

TTC Advisory Team Meeting April 10, 2026

Key Take-Aways

Participants: Brian Kleinhenz, Andrew Thoms, Robert Venables, Ralph Wolfe

Key takeaways:

- The TTC all-member meeting was confirmed to take place May 6-7 in Ketchikan at the SE AK Discovery Center
- There was a request to schedule Advisory Team members at a different time and/or different day of the week – rather than on Friday afternoons. Connie will seek to find a day/time that is more convenient for a majority of AT members.
- Challenges related were noted with the Forest Plan EIS comment period roll-out. Issues mentioned including scheduling and coordination; lack of focus on long term thinking; little opportunity to engage in creative, new thinking – as opposed to just responding to existing proposed language; continuing over emphasis on timber to the exclusion of other uses.
- There is a need for TTC to advocate for a management vision that is commonly held (not based on adversarial positional rhetoric) – perhaps a white paper.
- Transportation infrastructure is not receiving enough attention, even as threats from landslides, closures, alder over-growth, Clean Water Act violations, lack of maintenance etc. increase. TTC should proactively help to document needs and develop proposals/seek resources/be an advocate for solutions.
- SEC is continuing to advocate for a comprehensive economic study (e.g., “Tongass by the Numbers”) of all economic sectors in the region.
- The organizational realignment of the Forest Service raises significant concerns about staff attrition, loss of valuable research capacity