



Spring 2021

The SOUTHEAST STEWARD



The Hilda Creek conservation easement is 43-acres on the south side of Douglas Island, in Juneau. It is the most productive salmon stream along the 20-mile shoreline.

Looking Forward

The year 2020 was a remarkable year for the Southeast Alaska Land Trust (SEALT). In the face of the pandemic and other challenges, we demonstrated nimbleness as an organization. Now, with the first day of spring behind us, and the days lengthening and (slightly) warming, we are starting 2021 with an ambitious to-do list.

We are hiring! SEALT is seeking an Executive Director to carry out the work of the organization and build on a solid foundation of land conservation. Find the job description at: SoutheastAlaskaLandTrust.org.

With the addition of two new conservation properties, we will be monitoring more acres than ever during the upcoming field season – over 3,600 acres across our region. SEALT will be ensuring that these lands remain unspoiled. At the same time, we will be looking for opportunities to conserve more of Southeast Alaska. This is our promise to you.

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Sign up to receive e-news at:
www.SoutheastAlaskaLandTrust.org

COVER

Black bear mom and cub at Anan Creek, Wrangell, Alaska, courtesy of Mark Kelley.
www.MarkKelley.com

Thank you to all of the photographers who contributed to this newsletter!

More daylight also means more time outside. We hope that you are getting out to enjoy the land – land that you can hike on, land that provides wildlife habitat and sustains local food sources, land that holds our history.

Thank you for joining us in conserving lands important to Southeast communities. Our success is your success!

- Jay Nelson
President, Board of Directors



Leave a Lasting Legacy for Southeast Alaska

Making a bequest to the Southeast Alaska Land Trust is a simple way to preserve the places that you care about the most.

You can name the Southeast Alaska Land Trust as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or financial accounts.

Anyone can make a bequest, and no amount is too small.

For more information, please contact Krista.

(907) 586-3100 | Krista@sealt.org

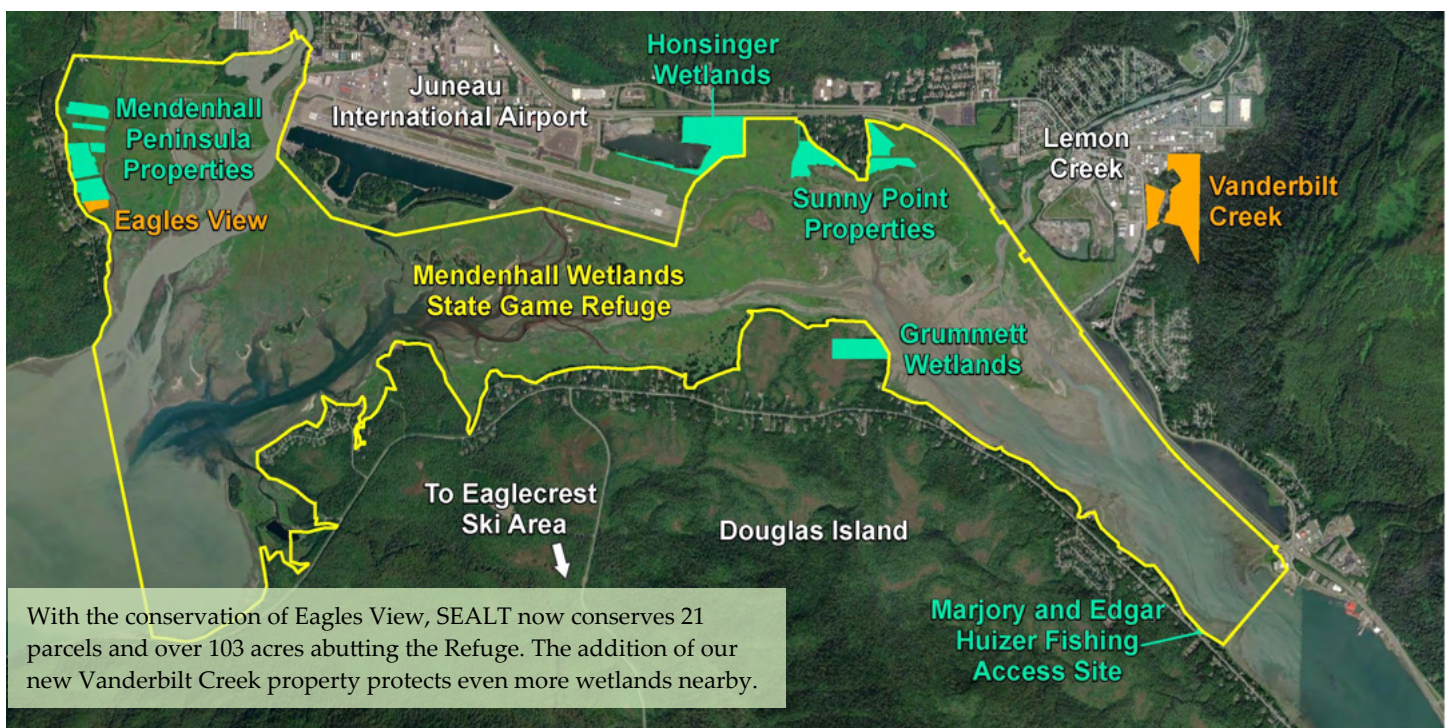
Refuge Boundary Gets a Boost

Since 2002, the Southeast Alaska Land Trust has been working to expand upon the established conservation area of the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge (Refuge), in Juneau. This winter, SEALT conserved an additional 2.5 acres along the boundary. We named the property Eagles View.

The Refuge was established to preserve the unique recreational and wildlife values of the Mendenhall Wetlands, which is the third-largest saltwater tide marsh in Southeast Alaska. The boundary of the Refuge is defined as the mean high-tide level, also known as the meander line. As post-glacial rebound lifts the outer edges of the Refuge beyond the reach of the tides (a phenomenon known as “isostatic rebound”), the Refuge boundary shrinks. This uplifted land begins to support pioneer communities of plants like grasses, fireweed, and eventually coniferous trees.

No longer held within the Refuge, these uplands become available for private ownership by adjacent landowners. This is where SEALT comes in. SEALT partners with these landowners to conserve these lands, or purchase the land outright, like we did with the Eagles View property.

“Eagles View is an important link in the network of existing conservation lands along the Refuge,” said Jay Nelson, President of the Board of Directors. “As Juneau grows, this rich and diverse urban wetland will become increasingly precious as a spawning and rearing area for salmon and other species and a source of recreation for residents and visitors alike. This acquisition is a win for Juneau’s future.”





In Lemon Creek, Juneau’s industrial area, across the street from Western Auto Marine and partially hidden on the other side of a handful of scrub brush and evergreens, there is a hidden oasis.

In February 2021, we were thrilled to place over 37 acres of wetlands in this area under conservation. This property represents some of the last undeveloped wetlands in the Lemon Creek area.

The property is named Vanderbilt Creek, after the stream which meanders through the wetlands. The creek begins as runoff and upwells of freshwater at the base of Blackerby Ridge before it drains into the Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge, a mere 1/4 mile away.

The creek is listed as an impaired waterbody by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, due to water quality concerns. Rainwater from nearby roads can wash motor oil, gasoline, trash, and other pollutants into the stream, harming fish and other wildlife that depend on the creek for food and shelter. The wetlands present on the property help buffer the stream from these impacts.

Despite these concerns, Vanderbilt Creek is valuable as habitat for rearing salmon, including Coho, which have a limited number of rearing areas in Southeast Alaska. “Streams that empty into the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge provide important rearing habitat for juvenile Coho,” stated Neil Stichert, SEALT Board member. “In turn, these ‘urban’ Coho contribute to multiple fisheries when they return.”

The permanent conservation of the Lemon Creek property safeguards Vanderbilt Creek from additional pollution, benefiting fish and other wildlife.

Urban
Salmon
Habitat
Shielded
from
Pollution

THANK YOU

We sincerely appreciate the generosity and strong commitment to local land conservation shown by our members. Thank you to the following donors who gave so generously between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. Also, a big thank you to our Legacy Fund donors (in orange), our Evergreen Society members (in green), and our Sustaining members (in blue). If you believe you have been left off of this list in error, please email Amanda at amanda@sealt.org.

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Southeast Alaska Land Trust

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The Southeast Alaska Land Trust collaborates with communities, individuals, and organizations throughout Southeast Alaska to help ensure that highly valued habitat, recreation, open space, and cultural and historic areas continue to thrive for the well-being of each generation.

2021 Event Schedule

May 1

Annual Juneau Community
Wetlands Cleanup

May 29

Wild for Conservation
5K Virtual Race

July

Field Day with
Discovery Southeast

July

Property Celebration for the
Grummett Wetlands

Details at:

SoutheastAlaskaLandTrust.org



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