

TTC Advisory Team Call 3/6/2026 Call Summary

Meeting Participants: Tessa Axelson, Bob Christensen, Dan Kirkwood, Brian Kleinhenz, Anthony Mallot, Priscilla Morris, Julia Nave, Greg Palmieri, Andrew Thoms, Robert Venables, Ralph Wolfe.
Staff: Connie Lewis

Upcoming TTC Workshops / Full Member Meeting

Tongass National Forest Plan Revision - TTC is hosting a virtual workshop on Wednesday, March 18 from 1:00-3:30pm to help TTC members get oriented to the Tongass Forest Plan revision process, review the draft Tongass Community Alternative that Bob Christensen has been working on, and take a deeper dive into the Need for Change assessment. Erin Mathews, the Plan Revision Coordinator will be presenting. One of the goals is to help workshop participants get their NOI scoping comments ready to submit by the comment deadline of March 20th.

Timber Supply – This workshop will focus on reports/analysis from Terra Verde regarding both YG and OG timber volume assessments and potential for future harvest in the short to mid-term on the suitable land base with an emphasis on the road networks that would be required. The goals of the workshop are to get everyone up to speed on latest available information; provide attendees the opportunity to ask questions, dig into assumptions, and to discuss possible implications, potential viable management scenarios, etc. There was a request to include consideration of other uses such as recreation that are potentially impacted by timber harvest in the discussion. The timing of the workshop will depend on when the latest Terra Verde report becomes publicly available, likely towards the end of April or early May. The tentative plan is for a hybrid half day session in conjunction with the TTC member meeting in approximately mid-May.

Young Growth Future – This workshop will focus on the future of YG in the region, in anticipation of a significant increase of YG supply in the coming years as stands mature. Goals of the workshop include a potential common vision/aspirational statement(s) about what a desirable YG future might look like, and actionable proposals, investments, plans, action items etc. for building towards that future (e.g. with regards to markets, transportation, workforce training, small mills, energy sector utilization, PCT etc.) and for how to take advantage of and build upon initiatives and activities that are already in development, (e.g., Bob Christensen’s draft roadmap and Andrew Thom’s foundations pieces that provide possible frameworks; the wood utilization team; SEC “Tongass by the Numbers” economic analysis; support for small mill owners; forestry workforce training; forestry campus initiative, etc.). We anticipate discussion in plenary and break-outs about challenges, needs, current deficiencies/gaps, additional opportunities that need to be explored/developed, what would be helpful to move things forward, and what if any role TTC might play (e.g., help disseminating information, supporting task groups, hosting additional workshops / convenings on specific topics, help with coordination, etc.). The tentative plan is to conduct the workshop as an in-person event the day before the TTC all member meeting in May, exact dates TBD.

TTC All Member Meeting - The Team discussed scheduling a TTC all member meeting in mid-May. Connie will try to find dates that work for the majority of members.

Updates from Team Members

Sitka Conservation Society (Andrew Thoms) – The Youth in the Woods endeavor to engage students in cabin construction is going well, and efforts are underway to support mills in the Petersburg area.

Shared Stewardship (Priscilla Morris) - The Shared Stewardship Agreement between the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Service was recently signed. It reinforces the collaborative partnership between the State and the Forest Service to implement shared stewardship across jurisdictional boundaries and to develop a timber action plan by the end of calendar year 2026. A copy of the Agreement will be posted on the TTC website.

Tribal concerns (Ralph Wolfe) - Ralph and others have become increasingly frustrated at the amount of time they are having to invest in countering an array of decisions that are negatively impacting Tribal interests (e.g., the accelerated timeline for the Tongass Plan Revision process, what’s happening with the roadless rule, the Revelle timber sale, etc.).

Southeast Conference (Robert Venables) – The pellet mill project is well underway. The mill, which is being developed in partnership with Tlingit and Haida will be housed at Generation Southeast in Klowack, is supposed to ship out in about 30 days. It will help to monetize the waste stream and provide opportunities for training and employment for local people. The Forest campus idea which could provide shared equipment for small mill owners and a “Tongass by the Numbers” research project continue to be of interest but need funding to move forward.