

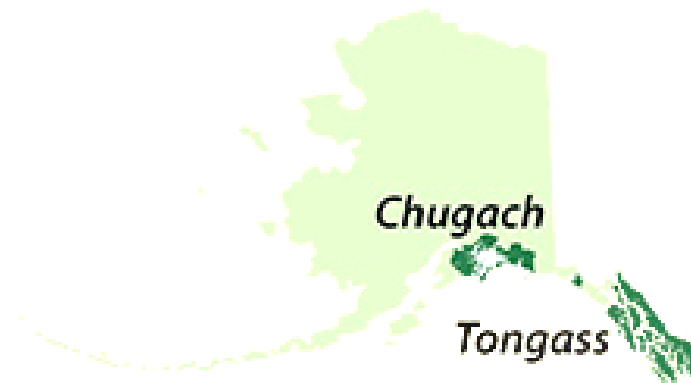


# Partnerships, Workforce Development, & Volunteers

## Year in Review

### Fiscal Year 2023

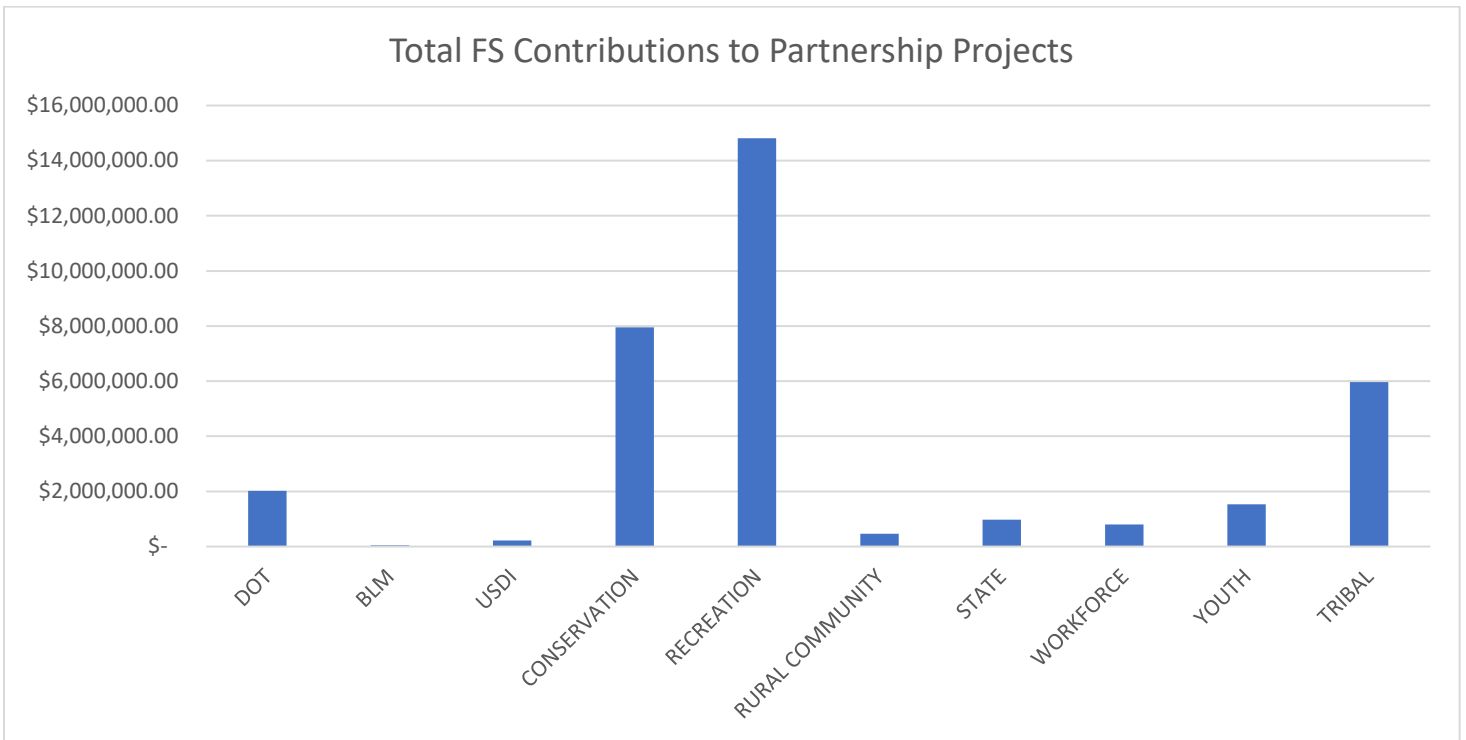
#### Region 10 – National Forest System



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## FY 2023 Partnerships Through the Numbers

- Active agreements
  - Chugach National Forest – 83 Agreements
  - Tongass National Forest – 142 Agreements
  - Region-Wide – 31 Agreements
  - TOTAL – 256 Agreements
  - **Number of Partners**
  - Chugach Specific – 18 Partners
  - Tongass Specific– 40 Partners
  - Region-Wide – 21 Partners
  - TOTAL: 79 Partners
- Forest Service Funding Contributed to Partnership Projects
  - Chugach National Forest: \$7,883,293
  - Tongass National Forest: \$8,135,666
  - Region-Wide: \$18,768,857
  - **TOTAL: \$34,787,816**



DOT – Department of Transportation  
 BLM – Bureau of Land Management  
 USDI – United States Department of Interior

\*Some agreements could fall under multiple categories. A primary category was selected for each agreement.

## Partnership Program Highlights

### Salmon Stream Restoration

Healing salmon streams in Southeast Alaska is a collaborative effort between communities, Alaska Native corporations, and government agencies. This work benefits the salmon population and the economy. Crews restored damaged streams by adding large wood structures and removing invasive plants. The Forest Service provided staff, expertise, and financial resources to the Hoonah Native Forest Partnership (HNFP). USFS Fisheries biologists collaborated with the HNFP crew on data collection and stream restoration projects. The HNFP created a common vision to “thrive as a community with access to abundant resources and workforce opportunities.”

The HNFP crew inventoried forests, streams, and roadways. They thinned young growth forests, restored fish passages where roads crossed streams, and rehabilitated fish habitat.

Summarized from [Sustainable Southeast Partnership website](#).



(Above) Phillip Sharclane uses an electroshocker for data collection on fish in streams for tracking salmon migration. Neal Schoenfelder documents the presence and migration patterns of anadromous fish. Photo by Ian Johnson.



### Spruce Beetle Outbreak

A multi-year cleanup in the Chugach National Forest combatted a spruce beetle outbreak that damaged over 1.85 million acres. The Russian River Campground was particularly affected, with dead trees posing wildfire risks and safety hazards. A large effort by various agencies, including Chugachmiut’s Yukon Fire module, involved debris chipping and disposal to mitigate these dangers. The project exemplified a successful interagency collaboration and the valor of everyday heroes in the face of natural adversities.

(Left) The Chugachmiut Yukon fire crew joined Forest Service staff to help protect the Russian River Campground. Forest Service photo by Brandon Raile.

### Stream Restoration

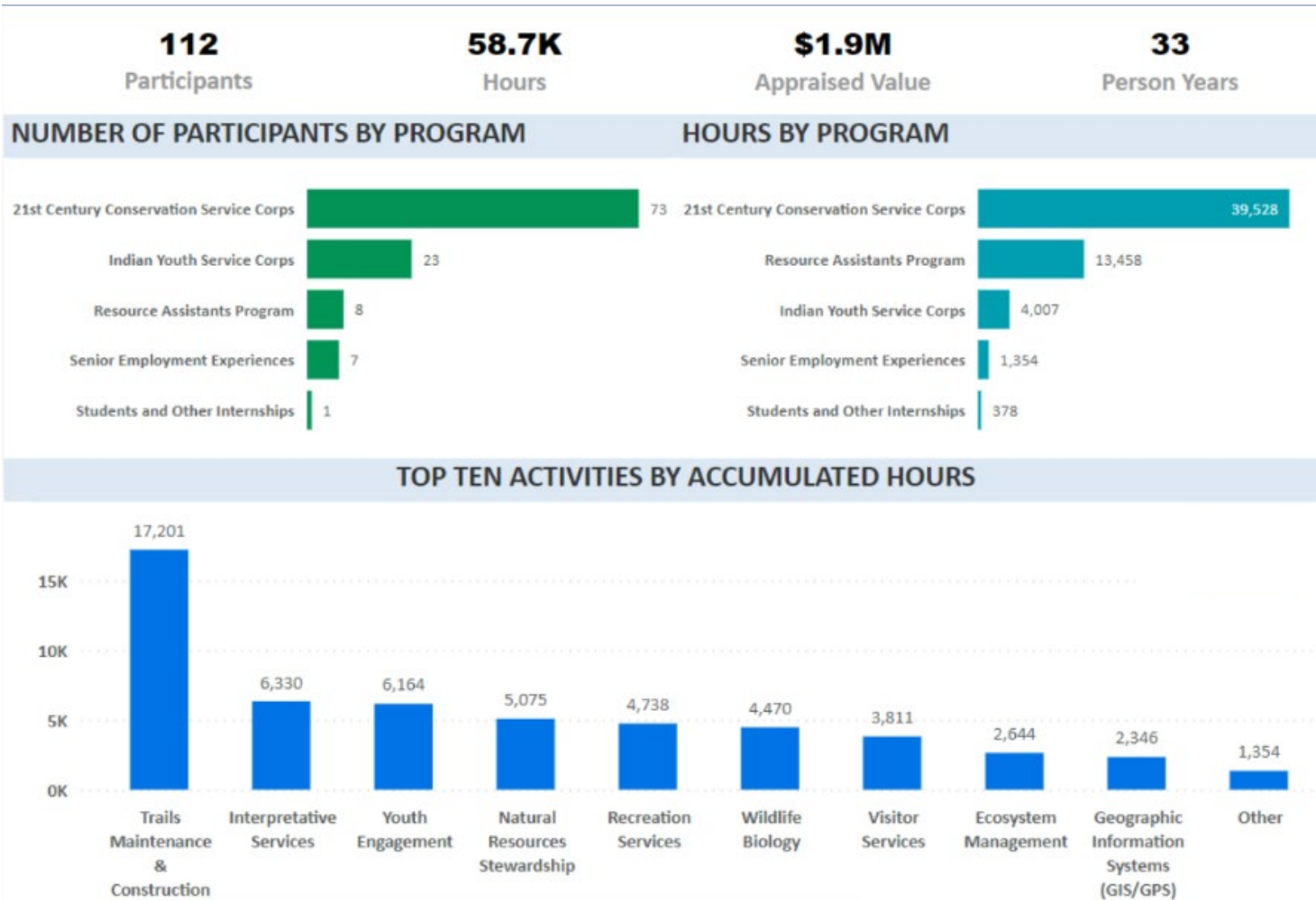
The Tongass National Forest, in collaboration with the Ketchikan Indian Community, Cape Fox Corporation, and Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, undertook a stream restoration project at Last Chance Campground in Ketchikan, Alaska. They placed logs in the stream, provided by Cape Fox Corporation, to enhance fish spawning and rearing habitats. This effort, part of the American the Beautiful program, involved learning from experts and is a vital step in teaching the next generation about environmental stewardship.

(Right) Stream Restoration crew. Forest Service photo by Paul Robbins.



# Workforce Development Program

- Partners from workforce development organizations brought in 112 individuals, such as:
  - The Student Conservation Association
  - Alaska Geographic Association
  - National Experienced Workforce Solutions
  - Mt. Adams Institute
  - Sitka Conservation Society
  - Prince of Wales Vocational and Technical Education Center
  - Chatham School District
  - Hoonah Indian Association
  - Organized Village of Kake
- The program types include:
  - Resource Assistants Program
  - Public Land Corps
  - Indian Youth Service Corps
  - VetsWorks
  - Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES)



## Workforce Development Program Highlights

### Alaskan Youth Stewards

The Alaskan Youth Stewards program aims to guide rural Southeast Alaskan youth towards leadership roles that enhance the area's culture, ecology, and economy. It offers hands-on education, job training, career advice, and job placement, fostering paths to higher education and careers in natural resource management. The 2023 season makes Alaskan Youth Stewards its seventh season, operating in Angoon, Hoonah, Kake, and Prince of Wales Island. The crews engage in diverse projects like trail work, environmental monitoring, traditional food gathering, and community gardening. The following stories are some of the many experiences found in the [StoryMaps page online](#).

### Angoon: Thayer Lake Trail Work

(right) Participants used loppers to cut brush out of the trail. They used a saw to cut smaller trees that were in the way and learned to use the cross-cut saw for the bigger trees. What surprised one participant was how easy it was to use the tools after some practice.

Recorded by Angel Jack.



### Hoonah

(left) Participants cored trees to look at age trends. It was their first time seeing a core and they learned the entire process of coring.

Recorded by Leif Gray.



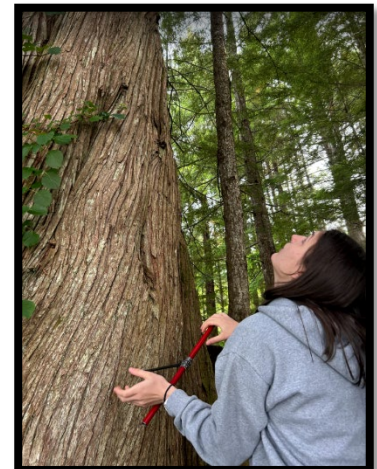
### Kake

(right) Participants went to Long Beach to do an ocean monitoring event where they carried two full coolers of equipment. They prepared the testing materials and dropped the water grabber in the water, held the rope, dropped the weight on it to close the latch and trapped the ocean water in the water grabber. They used these water samples to test the health of the water. Recorded by Keontay Jackson.



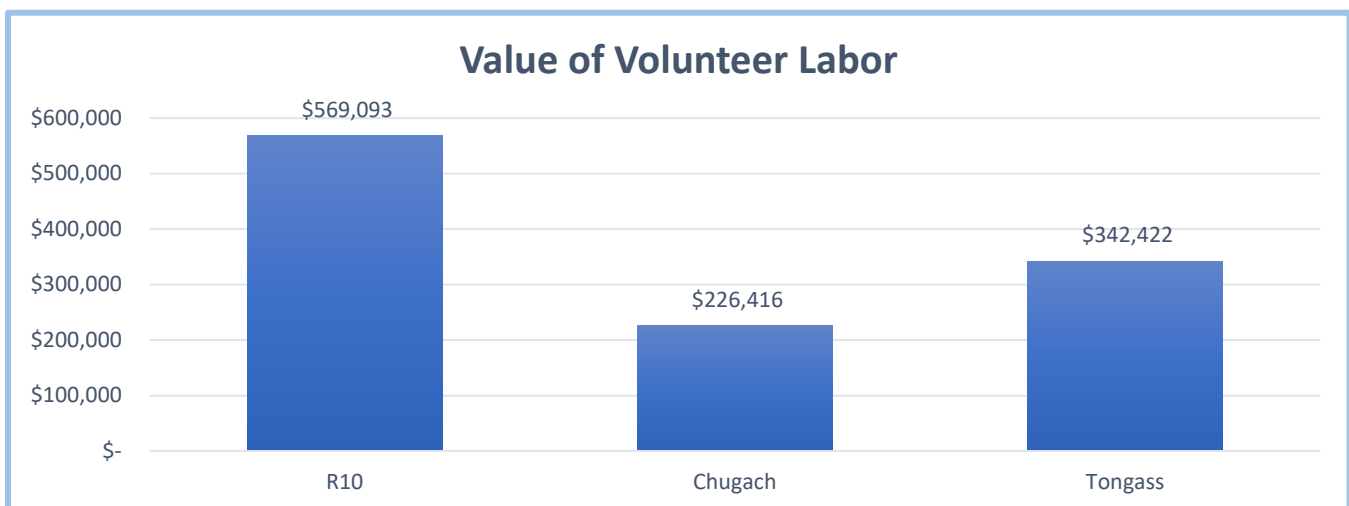
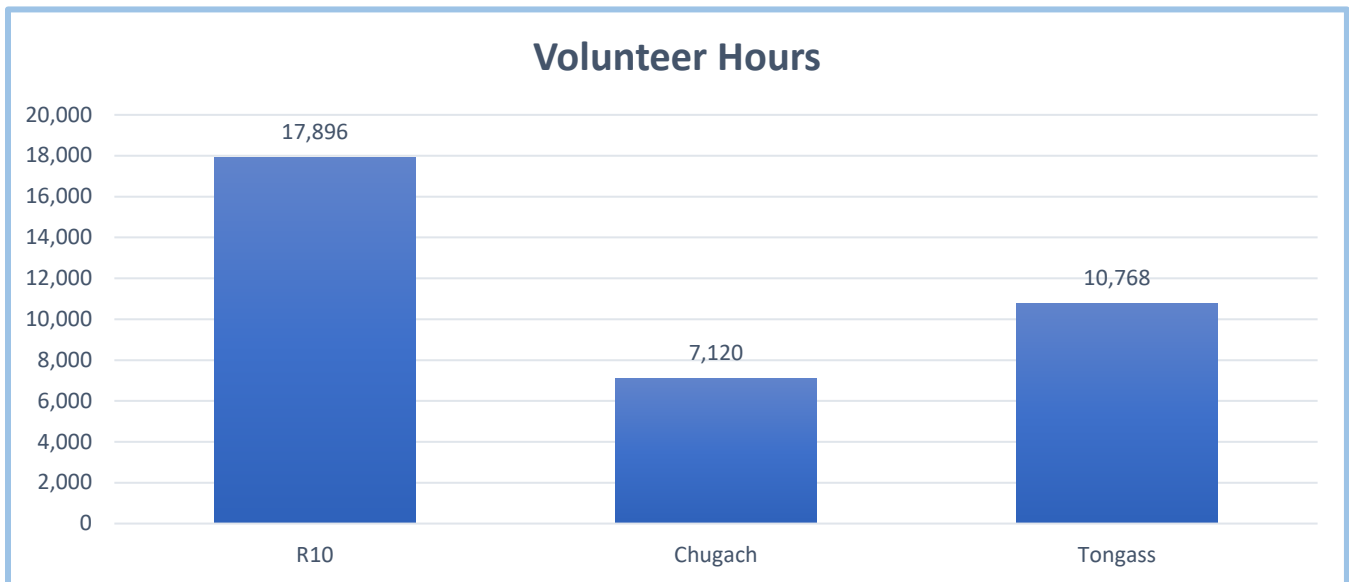
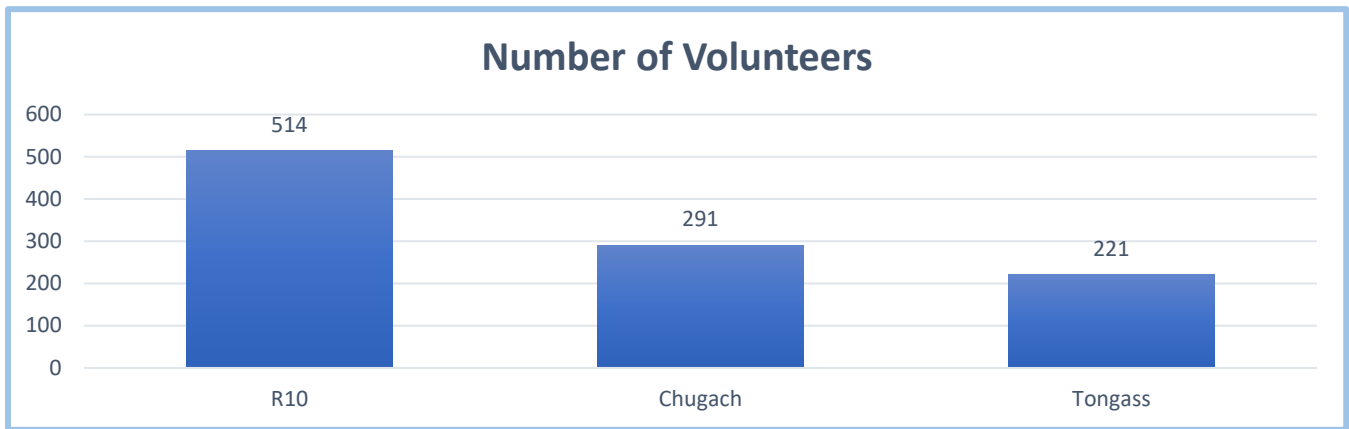
### Prince of Wales Island

(left & right) Tree Coring Black Bear and Port Saint Nick. The trees on the left and right were cored to determine their age.



## Volunteer Programs

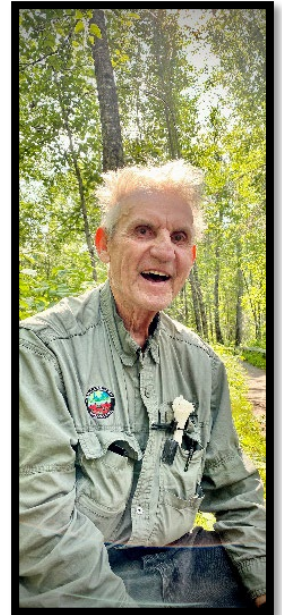
- Volunteers totaled 514 individuals.
- They served 17,896 hours, which equates to a volunteer labor contribution of \$569,093.



## Volunteer Program Highlights

### Gene Horning (Chugach NF)

Many incredible people volunteer through the Stream Watch Program. Gene Horning is 90 years young, yet he outworks 20-year-olds on the Russian River each summer. Gene maintains that the secret to a long life is to keep moving and that volunteering keeps him fit and healthy. Gene habitually under-reports the number of hours he volunteers on the river, which he recorded at 169 this year. Forest Service employees know the true number is higher. *Photos by Gene Horning*



GENE MAINTAINS THAT THE SECRET  
TO A LONG LIFE IS TO KEEP MOVING  
AND THAT VOLUNTEERING KEEPS HIM  
FIT AND HEALTHY

### Peter White (Tongass NF)

Peter has been volunteering with the Forest Service for a couple seasons, first joining a remote boat-access volunteer trip to Sea Lion Cove in 2022, and since then has been a steward member of the Trail Response Team, joining several missions to reconstruct tread and structures.

Peter first enjoyed volunteering at an event with Sitka Trail Works, to get to

know more people in the community.

Now he's close friends with some of them. He's found the events to be very positive. He enjoys being outside, having a good time in the woods, and being in an active social setting.

Peter's first event was a boat ride, something he couldn't have done on his own.

He also got to see trails he doesn't normally see and found it fun and rewarding.

It's meaningful for Peter to go back to trails that he has worked on and point them out saying – "I moved that rock and put those stumps away." Tying himself to the land and the community, Peter says, is a reward all its own.

*Photos by Lilli Garza.*



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