

Research and Development

Three world class research facilities exist in Southeast Alaska, the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center (ACRC), the Pacific Northwest Research Station's Forestry Sciences Laboratory, and the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, all in Juneau. The Forest Service management side (Tongass National Forest) has ties with business interests through the Tongass Futures Roundtable, as does the Forest Service Regional Office, with ties to energy development and forest management. ACRC has initiated dialog with business interests in energy and tourism. There is also a national Department of Defense technology transfer office, SpringBoard, headquartered in Juneau. These facilities are described below.

The Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center

The Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center was established August 13, 2009 to stimulate and develop temperate rainforest education and research. The center will provide a framework for synthesizing ecological, geophysical, social, traditional, and economic knowledge and thus serve to improve the environmental and economic health of Southeast Alaska communities. The center will enhance cooperative research at the new Héén Latinee experimental forest near Juneau, and in other locations across the coast temperate rainforest ecosystem. Founded by the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and Alaska Region, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Region, the City and Borough of Juneau, the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Southeast the Center has already grown to accept new partners, while serving as a collaborative environment for researchers, faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars. The Director was hired in May 2010 under a two-year agreement with the Forest Service and the University of Alaska Southeast.

The Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Auke Bay Laboratories (ABL) conducts scientific research throughout Alaska on fish stocks, fish habitats, and the chemistry of marine environments. Information from this research is widely used by commercial interests such as fishing industries, and governmental agencies involved in managing natural resources. Marine survey data from ABL research on commercially marketable species such as rockfish, sablefish, and salmon, and on non-marketable and/or protected species such as eel grass, plankton, Steller sea lions, and harbor seals are packaged in information products essential to fishing industries, state and federal regulators, and international treaty bodies.

The Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory

The Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory is one of 11 laboratories of the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station. Scientists at the FSL provide scientific information to land managers, policymakers, and citizens on natural resources and the environment. It conducts research on how to balance the conflicting needs of the logging, fishing and sport hunting industries with the need to preserve the habitat of all forms of wildlife. Research areas include old-growth forests, global climate change, invasive species, aquatic and terrestrial organisms, soils, watershed condition and carbon sequestration.

Juneau Economic Development Council SpringBoard Program

As a partner of the US Department of Defense (DoD), SpringBoard's purpose, nation-wide, is to develop partnerships that result in transfer, commercialization and transition of technologies developed by Department of Defense laboratories and private industry. Its additional task is to support and facilitate K-16 educational programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in Alaska.

What SpringBoard does:

- Help existing companies identify and screen appropriate Department of Defense (DoD) technologies that can be licensed and commercialized.
- Facilitate joint projects between DoD and private companies, as well as between agencies and academic institutions - to further commercialize Department of Defense technologies.
- Assist entrepreneurs in the start-up of new companies and the commercialization of DoD technologies by providing intensive business assistance.
- Provide teachers with the support and tools they need to effectively and engagingly teach math and the sciences in K-16 classes in Alaska.

Research centers

The table on the following page provides an inventory of research center contacts throughout the region of Southeast Alaska.

Southeast Alaska Research Centers

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Name	Address	Locale	Contact Information	Areas of Research Focus	Overall Budget
Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute (NOAA Auke Bay Laboratories)	17109 Pt. Lena Loop Road	Juneau, AK 99801	Phil Mundy; 907-789-6001	Marine Ecology and Stock Assessment; Habitat and Marine Chemistry; Marine Salmon Interactions; Ocean Carrying Capacity	FY 2000 - \$8.5 million
NOAA National Weather Service				Weather research and reporting	
UAF-School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (Lena Point)		Juneau, AK	http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/	Fisheries and Ocean Sciences	
Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center	11305 Glacier Highway	Juneau, AK 99801-8545	Mike Goldstein, 907-796-6269	Temperate rainforest science, education and policy development	
Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory (Forest Service Research)	11305 Glacier Highway	Juneau, AK 99801-8545	Paul Brewster, 907-586-7801	Aquatic and terrestrial organisms, soils, watershed condition, affects of climate change, carbon sequestration, human dimensions	FY2000 - \$3.6 million
Alaska Wood Utilization Research and Development Center (Forest Service Research)	204 Siginaka Way	Sitka, AK 99835-7316	907-747-4308 http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/sitka/	Goods, services, and values (GSV) of wood products	
UAS Juneau Campus	11120 Glacier Highway	Juneau, AK 99801	Barbara Hyde; Director: Budgets, contracts, etc; 796-6494	(FY07 most recent) http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/docs/applied-research/FY07-Applied-Research.xls	FY10 - \$0.878 million for research in 13 facilities UAS wide
UAS Ketchikan Campus	2600 Seventh Ave	Ketchikan, AK 99901			
UAS Sitka Campus	1332 Seward Ave	Sitka, AK 99835			
ADFG offices located throughout SE					
Héen Latinee Experimental Forest (site at north end of Juneau road system)	11305 Glacier Highway	Juneau, AK 99801-8545	Richard T. Edwards; 907-586-8801		
Maybeso Experimental Forest (on POW)	11305 Glacier Highway	Juneau, AK 99801-8545	Mike McClellan; 907-586-7924		
Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility (U.S. Navy)		Ketchikan vicinity	247-6289	Navy's primary acoustic engineering measurement facility in the Pacific	
The Nature Conservancy (a research NGO)	416 Harris Street, Suite 300	Juneau, AK 99801	(907) 523-8157	sustainability, climate change, forest conservation	900k (850k in Juneau; 50k in Craig)

Industrial Parks

There is one industrial park in Juneau with limited land availability. There is one industrial park in Sitka, the Sawmill Cove site, with potential for a deep-water dock and manufacturing facilities.

Research Strength/Constraints

Alaska ranks near the bottom of all 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in terms of the amount of Federal R&D dollars received annually. In 2005, Alaska received approximately \$249 million of research funds. Southeast Alaska received approximately 9% of this share. Further, there are significant barriers to technology transfer from the research faculties located in the region, or coming from DoD through SpringBoard, to those within the region who would be willing to develop the technology into new products, processes or materials. The majority of businesses in Southeast Alaska are too small to have the financial resources and technical personnel to commit to new product development. In addition, there is no business center or business incubator available to provide start-up support to the entrepreneur who would like to take on new product development. There is no research university which could provide technical expertise and no technical library available locally. Further constraints in new product development come from a lack of industrial electronic shops and only limited machine shop capability in the region.