

Tongass Futures Roundtable
c/o The Nature Conservancy in Alaska
Southeast Alaska Field Office
119 Seward Street, #2
Juneau, AK 99801

April 25, 2007

Tongass National Forest
Attn: Forest Plan Adjustment
648 Mission Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tongass Futures Roundtable submits to the USDA Forest Service the attached documents as its comment on the proposed Tongass Land Management Plan Amendment.

The Tongass Futures Roundtable is composed of stakeholders within the Forest representing diverse social, economic, political and geographic interests whose common purpose is to engage on a range of public policies 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. A membership list is enclosed for your reference.

The attached documents are the result of nearly a year of deliberations and reflect our consensus views developed thus far on the future of the Tongass.

Very Truly Yours,



Bruce Botelho
Administrative Committee Chair
On behalf of the Roundtable

CHARTER TONGASS FUTURES ROUNDTABLE

I. PURPOSE

The Tongass Futures 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.

II. 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 Purposes.

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

III. GOALS

A. Bridge Timber. 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.

B. TLMP Amendment. 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

Revised Charter

Adopted February 22, 2007

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- 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 “Tongass Future” and meaningfully incorporate the recommendations in the decision-making process.

C. Quality of Life. 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.

D. Sustainable Economy. 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

IV. MEMBERSHIP

A. General. Membership in the Roundtable is designed to be inclusive and welcoming to all those who care for the Tongass National Forest. Membership of the TFR will be those participants as founding members in Bothell, WA on May 17, 18 and 19, 2006 and Wrangell, AK on June 12 and 13, 2006, who have agreed to continue their participation, and as augmented by action of the TFR to assure full representation. Membership in the Roundtable is limited to 35 members. Beginning in 2007 the TFR will review its membership annually, or as necessary, to continue to assure full representation.

B. Alternates. The Roundtable expects each member to fully and actively participate in all Roundtable meetings. However, each Roundtable member may designate a single alternate. An alternate may fully participate in the Roundtable, but only in the absence of the member. The alternate shall have attended and observed at least one Roundtable meeting, and shall have agreed to assume the responsibilities of a Roundtable member, as set forth in Article VII below.

C. Withdrawal. The Roundtable may request the withdrawal of a member when that member or the alternate has failed to attend three consecutive meetings. In addition members may withdraw with notice to the Roundtable.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE ROUNDTABLE

A. Roundtable. The policy making body of the Roundtable is its membership when assembled.

B. Administrative Committee. The Roundtable is assisted by an administrative committee (whose members are selected by the Roundtable) responsible for coordinating and promoting efficiency and effectiveness of the Roundtable, especially between meetings of the Roundtable. Thus, based upon general directions from the Roundtable, the administrative committee can plan agendas, communicate with the media and undertake other ministerial tasks, but may not make policy or substantive decisions. It may meet telephonically, through other electronic means or face-to-face.

C. Roundtable Staff. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the National Forest Foundation (NFF) serve as primary staff for the Roundtable.

D. Facilitator. The Roundtable may make use of a facilitator to assist in achieving an understanding of its common objectives and a consensus on any disagreements that preexist or emerge in Roundtable meetings so that it has a strong basis for future action.

E. Work Groups. The Roundtable may charter Work Groups to address specific issues and develop options for consideration by the Roundtable. A Work Group will be chaired by one or more Roundtable members selected by the Roundtable. Work Groups are open to any Roundtable member or member of the public. Work Groups are not authorized to make decisions for the Roundtable as a whole. All Roundtable members will be notified of all Work Group meetings by Work Group Chairs.

VI. ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS

A. Meeting Schedule. Meetings, whether in person or by electronic means, will be held regularly at the time and place determined by the Roundtable.

B. Action/Decision Log. At the end of each meeting, the next meeting's location, dates, and desired/invited guests will be reviewed. An Action/Decision Log will be developed and reviewed. Each meeting will begin with a review of the Action/Decision Log developed at the previous meeting.

C. Notice of Meetings. Reasonable notice will be given of the time and place of Roundtable meetings. As a general rule, Roundtable meetings and Work Group meetings will be open to the public. Invited individuals, including specialists, may participate in Roundtable or Work Group meetings as needed and appropriate.

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D. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of the enrolled members. For purposes of this charter, “member” means an appointee to the Roundtable or the appointee’s designated alternate who may participate in all deliberations of the Roundtable, and may vote. If a quorum is not present at a Roundtable meeting, the members present may submit a matter to the full Roundtable for vote by electronic means.

E. Agenda. The Administrative Committee will seek to distribute a draft meeting agenda to the membership no later than one week in advance of the Roundtable. The Roundtable shall adopt an agenda for each meeting.

F. Rules of Order. The conduct of the meetings of the Roundtable shall be governed utilizing a facilitator until such time as the TFR determines otherwise.

G. Recess. A break for the purpose of consultation may be requested at any time by any Roundtable member. The person requesting the break will be asked for an estimate of the time needed for the consultation.

H. Meeting Materials. Roundtable staff shall distribute reference materials and other associated draft documents to each Roundtable member or their designated staff. Roundtable members, in turn, may distribute such materials to other interested parties at their discretion.

I. Media. All Roundtable meetings will be open to the news media. Roundtable members or participants who speak with the news media express their own views, but not the official Roundtable position unless authorized by the Roundtable. The facilitators and staff of the Roundtable may describe the group process and share materials with the media. Roundtable press releases or statements may be prepared for the media by the facilitator or staff at the direction of the Administrative Committee.

J. Public Participation in Meetings. Members of the public are encouraged to attend meetings of the Roundtable. The Roundtable gladly accepts written presentations and exhibits. Opportunity for oral comment will also be provided. Public comment must be germane to the subject matter under consideration by the Roundtable. The facilitator may set a time limit for public testimony, for individual speakers, or for the length of all public testimony and individual speakers, if it appears necessary strictly enforced.

K. Voting. The Roundtable will reach decision by consensus. However, approval for membership in the Roundtable shall be by 2/3 majority.

L. Reconsideration. Decisions reached by the Roundtable may be reconsidered upon notice by any member of the Roundtable. Reconsideration can be raised only at the meeting immediately following the meeting at which the decision to be reconsidered was taken.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

A. Good Faith. All members agree to act in a good faith effort to reach consensus in all aspects of the Roundtable's work by encouraging the free and open exchange of ideas, views, and information. All members accept that other participants bring with them the legitimate purposes and goals of their organizations. All parties recognize the legitimacy of the goals of others and assume that their own goals will also be respected. Personal attacks and prejudiced statements will not be tolerated.

B. Time. All members agree to give the Roundtable priority attention, staffing, and time.

C. Exchange of Information. The members of the Roundtable agree to exchange information in good faith. Members agree to provide information in advance of the meeting where such information will be necessary. All members agree not to divulge information shared by others in confidence outside of Full Roundtable and Work Group meetings. (public and private statements are the same – good faith).

D. Compensation of Services. The Roundtable shall not be responsible for pay, allowance, or benefits by reason of a member's service on the Roundtable.

E. Costs and Expenses. Members of the Roundtable are responsible for their travel and expenses, though in extraordinary cases these expenses may be reimbursed.

F. Code of Conduct. Members of the Roundtable are expected to abide by the Roundtable Code of Conduct.

Tongass Futures Roundtable
Draft Action / Decision Log
April 5, 2007

Roundtable Actions

1. Endorse Framework Committee Proposal (attached)
2. Approve Letter to USFS with TFR Decision Record (delegated to Admin Committee for approval)
3. Approve Tongass Futures Roundtable letter to Legislature to endorse funding a State Division of Forestry economic MOU with the US Forest Service. The MOU will allocate \$100,000 for collaboration in very early stages of timber sales.
3. Approve next meeting: Tentatively Petersburg in late August

Committee and Work Group Actions – To Do List

Administrative Committee (*Bruce Botelho, convener*)

Review and approve communications:

Letter to USFS with TFR Decision Record

Prepare pie chart of current membership

Establish stable funding and commitment for Tongass Futures Roundtable

Prepare and submit grant applications for Tongass Futures Roundtable

Prepare Application for Membership form

Prepare August Agenda Items

Design and propose process for member financial support

Circulate Charter proposal on Quorum and Voting Requirements

Circulate FACA pro and con statement and proposed action (if any)

Organize Foundations briefing – roles, focus

Framework Committee (*Chris Maisch, convener*)

Continue to explore the time-out concept

Develop a list of sales on which to collaborate

Develop a process that has the potential to provide volume in the short term for the timber industry and meet conservation needs

Next meeting scheduled Friday, April 13, morning time TBA

Quality of Life Work Group (*Denny Bschor & Byron Mallott, conveners*)

Review Committee Charter for possible amendment at August meeting

Prepare issues for August meeting

Sacred Sites proposal: Rob Sanderson, Byron Mallott, Murray Walsh, Rosita Worl, John Autrey

Land Tenure & Selection briefing: Rick Harris

Tongass / Southeast Alaska Heritage Area (strategy for marketing)

Climate Change resolution (Review resolution postponed from Craig)

Herbicide use (hold pending THCC resolutions)

Economic Sustainability Work Group (*Russell Heath, convener*)

Review Committee Charter for possible amendment at August meeting

Organize Presentations for August meeting

Southeast Economy: McDowell Group, Headwaters Economics, Wilderness Society

Role of USFS: What is the total role of USFS in developing the region's economy?

Consider process to address Mining, Tourism, Transportation, Energy

Develop collaborative project for entrepreneurs or local economic development

Second Growth Management Work Group (*Rick Harris, convener*)

Draft Committee Charter for action at August meeting

Plan for restoration

Plan for management of second growth

Initial members: Rick Harris, Scott Snelson, Jim Russell, Tricia O'Connor, Niel Lawrence, Eric Jones, Rob Sanderson, George Woodbury, Kirk Dahlstrom, Mark Rorick

Endorse a restoration partnership or projects to advance the process

Mapping Work Group (*John Schoen, convener*)

Draft Committee Charter for action at August meeting

Identify areas of Tongass with high biological or cultural values

Identify Tongass lands suitable for intensive management

Initial members: John Schoen, Dave Albert, Laurie Cooper, Joel Hanson, Gregory Vickery, Mark Kaelke, Michael Kampnich, Jim Russell, George Woodbury, Ron Wolfe

Framework Committee Proposal

April 5, 2007

The Forest Service, the timber industry and the conservation community agree to the following arrangement.

1. Timeline: Until March 1, 2008, unless one party gives 45 days notice to the other parties that they no longer support the arrangement.
2. Conservation organizations, the timber industry and Forest Service agree to work collaboratively on timber sales in previously roaded areas to review and offer suggestions to improve sale economics while still protecting resources.
 - Collaboration will look for opportunities to combine restoration work with commercial logging projects that are collaboratively designed, especially at the same time roads are reopened for timber sales.
 - Collaboration may also include working to develop smaller sales done on EAs to keep volume in the system while a full scale EIS is done from scratch.
 - Collaboration could also include working to develop timber sales with a second growth component that may work in the short-term to improve fish and wildlife habitat, provide timber volume, and to move toward transition from old-growth.
 - The collaboration process means that the timber industry and the conservation community would hire respective experts to represent their interest to work together and with the Forest Service and other experts to make recommendations to the Forest Service, and report to other groups, on how timber sales could be planned, offered and operated to improve sale economics while still protecting resources.

The specific timber sale issues the conservation community may support on a case-by-case basis include the following, all of which should be reviewed and evaluated periodically for both biological and economic effectiveness:

1. Use of lower impact temporary roads in place of "spec" roads.
2. Extension of some units of a developed-area timber sale into the margins of adjacent roadless areas may be considered, as long as connectivity and other significant habitat values are addressed.
3. Develop a commercial timber sale component in second growth to accomplish conservation goals and to provide commercial timber.
4. Flexibility on standards and guidelines may be considered, with the understanding that a modification to a standard or guideline does not set a precedent for future timber sales or future Forest Plans.

Tongass Futures Roundtable (TFR) – Framework Committee

Purpose

To prepare, by April 12th, a proposal to the Forest Service for the pending revision of the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) for at least one year that will include:

1. A 12 month time-out from timber sales in undeveloped areas of the Tongass;
2. Timber sales in developed areas of the Tongass, considering opportunities to optimize the implementation of standards and guidelines and an adaptive management approach that may integrate timber harvest with additional activities, such as restoration, in order to achieve additional economic and stewardship benefits;
3. Examination of the timber sale pipeline with an eye toward longer term Tongass management arrangements.

The proposal will allow the Forest Service and the Tongass Futures Roundtable Members to test the principles of significant common interest identified at the February 2007 meeting of the Tongass Futures Roundtable:

- Protect most intact watersheds with important values;
- Transition from old growth to second growth;
- Provide a steady, reliable and predictable supply of timber to the industry;
- Promote a forest and riparian stewardship program.

The TFR Framework Committee will work with the Forest Service to implement and monitor this one year test period, and will be active in development of a longer term plan.

The ultimate goal of the time out is to buy time to develop a conservation plan that can be supported widely. That plan might be implemented in any of a variety of ways, possibly including:

- The current amendment of the Tongass Land Management Plan;
- A future amendment of the TLMP;
- Legislation;
- Other opportunities.

DRAFT Time Out Concept

The Framework Committee will continue to explore the time-out concept.

This will involve intense collaboration similar to that done in the litigation settlement agreement.

A list of sales to collaborate on, and a process, will be developed, that have the potential to provide volume in the short term for the timber industry and meet conservation needs.

Tongass Futures Roundtable

Action / Decision Log

February 21-22, 2007

1. Revised Charter Approved
2. New members Approved
 - Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish & Game
 - Woody Widmark, Chief, Sitka Tribe of Alaska
 - Elaine Price, Coffman Cove
3. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as Roundtable fiscal agent Approved
 - Develop three-year plan and budget
 - TNC will seek funds to support Tongass Futures Roundtable, but fundraising is a shared commitment by all members
4. Creation of Framework Subcommittee Approved
 - Craft clear TLMP recommendations – basic framework: 12 month time-out from timber sales in undeveloped areas along w/timber sales going forward in currently developed areas of forest with examination and reshaping of the Standards and Guides to make them more economic; examine pipeline of existing timber sales.
 - Use for one-year period to test the framework and to more fully develop working relationships and a longer-term or permanent solution.
 - Membership: (Group that met in KTN) – Owen Graham, George Woodbury, Russell Heath, John Schoen, Kirk Dahlstrom, Niel Lawrence. Chris Maisch, Chair. John Sisk will staff the subcommittee from TNC; Larry Lunde will provide Forest Service tech support and Doug Larson will provide support from ADF&G.
5. Next Meeting Juneau April 5 Approved
 - Pre-meeting of subcommittee April 4

Tongass Futures Roundtable

Action / Decision Log

Nov 1-3, 2006

As there was not a Quorum at the November meeting, no formal actions were taken. The following are possible actions brought up at the November meeting.

1. Form a working group to articulate information on herbicide use and policies.
Work on gathering information and articulating a message for the next meeting.
 - Rob, Rick, Russell, Denny (staff).
2. Native Sites
 - A formal statement from the group to encourage the MOU process.
 - Long-term question of ownership of property in the ground.
3. Climate change
 - Urge FS and UA (and ADFHS & USFWS) to collaborate on climate change and temperate forest research.
 - Urge NOAA to base research vessels in AK
 - Climate change research proposal working group - Synthesize and create TFR Position. John, Deborah, Bruce B.
4. Ask the admin committee to formalize travel assistance policies; some kind of scholarship program so there is funding for those who don't have the needs to be here.
5. Admin Committee reorg
 - Core: Russell, Bruce, Rick, Olleke; Additional if they are interested: Niel, John S./Owen.
6. Next Meeting
 - Teleconference/Webcast meeting in January on Draft DEIS
 - Full in-person meeting of the Roundtable in late-February or early-March. Probably in Sitka, main topic – TLMP recommendations

TONGASS FUTURES ROUNDTABLE

April 2007

MEMBERS

1. Bruce Botelho, Mayor of Juneau
2. Tim Bristol, Director, Alaska Office, Trout Unlimited
3. Denny Bschor, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service Region 10
4. Forrest Cole, Supervisor, Tongass National Forest
5. Laurie Cooper, Rainforest Program Director, Alaska Wilderness League
6. Kirk Dahlstrom, Owner, Viking Lumber
7. Julie Decker, Seafood industry, Wrangell
8. Randy Hagenstein, State Director, The Nature Conservancy in Alaska
9. Joel Hanson, Captain, The Boat Company
10. Rick Harris, Vice President, Sealaska
11. Russell Heath, Director, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
12. Eleanor Huffines, Alaska Director, The Wilderness Society
13. Steve Kallick, Project Director, International Boreal Conservation Campaign, The Pew Charitable Trusts
14. Niel Lawrence, Director, Forestry Project, Natural Resources Defense Council
15. Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
16. Aileen Lee, Salmon Program Director, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
17. Chris Maisch, State Forester, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
18. Byron Mallott, Senior Fellow, Alaska Native Policy Center, First Alaskans Institute
19. Bill Possiel, President, National Forest Foundation
20. Elaine Price, City of Coffman Cove
21. Olleke Rappe-Daniels, Deputy Supervisor, Tongass National Forest
22. Carol Rushmore, Economic Development Director, City of Wrangell
23. John Schoen, Senior Scientist, Audubon Alaska
24. Ted Smith, Mayor, City of Petersburg
25. John Sturgeon, Representative, Koncor Forest Products
26. Ed Thomas, former President, Tlingit Haida Central Council
27. Sam Tucker, consultant, The Wilburforce Foundation
28. Marlyn Twitchell, Executive Director, The Campion Foundation
29. Bruce Wallace, Environmental Chair, United Fishermen of Alaska
30. Murray Walsh, Executive Director, Southeast Conference
31. Randy Wanamaker, Board of Directors, Goldbelt, Inc.
32. Dennis Watson, Mayor, City of Craig
33. Woody Widmark, Chair, Sitka Tribe of Alaska

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES

1. Botelho—no alternate designated
2. Bristol—Mark Kaelke, Trout Unlimited
3. Bschor—Paul Brewster, USDA Forest Service Region 10
4. Cole—Dennis Neill, Tongass National Forest
5. Cooper—Kristen Miller, Alaska Wilderness League
6. Dahlstrom—George Woodbury, Southeast Conference
7. Decker—no alternate designated
8. Hagenstein—no alternate designated
9. Hanson—Michael McIntosh, The Boat Company
10. Harris—no alternate designated

11. Heath—Buck Lindekugel, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
12. Huffines—no alternate designated
13. Kallick—no alternate designated
14. Lawrence—Brian McNitt, Alaska Rainforest Campaign
15. Lloyd—Doug Larsen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
16. Lee—Rhea Suh, The Hewlett Foundation
17. Maisch—Marty Freeman, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
18. Mallott—Rosita Worl, Sealaska Heritage Foundation
19. Possiel—Eric Jones, National Forest Foundation
20. Price—no alternate designated
21. Rappé-Daniels—no alternate designated
22. Rushmore—no alternate designated
23. John Schoen—no alternate designated
24. Smith—Leo Luczak, City of Petersburg
25. Sturgeon—Owen Graham, Alaska Forest Association
26. Thomas—Rob Sanderson, Tlingit Haida Central Council
27. Tucker—no alternate designated
28. Twitchell—no alternate designated
29. Wallace—no alternate designated
30. Walsh—no alternate designated
31. Wanamaker—no alternate designated
32. Watson—Michael Kampnich, City of Craig
33. Widmark—no alternate designated