

28. Timber Resources: Adaptive Management Strategy

Goals: Provide for the continuation of timber uses and resources by the timber industry and Alaska residents. Manage the timber resources for timber production of saw timber and wood products from suitable forest lands made available for timber harvest on an even-flow, long-term, sustained-yield basis and in an economically efficient manner.

Objectives: Pre-commercially thin previously harvested suitable forestland. Evaluate non-clearcutting silvicultural systems. Seek to provide an economic timber supply sufficient to meet the annual market demand¹ for Tongass National Forest timber and the market demand for the planning cycle, up to a ceiling of the Forest Plan's allowable sale quantity, which is 2.67 billion board feet in the first decade. Manage young-growth to improve habitat for wildlife and commercial timber products. Review standards and guidelines for applicability to young-growth stands. Provide 2 to 3 years supply of volume under contract to local mills and then establish shelf volume² to maintain flexibility and stability in the sale program. Review the timber sale program and work with the state and other partners to implement changes that will keep an "economic timber" perspective throughout the process and monitor the implementation of these reforms to ensure they are consistently employed across the Forest.

Timber Resources Question: *Has a Timber Sale Adaptive Management Strategy threshold been reached, so that it is appropriate to move to the next phase?*

The evaluation criteria and sampling/reporting period are outlined below. No data relative to this question was reported.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criterion is volume harvested by fiscal year, which runs from October 1 to September 30. The timber program will be restricted to Phase 1 areas until harvest levels reach 100 million board feet (MMBF) for 2 consecutive fiscal years. After reaching the 100 MMBF harvest level for 2 consecutive fiscal years, timber management activities can be planned on Phase 2 areas, which includes all Phase 1 areas. After reaching 150 MMBF harvest levels for 2 consecutive fiscal years, timber management activities can be planned on Phase 3 areas, which include all Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas.

Sampling/Reporting Period

The timber sale accounting system is updated each month and reports are available monthly and summarized annually.

Monitoring Results

In FY2014, the Tongass offered 120 MMBF, sold 100 MMBF and had 449 MMBF in no-bid timber sales. Timber harvest for FY2014 was 39 MMBF and annual harvest has not exceeded 100 MMBF in the previous decade.

¹ The annual market demand forecast is a methodology used to set the short-term goals for the Tongass Timber Program – volume the Forest plans to offer in the current year, pending sufficient funding and sufficient National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-cleared volume. NEPA-cleared volume is defined as NEPA documents with a signed decision.

² Shelf volume is that volume that has been NEPA-cleared and is available for offer.

Evaluation of Results

The total volume harvested has not exceeded 100 MMBF in the last decade. Harvest less than 100 MMBF indicates that the Tongass timber sale planning efforts will continue in Phase 1 areas on the Forest.



Timber Resources Photo 1. Active logging operation, Tongass National Forest