

## **Tongass Futures Roundtable - Mapping Committee Summary Notes**

Submitted by John Schoen, Committee Chair, 10-9-07

Mapping Meeting, at Tlingit-Haida Central Council in Juneau, October 3, 2007

Participants: Dave Albert, Laura Baker, Karen Hardigg, Randy Henry, Machael Kampnich, Niel Lawrence, Buck Lindekugel, Larry Lundee, Chris Maisch, Brian McNitt (by phone), Dale Rabe, John Schoen, John Sisk, George Woodbury

Committee goals and strategic actions were reviewed

Goal: Reaching consensus on which Tongass watersheds should be conserved and which should allow timber harvest.

Strategic Actions:

1. Identify areas of the Tongass (at watershed and sub-watershed scales) with high biological, subsistence, and community/cultural values.
2. Identify areas of the Tongass (at watershed and sub-watershed scales) with high timber values.
3. Using mapping and tabulation tools evaluate various land allocation scenarios for balancing timber production lands with conservation and community/subsist

Dave Albert outlined a process for working through the data layers and calculating acres, and ASQ for various alternatives. Dave also briefly walked the group through the mapping and cross tabulation tools. Most participants loaded the ArcReader mapping tool and Excel pivot tables onto their laptop computers and the meeting served as both a mapping exercise as well as a tutorial. Several new data layers are represented in the updated ArcReader maps and include ADF&G subsistence areas and community use areas. Specific Tongass Forest map layers represented in the ArcReader and Excel data base include the following:

- TNC-Audubon Conservation Area Design (Priority Conservation & Core Areas);
- SEACC tier 1 and 2 Special Areas;
- Sitka Community Use Area;
- Kake Traditional Use Area;
- Roadless (> 5,000 acres) Areas;
- Sealaska Land Exchange
- Alaska Forest Association Timber Production Areas;
- 97 TLMP
- TLMP Alternative 7

Dave described his approach for calculating ASQ using a correction factor from the 97 TLMP. When the committee settles on some consensus scenarios, Dave will run these by Randy Fairbanks and the FS to cross check the ASQ calculations.

Larry reported that the TLMP Amendment would likely be completed and available in November and that the ASQ would likely be similar to the 97 plan but managed in phases with the first phase at a lower level than later years which would reflect market demand and second growth transition.

Using the Excel pivot table, we calculated cumulative changes in acres and ASQ by sequentially adding additional conservation layers to the 97 TLMP timber base. An example of this effort is shown below. Also see an attached matrix showing these values for different combinations of conservation scenarios.

<b>Scenario:</b>	<b>Area (acres)</b>	<b>ASQ (mil BF)</b>
TLMP 97 suitable timber base (w/ S&Gs)	1,020,000	267
TNC-Audubon Conservation Priority	677,000	194
SEACC tier 1	572,000	163
Kake	563,000	160
Sitka	547,000	158
TNC-Aud core areas	406,000	117
SEACC tier 2	255,000	76
All Roadless	192,000	64

Additional calculations for TLMP Alternative 7 and the Alaska Forest Association proposal follow:

TLMP Alt 7 (w/modified S&Gs)	1,500,000	364
AFA (State FPA)	1,800,000	334

George described AFA's interest in a timber land base that is constrained only by the State Forest Practices Act not the TLMP conservation strategy which includes old-growth reserves, beach-fringe buffers, larger riparian buffers, and a variety of standards and guidelines. The timber industry is less interested in specific watersheds but rather would like access to a land base upon which they can apply intensive timber management.

The group had a short but intense discussion about what an integrated industry would look like and various ASQ levels on the Tongass.

The committee had a lengthy discussion of the potential of second growth harvest and the need for a comprehensive second growth inventory. Chris roughly estimated the future ASQ of all second growth under TLMP at > 300. Specific questions that need to be answered soon include:

- When (by decade) will second growth stands start coming on line?
- Where do they occur (by decade)?
- What volume per acre will they produce?
- At what point can the industry be cutting 50% second growth?
- How much and where does second growth occur by suitable and non-suitable status?
- How much old growth is needed to fill the timber gap before second growth becomes available?

A recommendation was made by Chris to seek consensus on several conservation scenarios that could provide various levels of ASQ starting at 50 and moving up to 100 and perhaps 150 ASQ. The group discussed this and agreed to prepare two scenarios (50 & 100) for the next full RT meeting: Since we already calculated a 64 ASQ that included all conservation filters, the next step will be to develop a consensus conservation scenario for an ASQ of 100.

The group also discussed the need to develop various economic filters that could be applied to timber harvest areas.

**Next Steps** (to be completed prior to the next full Tongass Roundtable meeting):

1. Conservation groups reach consensus on two conservation alternative maps that can achieve the following timber production goals:
  - 50 ASQ
  - 100 ASQ
2. Provide accompanying maps for the two ASQ levels described above.
3. Review the second growth inventory needs and forward a recommendation to the young-growth committee to make this a priority recommendation to the Forest Service.
4. Identify economic filters that could be applied to timber harvest areas.
5. Evaluate ASQ under a Forest Practices Act constraint and address regulatory issues of applying that on Forest Service lands.