



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Alaska Region
Tongass National Forest

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Dear Reader,

Over the past several years, the Tongass National Forest has created a 5-year schedule of integrated forest management activities. We recently updated this effort and wanted to share the resulting Tongass Integrated Plan (TIP)¹ with you.

This TIP is groundbreaking as it incorporates community and collaborative input and priorities; aligning planning staff and budgets to increase efficiencies and effectiveness at the district and project level; integrating multiple programmatic activities in larger landscapes; and adding increasing volumes of young growth timber. The TIP creates immediate opportunities for a range of forest products and services, such as old and young growth timber harvest, biomass, or instream restoration work. The TIP utilizes the existing industry and workforce capacity and provides a stable and consistent program of work to encourage new business investment.

TIP activities include restoration and enhancement, sustainable forest management, and engineering. Recreation work on a landscape level will be incorporated as opportunities and funding allow. In addition to the larger, integrated projects on the TIP, single resource projects (i.e. a stream restoration project or a small timber sale) will continue to be offered and implemented. The individual 5-year program schedules include these projects.

As you look through the TIP, recognize that the projects represent our best estimate about the range of active forest management opportunities across the Forest. Flat or declining budgets and unpredictable markets will likely make it difficult to implement every project as currently planned. Yet, the collaborative input used to inform this TIP offers exciting opportunities for partnerships with communities, non-governmental organization (NGOs), businesses, Tribes and other stakeholders.

That said, I would like to recognize a host of partners and stakeholders that helped provide input into this effort. The list is long but at a minimum, we would like to recognize the Alaska Forest Association, the State of Alaska, tribal entities and the numerous NGOs that we work with on a regular basis. Years of collaboration and efforts to find common ground on the Tongass have informed the TIP.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Rick Abt or Karen Hardigg, Transition Framework Coordinator.

Sincerely,

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Forest Supervisor

¹ Please note: The TIP and associated 5-year programmatic plans are planning tools the Tongass uses to schedule potential work and align resources, not a decision document. All numbers are best estimates given current information, including budget allocations and NEPA analysis outcomes (if applicable). Numbers and scopes of projects are subject to change.

