

# **Tongass Futures Roundtable**

## **Purpose**

The Roundtable brings together a diverse group of stakeholders long involved in the Tongass to discuss how to incorporate our economic, cultural, and ecological values in public policy issues throughout the region. The Roundtable seeks to explore how a broad range of stakeholders can address these public policy issues and work together to achieve a long-term balance of healthy and diverse communities, vibrant economies, responsible use of resources -including timber, while maintaining the natural values and ecological integrity of the forest.

## **Convening Values**

The Roundtable will include all of those who care for the Tongass by using open, inclusive, and transparent processes to reach out to all Tongass voices. The Roundtable will work to create a positive dialogue and find shared solutions to meet the Roundtable's Purposes.

Recognizing that the governance of the Roundtable will evolve over time, this protocol is intended to guide it through its early existence. The Roundtable will review the protocol at its first meeting annually.

## **Goals**

1. Support an agreement for bridge timber supply that allows a consensus stakeholder process to proceed. Bridge timber supply is required from now until the timber supply would come available under the plan revision (an estimated 24-36 months). In the interim, the Forest Service will continue the scheduled amendment process.
2. Reach consensus on specific recommendations to the TLMP Amendment. The issues that these recommendations will address may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Recommend a stabilized land base
    - Reach consensus on how to address ANCSA entitlements and other potential draws on Tongass National Forest lands
    - Reach consensus on which watersheds of the Tongass should be conserved
    - Reach consensus on which areas of the Tongass will allow timber harvest
  - Recommend a long-term stable supply of timber
    - Assess feasibility of second growth timber
    - Recommend ways for Congress and the administration to incentivise a restoration economy
  - Explore feasibility and methods to transition to second growth management over the next 10-40 years

- Forest Service commits to recognize the comments and recommendations of the Tongass Future Roundtable and meaningfully incorporate the recommendations in the decision-making process
3. Recommend how to protect our SE Alaskan quality of life through the responsible stewardship of cultural, economic and biological values
    - Identify ways to celebrate and enrich cultures, protect values and strengthen opportunities for healthy communities and vibrant economies
    - Achieve this goal by engagement that gives voice to and empowers all cultures and values.
    - Achieve this goal by engagement that gives voice to and empowers local communities.
  4. Advocate for Southeast Alaska to have a robust, community-based diversified and sustainable economy
    - Look at systemic problems regionally and locally (energy, solid waste, regulatory problems)
    - Find a project or issue to work together on and see it through, such as
      - Create a restoration project
      - Create a climate for entrepreneurs
      - Improve existing industry without impacting other users
      - Maximize value-added resource
      - Decrease reliance on government, increase private sector jobs
    - Work toward a timber industry that has more continuity, sustainability and reliability