

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### ***Why did USDA establish a Federal Advisory Committee on the Tongass?***

The Tongass is committed to transitioning to a young growth timber program within the next 10-15 years and is seeking new ideas and solutions to this challenge. An important strategy to developing common ground is engaging diverse stakeholders through a FACA Committee. This Committee is being asked make recommendations on forest management on the Tongass with emphasis on young-growth management; these recommendations may be included in the Forest Plan amendment. Establishing a FACA committee creates a collaborative path forward on young growth timber with clear timelines for action.

### ***How were members selected to serve on the Tongass Advisory Committee?***

The Secretary of Agriculture made selections from the 75 candidates who responded to the January, 2014 call for nominations. Committee members were selected based on their expertise, experience, community of interest, and demonstrated ability to work collaboratively on challenging problems.

### ***What is the timeframe for the committee's work?***

The Committee is expected to meet as frequently as once a month, beginning July 2014, with subcommittee meetings in between full group meetings. The Forest Service will request recommendations from the TAC no later than May 2015 and expects to release a Draft EIS for a forest plan amendment by August 2015.

### ***How will the committee be involved in the Forest Plan amendment?***

If the TAC is successful in developing recommendations in a timely manner, the recommendations can be considered for incorporation into the forest plan amendment. Once analyzed in the Draft EIS, the TAC will have an opportunity to see the effects on other resources and be able to adjust their recommendations, if necessary, for consideration as part of a final EIS.

### ***How can I get involved?***

All TAC meetings will be open to the public, with a portion of each agenda open for public comment. Agendas, notes, and documents for full Committee meetings will be shared on the Committee website. Meeting dates, times and locations will be posted in the Federal Register, and on the Tongass Advisory Committee page.