

# 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

- 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.

**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.