

Alaska Roadless Rule

July 16-20, 2018 - Core Team/Alaska Team Meeting
Regional Forester's Conference Room, Juneau, Alaska
Conference Line # 888-844-9904, Access Code 8178780

Overview of Agenda for the Week

Day	Overview
Day 1 - July 16, 2018	Introductions Overview of Direction/Intent/Timeline Discussions with Key Tongass & Regional Staff/Resource Specialists
Day 2 - July 17, 2018	Discussions with Key Staff/Resource Specialists, continued
Day 3 - July 18, 2018	Core Team Work with GIS Specialists/Resource Specialists as needed
Day 4 - July 19, 2018	Core Team Work (with EPB & AQM Directors, others as needed)
Day 5 - July 20, 2018	Core Team Work/Close-Out with Alaska Region Leadership

Meeting Objectives

- 1) Alaska Region Team attendees understand the current status of USDA's response to the State of Alaska's petition for roadless rulemaking, USDA/FS leadership direction and intent, and the timelines involved.
- 2) Alaska Roadless Core Team gain an understanding of the resource issues on the forests, how those issues relate to/are affected by the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR), and what needs to be included in an Alaska-specific Roadless Rule to appropriately address and/or account for those resource issues.
- 3) Alaska Roadless Core Team, with assistance as needed from Alaska Team, work with GIS staff to gain an understanding of current issues as mapped, such as:
 - RACR inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass v. 2008 Tongass Plan inventory, "roaded roadless," and 2008 Tongass Timber Sale Adaptive Management Strategy "phased entry" into roadless;
 - Location of Wilderness, LUD II, Tongass 77 watersheds, TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas, Old Growth Reserves, other non-development areas;
 - Transportation and Utility Systems, as mapped (including 4407 easements), and other access issues;
 - Timber suitability (including young growth); and
 - Potential hydroelectric and geothermal project areas.
- 4) Alaska Roadless Core Team & Alaska Region gain a common understanding of budget, NEPA contract, tribal consultation, and communication issues and processes/leads moving forward.
- 5) Alaska Roadless Core Team agree on Purpose and Need statement and a framework for a Proposed Action that can be shared with the State of Alaska to jump-start their collaborative efforts in submitting a proposed rule to USDA/FS.
- 6) Alaska Roadless Core Team/Alaska Team brief Alaska Region Leadership on outcomes, information needs, and next steps.

Agenda: Day 1 – July 16, 2018

Time	Topic	Who
8:30	Welcome & Introductions Overview of Direction/Intent/Timeline	Chad Van Ormer, Director, R10 EPB Nancy Rusho, Co-Project Mgmt. Lead
9:30	Overview of Core Team/IDT Needs	Ken Tu, IDT Lead
10:00	Break (<i>Alaska Roadless Core Team set up for resource discussions</i>)	
10:30	2016 Tongass Forest Plan Amendment Overview and Discussion	Alaska Roadless Core Team Sue Howle, 2016 Tongass IDT Lead Sue Jennings, Tongass Planner
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Forest/Timber Management	Alaska Roadless Core Team Dave Harris, R10 FM Director Charley Streuli, Tongass Staff Officer Cynthia Sever, Tongass Timber Planner
3:00	Break	
3:15	Forest/Timber Management, continued, with market demand and timber economics discussion	Alaska Roadless Core Team Dave Harris, R10 FM Director Charley Streuli, Tongass Staff Officer Cynthia Sever, Tongass Timber Planner Nicole Grewe, Regional Economist Jean Daniels, Research Forester, PNW Su Alexander, PNW
4:30	Overview of Day/Prep for Day 2	Alaska Core Team

Initial Questions for Forest/Timber Management Group

- 1) Who are the key players for the timber industry?
- 2) Who best understands the politics/history behind timber management/timber industry?
- 3) How does the RACR affect timber management, and what kind of change (in the rule) would help the Forest Service address the issues related to timber management (including available forest lands, access to timber, timber economics, etc.)?
- 4) Are there roadless areas where different management regimes might work (such as allowing young growth harvest and restoration activities, and road access for those activities, but prohibiting old growth harvest)?
- 5) Would a “phased entry” approach make sense (such as starting with 2008 roadless inventory and not entering “Phase 2” or higher level roadless areas until harvest levels warranted it)?
- 6) Are there timber management issues on the Chugach or any interest in a timber program?
- 7) From your perspective, what makes sense in Alaska?
- 8) What are the key differences in timber harvest/transport between Alaska and the lower 48?
- 9) What is the state of the vegetation data for both the Tongass and the Chugach, and what analysis approach is recommended for assessing the effects of any proposed roadless rule?

Agenda: Day 2 – July 17, 2018

Time	Topic	Who
8:30	Wildlife	Alaska Core Team Cheryl Carrothers, Regional WLF Program Manager
9:30	Minerals & Geology	Alaska Core Team Jeff DeFrest, Regional Geologist
10:30	<i>Break</i>	
10:45	Economics (non Timber)	Alaska Core Team Nicole Grewe, Regional Economist Jean Daniels, Research Forester, PNW
12:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
1:00	Watershed and Fisheries	Alaska Core Team Don Martin, Regional Fisheries Program Manager
2:00	Hydropower and Energy	Alaska Core Team Melissa Dinsmore, Tongass Lands Specialist
3:00	<i>Break</i>	
3:15	Recreation	Alaska Core Team Sharon Seim, Wilderness/Trails Program Manager
4:15	Chugach National Forest	Alaska Core Team Deyna Kuntzsch, Chugach Planning Staff Officer Kori Marchowsky, Chugach Environmental Coordinator

Initial Questions for each Resource Group

- 1) Who are the key players for this resource?
- 2) Who best understands the politics/history behind the resource?
- 3) How does the RACR affect the resource, and what kind of change (in the rule) would help the Forest Service address that (including available forest lands, access, economics, etc.)?
- 4) Are there roadless areas where different management regimes might work (such as allowing road construction for certain activities)?
- 5) By opening roadless areas to forest management and road construction, what other limiting factors are out there?
- 6) From your perspective, what makes sense in Alaska?
- 7) What is the state of resource data for both the Tongass and the Chugach, and what analysis approach is recommended for assessing the effects of any proposed roadless rule?

Agenda: Day 3 – July 18, 2018

Time	Topic	Who
8:30	Lands (Including 4407 easements, land exchanges, ANILCA access, etc.)	Alaska Core Team Melissa Dinsmore, Lands Specialist
9:30	Subsistence (issues/requirements)	Alaska Core Team Terry Suminski, Tongass Program Lead Tom Whitford, Regional Program Lead
10:15	Break	
10:30	Transportation	Alaska Core Team Amanda Warner Thorpe, Transportation
11:15	GIS and mapping/review work, with input from resource specialists as needed.	Alaska Core Team Tom Heutte, GIS Program Manager Kim Homan, Geospatial Program Manager
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	GIS and mapping work, continued.	Alaska Core Team Tom Heutte, GIS Program Manager Kim Homan, Geospatial Program Manager
4:00	Mendenhall Glacier field trip, visitor use discussion, group dinner.	All (will take RSVP on Monday) Randy Coleman & Maria Lisowski

Initial Mapping Needs

- 1) 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule inventory map, Tongass and Chugach National Forests.
- 2) 2008 Tongass Forest Plan inventory map, with Phases 1, 2, and 3 indicated.
- 3) Tongass Commercial Forest Land map.
- 4) Section 4407 easements map.
- 5) Hydroelectric development map (most likely areas for development).
- 6) Mineral potential map.
- 7) Tongass 77 Watersheds and TNC/Audubon Conservation Priority Areas.
- 8) 2016 Tongass Plan Amendment ROD map.

Field Trip & Group Dinner

The fish and bears have arrived at the Mendenall Glacier Visitor Center (MGVC), and John Neary, MGVC Director, may be available to give an overview of how visitor use has increased, and changed, over the years, and how the MGVC is responding to that change.

The location of the group dinner afterwards will depend on the weather, but Randy Coleman (worked on Tongass exemption rule) and Maria Lisowski (former R10 EPB Director, R10 Deputy Lands Director, and R10 OGC attorney) will attend to answer any questions the Core Team may have for them.

Agenda: Day 4 – July 19, 2018

Time	Topic	Who
8:30	Budget discussion.	Alaska Core Team Chad Van Ormer, R10 EPB Director
10:00	<i>Break</i>	
10:15	NEPA contract discussion.	Alaska Core Team Chad Van Ormer, R10 EPB Director Lauren McChesney, R10 NEPA Coordinator Scott Langston, R10 AQM Director Jon Gellings, Contract Specialist
12:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
1:00	Communication issues and processes, talking points, briefing papers, etc.	Alaska Core Team Kaari Carpenter, R10 Acting Director Dru Fenster, R10 Public Affairs
3:00	Coordination with State of Alaska, status of MOU, next steps.	Alaska Core Team Chad Van Ormer, R10 EPB Director Pam Wiese, Grants & Agreements
4:00	Overview of week, prep for close-out with Regional Leadership on Friday.	Alaska Core Team

Initial Topics to Discuss/Decisions to be Made

- 1) \$2,000,000 in State and Private funds – how much to the State of Alaska, with the remaining for NEPA contract?
- 2) Funding for Alaska team/employees – how many need to be dedicated to the project, and how many others will work on it as “other duties as assigned?”
- 3) Developing a Scope of Work or Request for Proposals.
- 4) Any other contracting needs besides NEPA, Response to Comments, Project Record?
- 5) Status of the MOU with the State of Alaska.
- 6) Status of any other offers/requests for Cooperating Agency status (including tribal).
- 7) Communications issues and processes – who has the lead?
- 8) Tribal consultation – status of documents to be shared, who has the lead, etc.
- 9) Next steps.

Agenda: Day 5 – July 20, 2018

Time	Topic	Who
8:00	Discussion/Overview of Week with Regional Leadership	Alaska Core Team Dave Schmidt, Acting RF Jerry Ingersoll, DRF Earl Stewart, Tongass Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron, Chugach Forest Supervisor Staff Directors and Forest Staff Officers
9:00	Review Purpose and Need statement, NOI, contract language, briefing papers, etc.	Alaska Core Team
10:00	Break	
10:15	Tribal Consultation – materials, process, communication strategy Heritage	Alaska Core Team Melinda Hernandez-Burke, Tribal Relations Keri Hicks, Regional Heritage Program Lead
12:15	Lunch	
1:15	Framework for Proposed Action – ideas/language to include, mapping needs, coordination with State of Alaska, etc.	Alaska Core Team
3:15	Break	
3:30	Close Out/Review, Next Steps	Alaska Core Team Chad Van Ormer, R10 EPB Director