RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building.**This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification:*In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):
American Lands Project

Travel Dates:
08/09/2026 to 08/16/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$6,225.50	$1,644.00	$581.61	$389.33

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

9/14/26
Date

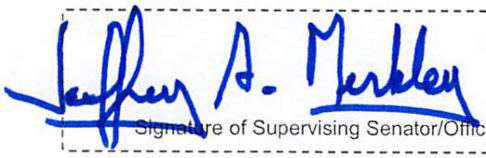
Lucas Smith
Printed Name of Traveler


Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

9/14/26
Date


Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☑ Yes ○ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Meals	$581.61	Reflecting Final Meal Costs: 8/9 ($61.52) Higher than estimated. Cost of Dinner in Juneau and share of group snacks. 8/10 ($113.91) Lower than estimated. Cost of breakfast in Juneau plus cost of M/V David B provided lunch and dinner. 8/11 ($114) Cost of M/V David B provided breakfast, lunch and dinner. 8/12 ($114) Cost of M/V David B provided breakfast, lunch and dinner. 8/13 ($63.03) Lower than expected. Cost of M/V David B provided breakfast and lunch and dinner in Juneau. 8/14 ($80.11) Lower than expected. Cost of breakfast and dinner in Juneau. 8/15 ($35.04) Higher than expected. Cost of lunch at Seattle - Tacoma Airport.
Transportation	$6,225.50	Reflecting Final Ground Transportation Costs: $1721.80 - Same. Round Trip Flights DCA-JNU $574.05 - Same. Share of Air Taxi. $3660.33 Same. Share of boat transporation. $260.32 - Lower than expected. Share of rental vehicles and gas
Misc. Expenses	$394.33	$389.33 - Share of flightseeing tour of Taku River watershed and Juneau Icefield. $5.00 - Share of Mendenhall Glacier entrance fee.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☑ Yes ○ No

Explanation: Sunday, August 9, 2026 Dinner Location Change: The location for the 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. dinner was changed from Hangar on the Wharf to SALT, 200 Seward St, Juneau, AK 99801 due to an overcrowded dining room and noise level not being conducive to group discussion. Monday, August 10, 2026 Activity and Time Change: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Walking tour of Tenakee Springs and Discussion on Subsistence. The subsistence discussion originally scheduled for 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. was instead held at 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. during a walking tour of Tenakee Springs led by Dan Kirkwood while the group waited to board the Motor Vessel David B. Time Change: The embarkment of the Motor Vessel David B originally scheduled from 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. instead occurred from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Thursday, August 13, 2026 Attendee Change: Nathan Moulton, Tribal Administrator, did not attend the 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. visit with the Hoonah Indian Association due to a personal scheduling change. Attendee Change: Linda Behnken, Executive Director, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, did not attend the 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. dinner at Deckhand Dave's due to a personal scheduling change. Rebecca Holmes, a commercial fisher, joined the dinner. Friday, August 14, 2026 Attendee Change: Bre Walker, Director of Salmon Beyond Borders, was unable to attend the 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. guided flightseeing tour of Taku River watershed and Juneau Icefield due to a personal scheduling change. Mary Catherine Martin, Communications Director at SalmonState, joined the flight. Lunch Location and Attendees: The 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. lunch was switched to a working lunch at Tracy's King Crab Shack, 300 Whittier St, Juneau, AK 99801. Bre Walker and Mary Catherine Martin joined this working lunch to continue the discussion about transboundary mining and its potential impacts to salmon and watershed health. Time and Location Change: Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska meeting location changed to their new office: 320 W Willoughby Ave, Juneau, AK 99801. The meeting ran from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. rather than until 3:00 p.m. as originally scheduled. Time and Attendee Change: For the Mendenhall Glacier visit scheduled from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., the visit was actually from 3:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.. Barb Miranda - Deputy Forest Supervisor; USFS, and Laurie Cooper, Senior Advisor to the Regional Forester, USFS joined this meeting. Attendee Change: Anthony Mallot, Spruce Root, Former CEO of Sealaska, was unable to attend the 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. dinner at In Bocca al Lupo.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

○ Yes ☑ No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

AMERICAN LANDS PROJECT

Lucas Smith
Legislative Director
Senator Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Lucas,

The American Lands Project appreciates your interest in the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska and public lands in the state of Alaska. At nearly 17 million acres, the Tongass is the largest National Forest in the country. It is home to wild salmon watersheds that are among the most productive in the country, and it supports a $1 billion commercial fishing industry. The region's glaciers, forests, and wildlife are a global attraction that generates another $1 billion from tourism annually. The region's forests provide key subsistence resources to the Alaska Native community and broader cultural and historic connections to the land. Forest management for the Tongass National Forest has shifted significantly over the years, from phasing out old growth logging to re-opening significant parts of the forest to road building and timber harvest.

We would like to invite you to join American Lands Project for a trip to the Tongass National Forest from August 9th to 15th, 2026. The trip will be fully sponsored by ALP, including all travel, lodging, and meals, and provides the opportunity to see and experience the Tongass National Forest firsthand, learn about ecological, cultural and economic facets of the region and state, and use the region as a lens through which to gain knowledge on a broader array of public lands topics in the State of Alaska. We will follow-up with the formal 2026 trip itinerary and will assist with the required documentation for submission to the Senate Committee on Ethics.

Please let me know if I can be helpful in answering any questions about the proposed trip, and I hope you will be able to join us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Natalie Smink
Education & Trip Coordinator

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:

Lucas Smith

Employing Office/Committee:

Merkley

Private Sponsor(s):

American Lands Project

Destination(s):

Alaska, Juneau, andTongass National Forest

Travel Dates:

August 9 through August 15

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

Sen. Merkley is Ranking Member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, which has direct oversight of the Tongass National Forest.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip? **Name and Relationship to Traveler:**

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

7/2/26
Date

Lucas Smith
Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I Jeffrey A. Merkley hereby authorize Lucas Smith
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

7/2/26
Date

Jeffrey A. Merkley
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

American Lands Project: August 9 - 15 Tongass National Forest Fact-Finding Trip

Lucas Smith

Title:
Legislative Director

Employing Office/Committee:
MERKLEY, JEFF

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Juneau, Alaska
Juneau, Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

Sen. Merkley serves as the Ranking Member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, which has a direct oversight role over the Tongass National Forest and forestry issues in general.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
American Lands Project

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
(●) Yes ( ) No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Public Charity

Address
1904 3rd Ave

Address 2 (Optional)
Suite 406

City, State Zip
Seattle, Washington 98101 United States

Phone Number
(720) 951-4327

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

American Lands Project (ALP) has organized a variety of sponsored travel opportunities for Senate and House members and staff over the last few years to locations such as Southeast Alaska, America's Arctic, the Owyhee Canyonlands, and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. In 2023, ALP hosted three trips to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for House Members and Senate staff, and two trips to the Tongass National Forest for a Senate Member and Senate and House Staff. In 2024, ALP hosted five trips to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for a Senate Member, a House Member, Senate staff, and House Staff; and one trip to the Tongass National Forest for House staff. In 2025, ALP hosted four trips to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for two House Members, Senate staff, and House staff; and two trips to the Tongass National Forest for two House Members, Senate staff, and House staff. In May 2026, ALP hosted a trip to the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument for Senate staff.

Educational Activities

ALP conducts educational briefings for decision-makers in Washington, DC, and works in coalition with diverse organizations engaged with policies surrounding the use and management of America's public lands and waters. ALP also provides educational trips for non-congressional organizations.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyists.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ✓ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ✓ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ✓ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

A fact-finding trip to visit Southeast Alaska and view the Tongass National Forest, learn about forest and land management planning, old growth forest, statewide climate impacts, regional economic drivers, and Alaska Native communities. Guests will have the opportunity to visit remote areas of the Tongass National Forest firsthand to better understand the discussion topics, and then meet with local stakeholders in Juneau to learn more about local initiatives.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

ALP seeks to inform discussions regarding important public lands in our nation, in part through facilitating fact-finding travel centered around place-based education. This trip will provide history, context, and understanding for the attendees in support of their offices' responsibilities related to public lands in Alaska and the Tongass National Forest.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- [x] The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- [x] The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- [x] No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- [x] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- [ ] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will not** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
08/09/2026 @ 11:00 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
08/16/2026 @ 12:59 AM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

○ Yes ● No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $6,226.45 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$1,721.80
Note Round-trip flights from DC (DCA) to Juneau (JNU).		
Airfare	N/A	$340.42
Note Air Taxi from JNU to TKE to reach the remote location of Tenakee Springs.		
Airfare	N/A	$233.63
Note Air Taxi from HNH to JNU to return from the remote location of Hoonah.		
Ground Transportation	N/A	$261.27
Note Share of rental cars in Juneau and Hoonah		
Other	N/A	$3,669.33
Note Commercial Motor Vessel used for transportation and lodging. Public Ferry service is not available to accomplish the educational objectives of the trip.		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1,644.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/09/2026	08/10/2026	Best Western Baranof - Downtown	Juneau	Alaska	United States	1	$274.00	No
08/10/2026	08/13/2026	David B	Juneau	Alaska	United States	3	$274.00	No

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/13/2026	08/15/2026	Best Western Baranof - Downtown	Juneau	Alaska	United States	2	$274.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $650.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/09/2026	$0.00	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00	**$50.00**	Juneau	Alaska	United States	No
08/10/2026	$25.00	$35.00	$54.00	$0.00	**$114.00**	Juneau	Alaska	United States	No
08/11/2026	$25.00	$35.00	$54.00	$0.00	**$114.00**	Juneau	Alaska	United States	No
08/12/2026	$25.00	$35.00	$54.00	$0.00	**$114.00**	Juneau	Alaska	United States	No
08/13/2026	$25.00	$35.00	$54.00	$0.00	**$114.00**	Juneau	Alaska	United States	No
08/14/2026	$25.00	$35.00	$54.00	$0.00	**$114.00**	Juneau	Alaska	United States	No
08/15/2026	$30.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$30.00**	Juneau	Alaska	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $389.33)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Other (Flightseeing Tour)	$389.33	Share of educational flightseeing tour to observe salmon habitat watersheds and the Juneau Icefields.

Additional Attachments

Document Name
There are no additional attachments.

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PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: August 9 - 15 Tongass National Forest Fact-Finding Trip

Travel Date(s): 08/09/2026 - 08/15/2026

Travel Destination(s): Juneau, Tenakee Springs, Hoonah, Tongass NF; AK

Sponsor: American Lands Project

Thomas D. Campion — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Board President — *(title)*

Signed by: Tom Campion DC48BC5CB330465... — *(signature of sponsor representative)*

6/30/2026 — *(date)*

AMERICAN LANDS PROJECT

Aug 9 - 15 Tongass National Forest Fact Finding Trip

Senate Invite List:
Allison Herwitt - Chief of Staff, Senator Chris Murphy
Coti Haia - Chief of Staff, Senator Mazie Hirono
Lucas Smith - Legislative Director, Senator Jeff Merkley

American Lands Project

Tongass National Forest
2026 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary
August 9th - 16th, 2026

Sunday, August 9, 2026

- Travel from Washington DC to Juneau, AK
  - **8:00 a.m.** Depart DCA, Alaska 1, **10:58 a.m.** arrive at SEA
  - **1:43 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska 435, **3:17 p.m.** arrive at JNU

- **3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m**. Ground transportation from airport to Best Western Baranof - 127 N Franklin Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801.
  - *Attendees: Allison Herwitt (Chief of Staff, Senator Murphy), Coti Haia (Chief of Staff, Senator Hirono), Lucas Smith (Legislative Director, Senator Merkley), Heather Urban (Trip Lead, American Lands Project), Dan Kirkwood (Southeast Alaska Futures Program Manager, Salmonstate)*

- **3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m** Check into Best Western Baranof - 127 N Franklin Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

- **4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.** Walking tour introduction to Juneau along the Juneau harbor. Guests will learn about Juneau's role as a population center and marine hub in Southeast Alaska, in addition to serving as the Alaska State Capitol. Guests will observe the active tourism, cruise industry and commercial fishing infrastructure present in Juneau, serving as a foundation for conversations and programming scheduled for the remainder of the trip.

- **5:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Walk to dinner at Hanger on the Wharf, 2 Marine Way #106, Juneau, AK

- **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Working dinner: Discussion of the economic history of Southeast Alaska and the Tongass National Forest, with a focus on the recent expansion of tourism in Southeast Alaska and its impacts on the Tongass National Forest and its communities.
  - *Additional Attendees:*
    - *Alexandra Pierce - Visitor Industry Director, City and Borough of Juneau*
    - *Liz Perry - President & CEO, Travel Juneau*
    - *Dan Blanchard - Owner & CEO, UnCruised Adventures*

Monday, August 10, 2026
Attendees: Allison Herwitt, Coti Haia, Lucas Smith, Heather Urban, Dan Kirkwood, Jeffrey and Christine Smith (Owners and Operators of the M/V David B), Matt Millner (Deckhand, M/V David B)

- Travel from Juneau, AK to Tenakee Springs, AK
    - **8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.** Ground transportation to Juneau Airport
    - **9:00 a.m.** Depart Juneau (JNU), Alaska Seaplanes,
    - **9:35 a.m.** Arrive at Tenakee Springs (TKE)

- **10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.** Board the Motor Vessel David B and receive an introduction to the vessel which will serve as both water-taxi and lodging through August 13th to access remote areas of the Tongass National Forest not accessible by road. Guests will receive a safety training from Jeffrey and Christine Smith, the owners and operators of the vessel.

- **10:45 - 11:45 a.m.** Discuss subsistence uses and how subsistence supports rural Alaskan communities like Tenakee Springs across the state. Federal law defines subsistence use as "the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles… for barter or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade."

- **11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Break

- **12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Working Lunch: Introductory discussion of Southeast Alaska and the geographies that will be observed during the remainder of the trip. The Tongass National Forest is the largest national forest in the country, totalling 16.7 million acres of land in Southeast Alaska, and is the traditional homeland of three distinct Alaska Native tribes: Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian. The forest represents the largest intact tract of coastal temperate rainforest on earth. With much of the forest consisting of remote islands and roadless areas, visiting by boat or air is the only way to view much of the Forest.

- **1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Review maps of the State of Alaska to gain a better understanding of the geography, watersheds, topography, and international boundaries of the State as they relate to locations guests will visit on the trip, as well as the State as a whole.

- **2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Onshore hike. Visit a designated Inventoried Roadless Area on the Tongass National Forest and discuss how the forest is managed at the watershed level and the history of the Roadless Rule in Southeast Alaska. Talk about recent changes to the rule nationally and within the Tongass National Forest.

(All flight times are subject to change based on weather)*

Observe old-growth forests and discuss the role that public lands in Alaska play in our nation's natural resource stewardship. Alaska contains one-third of the country's federally managed lands and represents a uniquely valuable national asset. These lands contain a significant share of the nation's natural carbon reserves underscoring Alaska's key role in maintaining healthy landscapes while supporting long-term environmental and economic stability.

- **4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Break

- **5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Learn from Motor Vessel David B owners Jeffrey and Christine Smith about the role of small boat tourism in Alaska and how small tourism businesses operate in the Southeast Alaskan economy.

Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Attendees: Allison Herwitt, Coti Haia, Lucas Smith, Heather Urban, Dan Kirkwood, Christine Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Matt Millner

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast on the David B.

- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of public lands in the state of Alaska. Review maps and discuss the various land management priorities for conservation, resource development, research, and subsistence uses on tribal, state, and federal lands in the State of Alaska.

- **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.** View the surrounding landscape from the deck and discuss Southeast Alaska communities, the expansion of tourism into more remote parts of the Tongass National Forest, the significance of the forest to the regional economy, and the economic challenges of seasonal employment in communities throughout the region.

- **11:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch: Discussion presenting an overview of the current Tongass Forest Plan and plans the US Forest Service has announced for updating the Forest Plan in the coming years. The current Forest Plan was developed in 1997, and a revision process for the Tongass Forest Plan, announced in 2023, is currently in progress.

- **1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Break

- **1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Guided Hike onshore. On the hike, view Alaska's iconic wildlife and discuss how natural systems function in this landscape and the importance of the Tongass National Forest to salmon, grizzly bears, marine mammals, and other regional wildlife. Learn about the important interactions between wild salmon and other Alaskan wildlife and discuss the economic implications of tourism and wildlife viewing in Alaska.

- **4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** Break

(All flight times are subject to change based on weather)*

- **5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Discuss details surrounding historic and current economic drivers of Southeast Alaska, including natural resource extraction, tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, and land restoration. Discuss the role of federal initiatives in the region, such as the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, its history and current status, and the recent history of partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service, and their impact on the region and its economy.

Wednesday, August 12, 2026
Attendees: Allison Herwitt, Coti Haia, Lucas Smith, Heather Urban, Dan Kirkwood, Christine Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Matt Millner

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast on David B

- **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Onshore hike to observe salmon spawning habitat. Discussion on the economic value of healthy Tongass watersheds to salmon fisheries and harvests. Rivers, lakes, and streams in the Tongass produce 80% of the commercial salmon harvested annually from Southeast Alaska. This harvest of about 50 million salmon is valued at $60 million annually.

- **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Discussion regarding the history and legislation that have shaped public lands and land management practices in Alaska, focusing on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA). Review the history and landscape-shaping impacts of ANILCA, which designated most of the National Park Service units in Alaska as well as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges, and national monuments across the state. ANILCA also established a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources for rural residents during times of scarcity. ANILCA is the foundation of federal land management in Alaska and is essential to understanding current discussions surrounding resource management and utilization in Alaska.

- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Working Lunch: Discussion of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA): Review the history and key elements of ANCSA, which extinguished aboriginal land title in Alaska, divided the state into 12 regions based on the common heritage and shared interests of the Alaska Native people within each geographic area, and mandated the creation of for-profit entities - which Congress termed “Alaska Native Corporations” - tasked with promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Alaska Native people and communities. Familiarize guests with the Alaska Native Corporations active in SE Alaska.

- **1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Break

- **2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Viewing the landscape from the deck of the David B while underway, and using maps, observe the different land ownership regimes in the

(All flight times are subject to change based on weather)*

Tongass, including the U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Native Corporations, and the State of Alaska. Discuss the effects of ANCSA and ANILCA on Tongass forest management.

- **3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Observe forests after various harvest techniques from the deck of the David B and discuss the ecological implications including erosion and loss of habitat for species such as deer and salmon of historic clear-cut techniques. Review the history of Hoonah as a community that transitioned from a timber-focused economy to one more focused on tourism. Discuss the importance of tourism and natural resource industries like timber and commercial fishing to the local economy.

- **5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Detailed overview of the history of Southeast Alaska, and the Tongass National Forest, including timber history, land acquisition, wilderness designations, and the history of Alaska Native people in the region.

Thursday, August 13, 2026
Attendees: Allison Herwitt, Coti Haia, Lucas Smith, Heather Urban, Dan Kirkwood, Christine Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Matt Millner

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast

- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Discuss mining, logging, and fossil fuel development across Alaska, and the history of these industries in the State. Use maps to examine the geography and chronology of timber projects and energy and infrastructure development.

- **10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** Disembark David B.

- **11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Visit with Hoonah Indian Association about forestry issues impacting their community. Meet with local expert Ian Johnson about the history of forestry in Hoonah and its importance to the local community. Learn about current restoration projects in previously logged areas of the forest.
    - *Additional Attendees:*
        - *Ian Johnson - Environmental Director, Hoonah Indian Association*
        - *Nathan Moulton - Tribal Administrator, Hoonah Indian Association*

- **2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Break

- **3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.** Prepare for departure from Hoonah to Juneau. Ground transportation to Hoonah Airport.

- Return to Juneau, AK.
    - **4:00 p.m.** Depart Hoonah (HNH), Alaska Seaplanes
    - **4:20 p.m.** Arrive at Juneau (JNU)

(All flight times are subject to change based on weather)*

- **4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Rental car from airport to Best Western Baranof - 127 N Franklin Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

- **5:00 - 5:45 p.m.** Break

- **5:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Walk to Deckhand Dave's - 139 S Franklin St. Juneau, AK 99801

- **6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** Working Dinner: Discussion of commercial fishing opportunities and challenges in Southeast Alaska and the Tongass National Forest with local commercial fishers.
    - *Additional Attendees:*
        - *Linda Behnken - Executive Director, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association*
        - *Sommers Cole - Commercial Fisherman and Captain of Fishing Vessel Energizer*
        - *Tyson Fick - Commercial Fisherman and Skipper of Fishing Vessel Heather Anne*

Friday, August 14, 2026
Attendees: Allison Herwitt, Coti Haia, Lucas Smith, Heather Urban, Dan Kirkwood, Christine Smith, Jeffrey Smith,, Matt Millner

- **7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast at the hotel.

- **8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.** Rental car to Alaska Seaplanes at the Juneau International Airport - 1873 Shell Simmons Dr. Juneau, AK 99801

- **9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Discuss transboundary mining in Southeast Alaska and the impacts of warming temperatures and extreme weather in the region, followed by a flightseeing tour to view the Taku watershed and Juneau Icefield to discuss the importance of the Taku River and the icefields for watershed health and salmon populations. Access will be provided via commercial float plane (Alaska Seaplanes), as it is the only way to reach this site.
    - *Additional Attendees:*
        - *Bre Walker - Salmon Beyond Boarders Director, SalmonState*

- **11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.** Lunch.

- **12:45 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Walk to Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska offices – 9097 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK.

- **1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Meet with Alaska Native leaders to discuss their perspectives and priorities as related to the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska.

(All flight times are subject to change based on weather)*

- *Additional Attendees:*
  - *Jill Weitz - Natural Resource Manager for Native Lands & Resources Division, Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

- **3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Ground transport to Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center – 6000 Glacier Spur Rd, Juneau, AK 99801.

- **4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Tour of the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and Recreation Area and short hike with US Forest Service staff. The hike will include stops at the Mendenhall Glacier and a tour of the visitor center and wildlife viewing boardwalks. Accessible natural areas like the Mendenhall Visitor Center and many of the wild salmon watersheds attract over 1 million tourists and generate approximately $1 billion in revenue for the region annually. Approximately 90% of summer visitors to Mendenhall are brought to the site by tourism operators that generate approximately $700,000 annually in fees for the U.S. Forest Service.
  - *Additional Attendees:*
    - *Mendenhall Tour Guide (to be assigned)*

- **6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** Ground transport to Best Western Baranof –127 N Franklin Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

- **6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.** Break.

- **7:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Walk to In Boco Al Lupo – 120 2nd St Suite B, Juneau, AK.

- **7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** Working dinner at In Bocca Al Lupo. Discussion of Alaska-specific context: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA) and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Guests will also learn about the impacts of the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, economic transitions in the region, and tribal engagement in Southeast Alaska. Summarize the trip, and discuss any remaining questions and topics.
  - *Additional Attendees:*
    - *Katie Riley - Deputy Director, Sitka Conservation Society*
    - *Anthony Mallot - Spruce Root, Former CEO of Sealaska*

Saturday, August 15, 2026

- Travel from Juneau, AK to DC
  - **7:00 a.m.** Depart JNU, Alaska 1533, **10:29 a.m.** arrive at SEA
  - **1:46 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska 2, **9:59 p.m.** arrive at DCA.

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