



File Code: 1950
Date: 01-18-2018

Dear Planning Participant:

The Forest Service would like to share a proposed action with you that we are developing for a landscape level analysis. We are calling this project the Central Tongass Landscape Level Analysis (CTLLA). The project area includes the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts on the Tongass National Forest (see attached map). In addition to National Forest System lands, the CTLLA project area includes state and privately-owned lands within the two ranger districts. Through the National Environmental Policy Act process, we plan to identify and analyze the environmental effects of a variety of activities that can be implemented over the next 10 to 15 years.

In short, this project aims to better meet the expectations of our partners and communities through an integrated approach to resource management. We will consider all potential opportunities for young-growth and old-growth timber harvest, sustainable recreation, watershed restoration, fish or wildlife habitat improvements and other components of local community interest within the project area. Local interest components include, but are not limited to, subsistence use and access, maintenance or improvement of forest infrastructure, and subsistence fuel wood gathering.

Central Tongass Landscape Level Analysis Purpose and Need

The **purpose** of this landscape level approach is to plan a project on a large spatial scale and increase the number of activities authorized in a single analysis and decision. A goal of this approach is to get more on-the-ground work done to better meet the expectations of our partners and our communities.

The **need** for this project arises from the differences between the existing and desired conditions within the project area. These needs include:

- Developing diverse natural resource employment opportunities;
- Maintaining existing recreation infrastructure and providing new opportunities in areas of interest to the public and/or the tourism industry;
- Improving watershed health through the implementation of restoration activities;
- Preserving or enhancing subsistence resources and access, and ensuring continued traditional and cultural uses for all residents;
- Providing a variety of wood products, including saw timber, in a reliable and economically efficient manner; and
- Implementing young-growth stand treatments that promote future commercial timber production, while also improving habitat for wildlife, fish, and aquatic organisms.

All activities this project proposes must meet the requirements of the 2016 Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), which guides everything we do. The CTLLA will strive to meet the needs listed above and move the existing condition of the project area toward the desired conditions of the Forest, and meet Forest-wide goals and objectives (2016 Forest Plan, pp. 2-1 to 2-6). An on-line copy of the Forest Plan can be found here:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/?cid=STELPRD3801708>.

Additionally, activities carried forward into the Central Tongass Landscape Level Analysis, must also comply with applicable laws and regulations such as the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act





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(ANILCA), Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Wilderness Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Air Act, Tongass Timber Reform Act, among others.

To help us better understand what is important to you within the CTLLA project area, we invite you to complete the enclosed questionnaire¹. Your input may be submitted via e-mail to comments-alaska-tongass-petersburg@fs.fed.us with 'CTLLA' in the subject line; or by fax to 907-772-5995.

Questionnaires may also be mailed to PO Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833, or hand-delivered to: David Zimmerman, District Ranger, Petersburg Ranger District, 12 North Nordic Drive Petersburg, AK 99833².

CTLLA project updates will be posted on the project webpage (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd568085>). If you would like to continue to receive information from the Forest Service regarding the CTLLA, please sign up to join our electronic mailing system for public outreach (https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new?topic_id=NEPA_53098_S). Or, if you wish to continue to receive paper communications, contact Marina Whitacre (mwhitacre@fs.fed.us or 907-772-3871).

Public meetings regarding this project are being planned for early March within the communities of Kake, Petersburg and Wrangell. More on these meetings will be posted on the project webpage and through public notices and electronic notifications. In the meantime, however, if you have questions about the project, please contact David Zimmerman, Petersburg District Ranger (dlzimmerman@fs.fed.us), or Carey Case, Team Leader (ccase@fs.fed.us) at 907-772-3871. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

M. EARL STEWART

Forest Supervisor, Tongass NF

Enclosures: CTLLA project area map and questionnaire

cc: David Zimmerman, Robert Dalrymple, Andi Slusser, Carey Case

¹ Make your input count. Please...State which forest practices, projects, infrastructure and activities you support, as well as those you don't. Organize your thoughts, keep them concise and clear, and please be respectful. We want to fully understand your ideas and suggestions. Use specific examples to illustrate your concerns and ideas, and offer solutions where possible.

² The district office business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Input received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action and will become a matter of public record.

