

TTC Advisory Team Meeting 1/9/2026

SUMMARY

Tongass Forest Planning

Priscilla M – Plan Revision status

The Forest Plan Revision draft assessments were released on October 15th, 2025. The Notice of Intent (NOI) is currently going through the clearance process. Meetings to engage the public will be taking place in April.

Bob C – Citizens (or Community Emphasis) Alternative

Bob is looking for feedback on the three draft documents he sent to Advisory Team members this morning: 1) a proposed vision for young growth, 2) the draft “community alternative”, which is very similar to the draft he circulated previously, and 3) a draft survey form for collecting feedback on the draft community alternative.

The survey form will go live next Wednesday (January 2st) with technical support from Spruce Root. The form should be viewed as a “sneak preview” of what the Forest Service will be using in their public engagement process – it employs a similar format.

Ralph P, Anthony M– Tribal engagement in the planning process and other Tribal updates

The first cooperating agency meetings between Tribal leaders and the Forest Service to discuss Tribal input on the Forest Plan Revision process are occurring this week. The Tribal Alliance is a vehicle for keeping Tribes across the region engaged in the process.

In response to a question about whether there is a common view within the Tribal Alliance about young growth opportunities it was clarified that the Alliance is examining long term solutions - achieving a balance between young growth and old growth. The Alliance is comfortable with Tlingit Haida being in the lead since they are the most active Tribal entity in this space and bring both forestry expertise and cultural awareness to the issue.

Tessa A – Alaska Forest Association (AFA) advocacy with regards to the Forest Plan Revision

Any delays in the release of the NOI will be problematic. AFA wants to see how the Forest Plan will address old growth and is also interested in the future of young growth – e.g., with respect to young growth markets and the potential for utilizing young growth for home

construction - and will participate actively in the Forest Plan Revision process. The forest products industry is diverse – some within the industry need old growth and others need young growth.

Regional economic prosperity

Andrew T – Ongoing projects / Foundation building for the Southeast AK forest sector of the future

Andrew's organization, the Sitka Conservation Society, has recently acquired funding to support young growth utilization within high school settings and for long term timber planning.

Andrew shared a draft conceptual framework for describing the services that are derived from the forest, and what needs to happen (e.g., scheduling sales, workforce development, transport, economic clusters, and community buy-in) to build the foundation for a prosperous timber economy of the future in Southeast AK. The draft framework draws upon timber inventory estimates, the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendations, and SASSfm investments, and it aligns with what Bob C and Tessa A have been discussing.

Vision - It was noted that the TAC's vision statement might be a useful starting point for defining a future vision for the forest sector.

Brian K, Mike C – Timber volume estimates and long term young-growth wood products industry roadmap

Having finished the young growth volume availability assessment Brian K is now working on the old growth piece, He is about seven to eight weeks out from producing a final report. Once finished his report will be uploaded to the State's website.

Mike C described the simple analysis he conducted a while ago for determining an estimate of future timber volume estimates based on an 80-year rotation for young growth and a 250-year rotation for old growth. He clarified that it was not a planning exercise but rather just a methodology that anyone could use and modify. Actual planning will require on-the-ground work, taking into account the variability that exists across the forest.

Jeremy D, Mike C – State DOF updates

Work is underway to finalize the shared stewardship, good neighbor authority (GNA) and other agreements with the Forest Service. They are anticipated to be finalized within the next couple of weeks. A new master agreement is being drafted as well.

Robert V - Tongass by the Numbers, Forest Campus concept

The “Tongass by the Numbers” endeavor encompasses all economic sectors (not just timber). With regards to the forestry campus idea, work is on-going, e.g., developing a pellet mill in Klawock in partnership with Tlingit and Haida and with support from the town of Klawock.

Mike C – Workforce development

Mike is continuing to work on a training program for entry level forestry technicians. It will involve a series of occupational endorsements that would qualify applicants to sit for the Society of American Foresters (SAF) forest technician exam. The hope is that the first courses will be offered within a year. Tessa suggested that AFA’s scholarship program might be a potential source of funding for students in need to participate. Andrew and Robert expressed interest in helping with outreach to encourage enrollment.

Wrap up discussion

Connie will follow up with Andrew, Bob and others interested in the “foundations” work about the possibility of a convening of some sort to help align their respective initiatives and to discuss funding strategies.

She will also be working with SEC in the near future to update the TTC website so that it can better serve as an information hub and shared workspace.

The next Advisory Team meeting will take place on Friday February 6th.