



Sitka Conservation Society  
Box 6533  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
(907) 747-7509  
info@sitkawild.org  
www.sitkawild.org

*"Protecting the natural  
environment of the Tongass while  
supporting the development of  
sustainable communities in  
Southeast Alaska – since 1967."*

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Mayor Paxton:

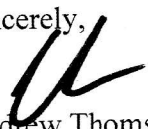
On behalf of the Sitka Conservation Society, we would like to make a contribution of \$2000 to the Sitka Volunteer Fire Department in recognition—and to further support--their work to promote women's involvement and leadership in fire-fighting and emergency response. We have admired the efforts that the Sitka FD has made in training and empowering women in the fields of fire-fighting and EMS. In a time when there are too many stories of #MeToo and sexual harassment or discrimination scandals in the workplace, the Sitka Fire Department has worked to bolster its ranks and leadership with high performing women and has provided opportunities for entry level training and learning for women new-to-the-field.

We are able to make this contribution thanks to the partnership that Sitka Conservation Society had this past summer between the USDA Forest Service, the Sitka Fire Department Volunteers, and the National Forest Foundation. The partnership was to renovate the two most utilized recreational cabins on the Sitka Ranger District, Fred's Creek and Allan Point. The Sitka Fire Department Volunteers did the labor for the renovation of Allan Point cabin. The new deck, stove, exterior finish, and floor that the volunteers installed will provide many years of access and enjoyment to the locals and visitors who will be utilizing that amazing public resource.

We are inspired to make this donation because of the opportunity that the Sitka Fire Department gave to one of our staff members who got involved in the entry level trainings offered. That young woman had always wanted to get involved in Emergency Medical Services. During the winter of 2019, she was able to get her EMT-1 certification through an intensive training offered by Sitka Fire Department and is now an active member on the ambulance crews as a Sitka FD volunteer doing service for the community. This opportunity and training has allowed her to develop a critical skill set, become certified, get hands-on experience, and get her foot-in-the-door with a department. She continues as a volunteer here in Sitka and is also using her skills working with at-risk youth in a Wilderness therapy program that operates on the Tongass National Forest.

Please express our gratitude to the City Staff at the Fire Department and we hope that you'll help them make sure that they can continue this important work into the future.

Sincerely,

  
Andrew Thoms  
Executive Director