

SCMDF

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USDA FS Tongass NF: Salt Chuck Mine

Thorne Bay, Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan County, Alaska

EPA ID No: AK0001897602

Reference No.: 5

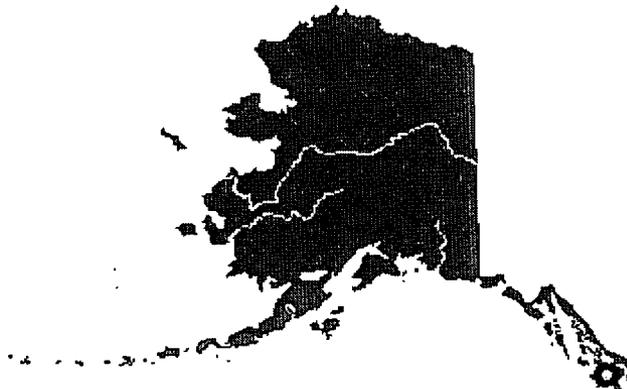
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Thorne Bay

[For Photos of Thorne Bay click here](#)

[For a Map of Thorne Bay click here](#)

Current Population:	467 (2007 DCCED Certified Population)
Incorporation Type:	2nd Class City
Borough Located In:	Unorganized
Taxes:	Sales: 5%, Property: None, Special: None
Coastal Management District:	Thorne Bay



Location and Climate

Thorne Bay is 47 air miles northwest of Ketchikan on the east coast of Prince of Wales Island. On the Island road system, it lies 60 miles from Hollis and 36 miles east of the Klawock Junction. The community lies at approximately 55.687780° North Latitude and -132.522220° (West) Longitude. (Sec. 12, T071S, R084E, Copper River Meridian.) Thorne Bay is located in the Ketchikan Recording District. The area encompasses 25.5 sq. miles of land and 4.8 sq. miles of water. Prince of Wales Island is dominated by a cool, moist, maritime climate. Summer temperatures range from 49 to 63; winter temperatures from 32 to 42. Average annual precipitation is 120 inches, including 40 inches of snow.

Topographic
map of
Thorne Bay
area



History, Culture and Demographics

The Bay was named after Frank Manley Thorn, superintendent of the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey from 1885 through 1889. The name was misspelled when published. The first major settlement was built around the logging operation of Wes Davidson. Thorne Bay developed as a result of a long-term timber sales contract between the U.S. Forest Service and the Ketchikan Pulp Company. In 1960, a floating logging camp was built in Thorne Bay. In 1962, Ketchikan Pulp moved its main logging camp from Hollis to Thorne Bay. A shop, barge terminal, log sort yard and camp were built to replace facilities at Hollis. Roads were then constructed to connect Thorne Bay with Hollis, Craig and Klawock. During this time, it was considered the largest logging camp in North America. Thorne Bay evolved from a company-owned logging camp to an incorporated city by 1982, due in part to the land selection program provided for in the Alaska Statehood Act.

The population of the community consists of 4.8% Alaska Native or part Native. Evolving from a work camp, Thorne Bay has become a year-round home to many logging employees. During the 2000 U.S. Census, total housing units numbered 327, and vacant housing units numbered 108. Vacant housing units used only seasonally numbered 43. U.S. Census data for Year 2000 showed 269 residents as employed. The unemployment rate at that time was 14.6 percent, although 41.14 percent of all adults were not in the work force. The median household income was \$45,625, per capita income was \$20,836, and 7.81 percent of residents were living below the poverty level.

Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care

Water Lake, north of Thorne Bay, supplies water, which is treated and stored in a tank before piped distribution. The gravity sewage system includes secondary treatment before discharge into the Bay. Approximately 75% of households are connected to the piped systems and are fully plumbed. Residents on the south side of the community use rain catchment, streams or springs, and a central water source is being designed for this area. Funds have not been secured to construct it. The City provides refuse collection services, a regional baler, a recycling facility and landfill, and participates in annual hazardous waste disposal events. Construction is underway to connect Thorne Bay and Kasaan to the Black Bear Lake Hydroelectric facility. Electricity is provided by Alaska Power Company. There is one school located in the community, attended by 75 students. Local hospitals or health clinics include Thorne Bay Health Center (907-828-8848). Thorne Bay is classified as an isolated town/Sub-Regional Center, it is found in EMS Region 3A in the Southeast Region. Emergency Services have limited highway, coastal, floatplane and helicopter access. Emergency service is provided by volunteers. Auxiliary health care is provided by Thorne Bay Volunteer Rescue

Squad/EMS (907-828-3380); Prince of Wales Island Area EMS (907-826-2367/3330).

Economy and Transportation

Employment is primarily in small sawmills and U.S. Forest Service management of the Tongass, with some commercial fishing, tourism and government employment. Thorne Bay is one of the log transfer sites on the Island. To supplement incomes, residents fish and trap. Deer, salmon, halibut, shrimp and crab are popular food sources. 22 residents hold commercial fishing permits. Locals prefer to purchase goods from Craig and Ketchikan.

Thorne Bay is accessed by float plane, the airport at Klawock, and the State Ferry at Hollis. A breakwater, dock, small boat harbor and grid, boat launch and State-owned seaplane base are available on the Bay. Freight arrives by cargo plane, barge, ship and truck. The logging road provides access to other Prince of Wales Island communities.

Organizations with Local Offices

City - City of Thorne Bay

P.O. Box 19110

Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Phone 907-828-3380

Fax 907-828-3374

E-mail cityclerk@thornebay-ak.gov; mayor@thornebay-ak.gov; administrator@thornebay-ak.gov

Web <http://www.thornebay-ak.gov>

Economic Development - Thorne Bay Business Association

P.O. Box 19492

Thorne Bay, AK 99919

E-mail tbba@thornebayalaska.net

Web <http://www.thornebayalaska.net>

Media - Island News

P.O. Box 19430

Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Phone 907-828-3377

Fax 907-828-3351

E-mail islnews@aptalaska.net

Web <http://www.smalltownpapers.com>

School District - Southeast Island School District

P.O. Box 19569

Thorne Bay, AK 99919-8340

Phone 907-828-8254

Fax 907-828-8257
E-mail lburch@sisd.org
Web <http://www.sisd.org>

Regional Organizations

Regional Development - Southeast Conference
P.O. Box 21989
Juneau, 99802
Phone 907-463-3445 x23
Fax 907-463-4425
E-mail shellyw@seconference.org
Web <http://www.seconference.org>

Services Webmaster