Tongass Futures Roundtable

Purpose

The Tongass Futures Roundtable brings together a diverse group of stakeholders long involved in the Tongass to discuss how to incorporate our economic, cultural, and ecological values in public policy issues throughout the region. The Roundtable seeks to explore how a broad range of stakeholders can address these public policy issues and work together to achieve a long-term balance of healthy and diverse communities, vibrant economies, responsible use of resources, including timber, while maintaining the natural values and ecological integrity of the forest.

Convening Values

The Roundtable will include all of those who care for the Tongass by using open, inclusive, and transparent processes to reach out to all Tongass voices. The Roundtable will work to create a positive dialogue and find shared solutions to meet the Roundtable's purposes.

Recognizing that the governance of the Roundtable will evolve over time, this protocol is intended to guide it through its early existence. The Roundtable will review the protocol at its first meeting annually.

Goals

A. **Bridge Timber.** Support development of a bridge timber supply that allows a consensus stakeholder process to proceed and promotes predictability to members of the industry so that they can continue to invest in plant and equipment, and preserve their markets.

B. **Forest Management.** Reach consensus on specific topics that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A stabilized land base
  - Reach consensus on how to address ANCSA entitlements and other potential draws on Tongass National Forest lands
  - Reach consensus on which watersheds and other areas of the Tongass should be conserved
  - Reach consensus on which areas of the Tongass will allow timber harvest
- A long-term stable supply of timber
  - Assess feasibility of second growth timber
  - Address the economics and scale of logging before second growth is available, including the possibility of increasing supply.
  - Recommend ways for Congress and the administration to incentivize a restoration economy and promote predictability to members of the industry so that they can continue to invest in plant and equipment, and preserve their markets.
- Promote utilization of second growth management as soon as possible.

C. Quality of Life. Recommend how to protect our Southeast Alaska quality of life through the responsible stewardship of cultural, economic, and biological values.

Promote this goal by engagement that gives voice to and empowers all cultures and values.

- Identify ways to celebrate and enrich cultures, protect values, and strengthen opportunities for healthy communities and vibrant economies with secure jobs.
- Engage local and regional voices to empower communities to create healthy environments and vibrant economies.
- Identify ways to celebrate and enrich local and regional engagement with the Native peoples and rural communities of the Tongass.

D. Sustainable Economy. Advocate for Southeast Alaska to have a robust, community-based, diversified and sustainable economy.

- Address impediments, such as high energy costs, solid waste, and infrastructure.
- Promote new industries and businesses that create jobs and are economically and environmentally sustainable.
- Collaborate and provide guidance on:
  - Restoration projects
  - Promotion of entrepreneurial investments
  - Improvement of existing industry without impacting other users
  - Maximizing value-added resources
  - Green energy.
- Work toward a timber industry that has more continuity, sustainability and reliability

More Information

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