



ANGOON AIRPORT

Environmental Impact Statement



A Message from the FAA

Hello Angoon Community!

As we wrap up this year's visits to Angoon, we want to thank everyone for their warm hospitality and all the concerns, comments, and stories shared with me, Amanda Childs, Jamie Young, and Mike Edelmann during our last visit in September. We always enjoy our visits and want to give a special thanks to everyone who stopped in to talk with us, as well as to the ACA for letting us use their facility during our stay.



We will continue to use this newsletter to address the questions we receive about the project. But, as you read through this quarter's newsletter, you'll notice we've also added a few new sections on regional and local news, as well as some community interviews. We hope you'll enjoy these new additions and share your own news and points of view in coming months.

We'll be back next year and look forward to seeing everyone then!

Best wishes,

*Leslie Grey
FAA Alaskan Region Airports Division
Angoon Airport EIS Project Manager*

Project Update

As many of you know, we visited Angoon in September for our last community visit of the year. We got lots of good questions while we were there, with one of the main concerns being, "when will the airport be built?" Construction of the airport is dependent on the completion of the EIS, which we are currently working hard to complete. At this point we're over halfway done with the analysis, writing, and review of the Draft EIS. Once the Draft EIS is complete, we will send it to agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their review and comment. Once their comments are addressed, the Draft EIS will then be made available for public review and comment. Following this public review, FAA will address your comments, produce a Final EIS and publish a Record of Decision that determines whether or not to authorize construction of the airport. Next quarter's newsletter will provide a schedule with anticipated dates for these key milestones and we'll be sure to keep you up-to-date as the project progresses.

Stay Involved with the Project!

As always, you can submit comments online through our website, www.angoonairporteis.com, or you can contact Leslie Grey, the FAA project manager, directly via email: Leslie.Grey@faa.gov or phone: 907-271-5453. We will be in touch with the community at important milestones in the project as well as other times just to check in. We are also on Facebook and are posting small updates as often as possible. Join the conversation!

www.facebook.com/AngoonAirportEIS



Life in Angoon

During our September visit we met **Anji Gallanos**, who works as the Juneau School District Grants Coordinator and Tlingit Haida Head Start Coordinator. She shared her perspective on Angoon's Head Start program and the challenges associated with current transportation options.



Anji Gallanos (left), meeting the Angoon Airport EIS team (Jamie Young, Leslie Grey, and Mike Edelmann) at the seaplane base.

Q: How long have you served in this role and what does it involve?

I've been travelling through Southeast Alaska for 5 years providing educational consultation, teacher training, and program support.

Q: What services do you provide to Angoon?

When I was in Angoon in September, I provided teacher training, addressed classroom-based issues, and collaborated on a special needs program with the local Head Start teachers.

Q: Can you tell me more about the Head Start program in Angoon?

The program provides preschool education to local children. Right now, it has 18 kids and three teachers in a nice building space and is well supported by local officials. The program shut down a few years ago due to lack of enrollment but has since picked back up. The program also provides home visits, nutritional counseling, meals, and other support services. I'm currently also working with the local Head Start teachers. The teachers are all in distance education

programs, and I help them with the documentation and observations they need to meet their educational goals.

Q: Are there any services you cannot provide or that are difficult to provide to Angoon?

The difficulties with working in Angoon are seasonal and locational. I have a contract with the Tlingit Haida Head Start program to go to Angoon four times per year. My new role is to help provide Angoon with more supervision and support, since Head Start hasn't been able to go there more than once per year. And when you can't work consistently with a program, it makes change more difficult to implement. The best way to work is on-site.

But I know that it's going to be challenging. I can only travel [to Angoon] by ferry or floatplane, so it can be hard to get out there due to the remoteness and time involved with travel. I've worked previously in other childcare fields and taught remotely and haven't been able to travel due to conditions, so that is a concern. Plus, it adds another day of travel on both sides of my trip. Programmatically, Head Start is paying my hourly salary for travel and per diem and ferry or floatplane costs—so any delays or lengthy travel time extends the costs and can increase the potential for scheduling conflicts that cause me to spend less time in Angoon than I'd like.

It's also difficult to provide support when you don't have strong online communications. For example, I can communicate with the teachers via email, and all of Head Start's programs use online planning tools, but if there are internet problems and [Angoon's] system is down I can't review their planning forms.

Q: What else should we know about Angoon?

It's difficult to get classroom supplies to Angoon. Recently, the vacuum broke, and it happened that there was a teacher that was in Juneau that could take a vacuum back to Angoon. Otherwise I would have had to ship it out, and, if the floatplane or ferry weren't running or it was winter, it could take a long time to get delivered. It can be really costly and is not very feasible to send supplies other than via floatplane, so what do you do when you can't fly? Wait? All those small, needed items, like paper towels, add up and can be a real challenge to get during the winter.

To follow up on the topic of education and transportation in Angoon, we also interviewed **Les McCormick**, who has served as the principal for Angoon Schools for the past 3 years. He also serves as the special education director for the Chatham School District, food service director, transportation director, and federal grants coordinator for title programs.

Q: What are Angoon schools like?

We currently have 67 kids from grades K–12 and eight staff members. Our school population is shrinking, however. Six years ago we had a school population of 180 kids, and we're down six students from last year (a 10% decrease). We are picking up numbers in our preschool and kindergarten programs, but those parents don't tend to stick around. Families are moving out so that they can find employment.

Our school works with the Tlingit Haida preschool program and provides special services and testing. If it's out there, we have the ability to offer it. We have interactive classrooms and diversified staff trained in the latest teaching techniques. So our kids get a full education.

Q: What do you see as the biggest successes for Angoon schools?

It's not a particular program or anything, but I think we're making kids feel accountable for the things they're doing. We used to have huge discipline and academic issues. For the first time in our history we only had two Fs given out in the latest grading period. That's unheard-of. But our teachers are dedicated, and I think there's a cultural change going on that shows that we care—which makes the kids care. We've brought in testing, a supplemental reading program, and a structured, sequential language arts program. A structured, sequential math and science program is coming on board soon. Plus, we have a very supportive board that is unified regarding the need to have the same curriculum and consistency in what is offered.

Q: Are Angoon schools meeting state educational standards?

Historically, we never met the adequate yearly progress (AYP) targets, but from 2009 to 2010 we passed. Last year we missed the AYP by one student in math, so we're actively working to see what needs to be addressed. The proof will be in this year's testing.

Q: What is the biggest challenge for Angoon schools?

Our greatest challenge is the ability to offer live classes at different sites at the same time. Right now our classes are delayed so you don't get the full enrichment of the class. We're about a year away from offering those classes simultaneously, however.



Angoon High School. Photo credit to Alaska Department of Commerce, Division of Community and Regional Affairs © 2012

Q: How would the proposed airport affect education in Angoon?

The airport would help us with transportation for schools and keeping kids involved. Transportation is the single biggest expense we've got, and relying on the state marine highway system is fine but not something we really like. Ground airports have greater reliability as opposed to water planes. There have been times we've had to cancel going places because the ferry or floatplanes don't come in. I think the airport will also provide long-term economic stability and give us the opportunity to offer new programs at the school, such as aviation, because we now have a place that kids can go to and get instruction. All of these are key components to improving our educational system.

Q: What else should we know about Angoon schools?

We're proud of what we're doing, proud of our accomplishments, and excited about the future.

We hope you enjoyed this section. If you have a response to these interviews or suggestions for someone else to interview next time, please let us know!

Regional News

As part of its analysis of project effects, the Angoon Airport EIS will consider energy and natural resource usage, as well as the abundance and availability, access, and competition for subsistence resources. The following news articles provide some context and background information for these topics.

Tracking Energy and Fuel Prices in Alaska

Rising fuel and energy costs are an ongoing challenge for many rural Alaska communities and households. To help people understand fuel price trends, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development collects and reports fuel prices for communities across Alaska on a bi-annual basis. The latest report, available as of July 2012 at

http://commerce.alaska.gov/dcra/pub/Fuel_Report_2012_July.pdf

provides the following findings and trends for Angoon, Southeast Alaska, and the state of Alaska as a whole:

- Heating fuel and gasoline prices in Alaska remain consistently higher than national averages (e.g. \$5.83 versus \$4.10 per gallon for heating fuel and \$6.10 versus \$3.48 per gallon for gasoline).
- Since 2005 Alaska's average cost for heating fuel has increased 68%, while gasoline has increased 59%.
- Alaska heating fuel and gasoline prices increased 5% and 6%, respectively, from last year's prices. However, Southeast Alaska has experienced stable to slightly declining prices over the same period of time.
- Excluding northern communities (many of which have subsidized fuel costs for residents), Southeast Alaska had the lowest average heating fuel and gasoline prices in July of 2012.
- Angoon's reported heating fuel costs were \$5.32 per gallon in July of this year; reported gasoline prices were \$5.09 per gallon. These prices are 9% and 17%, respectively, below the statewide average cost, and are identical or slightly elevated (2% increase for heating fuel) over reported January 2012 prices in Angoon.

Subsistence and the Kanalku Environmental Assessment

The Secretary of Agriculture's and Secretary of Interior's recent decision to defer action on Kootznoowoo Inc.'s petition for extraterritorial jurisdiction in favor of working toward a negotiated solution represents the latest milestone regarding salmon fishing and subsistence concerns in state-managed waters near Angoon. The decision, found here

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/etj/secletter.pdf>

concur with the recommendations of the Federal Subsistence Board to address these issues at the local level using a mediator, but it requests that twice-yearly status reports be made to the board to demonstrate progress. Failure to make progress could result in alternative measures.

In related news, U.S. Forest Service authorized construction of fish passage improvements to ease fish passage to Kanalku Lake, a subsistence area used by Angoon residents for sockeye salmon fishing, in February of this year with their release of the Kanalku Environmental Assessment and finding of no significant impact. More on this project can be found on the U.S. Forest Service website here:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=26177>



Kanalku Falls

Community Highlights

We love visiting with the community when we travel to Angoon, and always enjoy our time at the Senior Center. Our September visit was no exception. We want to particularly thank Alan Zuboff for sharing the Deisheetaan story with us and Frances Daniels for providing us with her recipe for her delicious strawberry bread. We've included the recipe, below, so that everyone else can enjoy it as much as we did!



Frances Daniels and Leslie Grey at the Angoon Senior Center

Frances' Strawberry Bread

Step 1: Combine the following ingredients in a bowl.

- 3 c. flour
- 2 c. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 c. walnuts (optional)

Step 2: Make a well in the dry ingredients and add in the following:

- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 ¼ c. vegetable oil
- 2 pints strawberries, thawed including juice

Step 3: Stir until mixture is well mixed. Pour into two greased bread pans. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. Cool and serve with butter or cool whip.

Do you have a favorite recipe you'd like to let others know about? If so, send it our way and we'll publish it in the next newsletter. We also welcome any other community information, events, stories, or news that you'd like to share.

How to Contact Us

If you have any questions about the proposed project or the EIS, please contact Leslie Grey.



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