

POLICY PRIORITIES IN ALASKA

Building Partnerships for Meaningful Policy Solutions

Sustaining healthy lands and waters that support Alaska's unique communities is the foundation of The Nature Conservancy's commitment to our state's economy, security and ways of life.



(c) Chris Crisman

The Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Founded in 1951, TNC works in every state and in 76 countries and territories around the world to make a lasting difference. TNC has worked in Alaska for 35 years and has offices in Anchorage and Juneau.

We stand committed to a nonpartisan approach. Our local partnerships in Alaska help us advance our vision of a world where nature and people thrive together. In Alaska, TNC believes the health of lands and waters and the welfare of human communities are closely linked — and nowhere is this more true than in rural Alaska. We are working to helping diverse public and private interests come together to achieve lasting and meaningful conservation successes.

Guided by science, TNC collaborates with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, local landowners, communities, businesses, and more to implement practical conservation solutions that benefit people and nature. TNC is supported by more than 1 million members worldwide and by boards of trustees made up of local leaders. We take a nonpartisan approach to our work — trustees, members and staff come from across the political spectrum.

APPROACH TO PUBLIC POLICY

The Nature Conservancy supports policies and initiatives that:

- Are ambitious but practical, with long-term benefits
- Highlight the power and value of lands, waters and wildlife
- Respect communities and human rights
- Use market mechanisms to achieve resource-management goals
- Emphasize cooperation across political boundaries
- Recognize public sector fiscal constraints

The Nature
Conservancy 
Alaska

POLICY FOCAL AREAS

Science-based. Practical. Nonpartisan.

The Nature Conservancy works at all levels of government to protect nature. This is why we have experts on staff who help influence how government policies in the United States are written and brought to life.

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

We seek to speed the transition to renewables, build Alaska's energy independence and resilience, inform public processes, advocate for equitable outcomes in policy and educate the public.

Some examples include:

- Supporting increased investments in renewable energy infrastructure through the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** at the federal level and the **Renewable Energy Fund** at the state level
 - Educating the public and our elected officials about climate impacts through **TNC's Alaska Climate Opportunity Assessment**
 - Advocating for the **Alaska Energy Independence Fund**, a proposed state program that would increase investment in developing sustainable energy across Alaska and help to build climate resilience for communities
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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

The Nature Conservancy supports Alaska's fishing families through our work to protect Bristol Bay lands and waters; improve equitable access to commercial fishing opportunities for rural and Indigenous fishing families and communities; and influence federal policy to be more inclusive of Alaska's unique fisheries, waterway improvements and restoration, and increased funding for science.

Some examples include:

- Researching **solutions for the outmigration of commercial fishing permits** from rural communities in Bristol Bay
 - Following the lead of Tribes to advocate for **permanent protections for Alaska's Bristol Bay**
 - Encouraging NOAA fisheries policy to **incorporate Indigenous knowledge and community-driven research priorities** and invest in **improving relationships with Alaska Native communities**.
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RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

TNC Alaska works in close partnership with communities throughout Southeast Alaska and Bristol Bay to create outcomes that are durable and equitable. Across Alaska, we know that stewarding the environment must serve the community in order to be a meaningful solution. This means ensuring our policy work is grounded in the unique context of Alaska, and that community needs are reflected in our advocacy. Often, this means finding opportunities to support economic-development friendly conservation, encouraging people-centric solutions, and influencing improved place-specific resource management.

Some examples include:

- **Lowering barriers to entry for the young growth timber industry** by supporting state legislation for lumber grading standards that better serve Alaskans
 - Influencing implementation of the Forest Service's Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy to **include projects prioritized by community partners in Southeast Alaska**
 - Advocating for improvements in the Farm Bill, including **improving federal funding for programs that have been important to creating jobs, supporting locally-led stewardship, and encouraging sustainable management** in Alaska like the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
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