

Gájaa Héén—a Beloved “Undiscovered” Land

Deep roots, growing deeper with time, create strong ties between the Tlingit and land they call home.



Tlingit Land

This area of Southeast Alaska has been the home of the Tlingit for thousands of years. This site called Gájaa Héén was a fish camp for the Tlingit who caught and preserved fish here during the summer months.



Protecting Life's Necessities

Clans claimed particular fish streams and hunting grounds as seasonal homes and sources of livelihood. The clan leader managed and protected the right to hunt or fish locally. People traveling through another clan's territory were allowed to hunt for the food necessary to survive, but could not hunt animals for pelts or profit without making arrangements with the chief.

A Home for Every Season

Tlingit society flourished in the bounty of this area's natural wealth. They moved between summer fish camps, like Gájaa Héén, autumn hunting grounds, and winter settlements based on weather and seasonally available resources such as shellfish, hooligan, salmon, berries, and game animals. Tlingits viewed each of these sites as home.

