the Tongass Transition Committee to conduct a 5-year review of the 2016 TLMP Amendment. We also reenergized the Southeast Landowners Group (LOG) providing a coordinator, regularly scheduled meetings, and a forester to carry forward on projects the LOG considers priorities.
- With the position of SASS Storytelling Specialist, we have been able to ensure locals are being heard. As well as building relationships that hadn't existed before, or if they had we've strengthened them.
- Youth who participated in the cross-island canoe trip learned a lot about the environment and ecology of the area. Local Tlingit cultural values are woven into the experiences that are being developed. Local youth learned basic wilderness guiding skills that will be enhanced in 2023.
- Another complex measure of impact related to the implementation of the Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership (KISFP) in 2022 includes the Cultural, Social, and Ecological impacts of the project. Such impacts include but are not limited to the following: As a community forest partnership project the KISFP retains community priorities at its heart, which includes: In 2022 the KISFP harvested and distributed local Salmon to over 150 households on Prince of Wales Island (which in turn has deep economic impacts within our

communities as the majority of our households rely on salmon to offset the high cost of store based foods). In 2022 the KISFP harvested, preserved, and distributed approximately 200 pounds of deer meat (venison) into the community and supported local cultural activities by providing deer meat for a major potlatch ceremony. In 2022 the KISFP coordinated with local partners to conduct a firewood distribution which provided much needed heating to over 100 households on Prince of Wales Island (the majority focused in the communities of Klawock and Craig). Social impacts include the empowerment of local indigenous voices on multiple levels, including the inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge, the recognition that federally managed lands ARE Indigenous Lands and developing co-management and co-stewardship opportunities with local United States Forest Service to empower local indigenous peoples to become more active in the management of local natural resources. The social impacts may be the most difficult to measure, however, to say that "the needle has moved toward progress" is significant, this is an opportunity for local people to have their voices heard and respected and moves closer to a sustainable future within our local lands. The potential ecological impacts of this project are also significant: in 2022 KISFP has completed multiple stream habitat restoration projects within the Klawock Lake Watershed and will continue implementing in-stream restoration projects (in partnership with the USFS) on Kosciusko Island to the northwest of Prince of Wales Island well into 2023 and 2024. In 2022 KISFP began surveying priority streams within the Klawock Lake Watershed which is the most heavily impacted watershed in Southeast Alaska. Those surveys are being used in 2023 to identify priority streams for continued in-stream restoration projects in the future. In 2022 KISFP has applied silvicultural treatments to priority riparian and wildlife areas to improve ecological functioning within the most heavily impacted watershed in Southeast Alaska and on Kosciusko Island. In 2022 KISFP has maintained a robust environmental monitoring program to identify and track changes within local in-stream restoration projects, silvicultural treatments, and high value wildlife areas.