

## **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.

## **Collaboration 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.