



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OCTOBER 20, 2025



Term Conservation Easement Placed to Protect Gustavus Beach Meadows

The Southeast Alaska Land Trust (SEALT) is pleased to announce the signing of a term conservation easement up to five years protecting the Gustavus Beach Meadows, 187 acres of pristine wetlands and coastal meadows along the Icy Strait.

This easement marks a necessary step toward the permanent conservation of this irreplaceable landscape. The agreement was co-created in partnership with the DeBoer family, who have graciously allowed public access to this beloved community open space for three generations.

The Gustavus Beach Meadows form the vital center to miles of unbroken natural habitat along Icy Strait, supporting wildlife connectivity and natural processes like beach evolution. The Meadows embrace the central Gustavus City Beach Park and border the rich and dynamic Salmon River estuary. To both east and west are The Nature Conservancy's Gustavus Forelands Preserve, the Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area, and Glacier Bay National Park.

Together, these continuous, protected lands comprise **one of the largest undisturbed wetland meadow ecosystems in Southeast Alaska.**

The conservation easement protects breeding and foraging habitat for many bird species. The area also supports anadromous fish, as well as moose, wolves, bears, martens, and a diversity of smaller mammals.

In addition to its ecological value, the Gustavus Beach Meadows hold deep cultural and communal importance. The Gustavus community cherishes access to these open coastal meadows for subsistence harvesting, foraging, birding, hiking, and family recreation.





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The Beach Meadows are more than a beautiful landscape—they're a living interface between people, wildlife, and the shoreline. Protecting this place ensures that future generations can experience the same sense of wonder, abundance, and community that make Gustavus so unique. This term easement protects the Beach Meadows while SEALT continues our work to fund permanent protection.

SEALT extends gratitude to the DeBoer family, the City of Gustavus Conservation Lands Advisory Committee for their partnership, and to the Gustavus community for their continued commitment to protecting these lands and waters.



About the Southeast Alaska Land Trust

The Southeast Alaska Land Trust partners with communities, landowners, and organizations to conserve the natural areas of Southeast Alaska that sustain life—fish and wildlife habitat, recreation areas, and open spaces for all. Learn more and support our work to permanently protect the Gustavus Beach Meadows at www.southeastalaskalandtrust.org

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