

## **Opportunity to Comment on Tongass National Forest Draft Plan Monitoring Program**

The USDA Forest Service, **Tongass National Forest**, is providing the opportunity to comment on an intended administrative change to the plan monitoring program for the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. The intended changes modify the current plan monitoring program to meet the eight requirements of 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5), part of the 2012 Planning Rule. The monitoring program must be made to conform to the rule by May 9, 2016, or as soon as practicable. The Tongass National Forest Draft Plan Monitoring Program describes the eight requirements and identifies which monitoring questions meet each of those requirements. It also outlines what changes are proposed to the existing monitoring program to better align the Draft Plan Monitoring Program with both the 2012 Planning Rule and the current Forest Plan. Future and deferred actions are also identified.

Once the plan monitoring program is modified to be consistent with the requirements, the forest supervisor will conduct a biennial evaluation, as required under Title 36 CFR 219.12(d), of the new information from the plan monitoring program and issue a written report, to be made available to the public. The report will indicate whether or not a change to the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, management activities, or the plan monitoring program may be needed, or if further assessment may be warranted, based on the new information.

The Tongass National Forest Draft Plan Monitoring Program is available online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/Monitoring>. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Cathy Tighe via phone 907-228-6274, email [ctighe@fs.fed.us](mailto:ctighe@fs.fed.us), or in person at 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

### **How to Comment and Timeframe**

Changes to the Plan Monitoring Program are administrative in nature. Under 36 CFR 219.13(c)(1), after considering comments submitted in response to this notice, the Forest Supervisor of the Tongass National Forest will approve, approve with modifications, or not approve the administrative change to modify the monitoring program.

Individuals and organizations wishing to comment should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. To be considered by the Forest Supervisor, your comments must be postmarked or received by the close of the comment period.

In all correspondence, please include your name, address, and organization name if you are commenting as a representative of an organization. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Ketchikan Daily News, the newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Send or hand-deliver written comments to: **Tongass National Forest, Attn: Cathy Tighe, 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901**. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: *8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.* Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Comments may also be faxed to 907-228-6215. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to [comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us) with "Plan Monitoring Program" in the subject line.