

**Tongass Land Management Plan
Interagency Conservation Strategy Review:
An Assessment of New Information Since 1997**

Workshop: April 10-14, 2006

Workshop Format/Process

Introduction

During the week of April 10-14, 2006, the Tongass National Forest will host the Tongass Conservation Strategy Review (CSR) workshop at the Ted Ferry Center in Ketchikan. The workshop will bring together scientists, technical experts, and land managers with expertise in conservation biology and natural resource management that could be relevant to the Tongass Forest Plan conservation strategy. The workshop will be open to the public.

The objectives of the workshop are to: 1) facilitate robust discussion between an interagency Workgroup and invited scientific and technical experts regarding new information attained since 1997 that may be relevant to the conservation strategy; and 2) generate and discuss science-informed “Considerations” relative to the strategy. “Considerations” might include identification of the need to attain additional information or conduct additional analysis regarding a scientific question or issue, the need for change to the conservation strategy, or other investments or work. Because the Tongass National Forest is currently undertaking work that could lead to amendments to the Forest Plan, the proceedings of the conservation strategy workshop can also be expected to inform those efforts.

This paper explains:

- The process and format that has been designed for the workshop agenda sessions.
- Opportunities for audience input.
- Recording and documentation of workshop proceedings.
- Staff and equipment to support the workshop.

Agenda Sessions – Process & Format

The workshop agenda includes four main sections involving presentations and/or Workgroup discussion:

- I. Presentations to “set the stage” for the workshop.
- II. Presentations related to specific CSR topics, followed by Workgroup questions, discussion and development of considerations relevant to the topic area with the presenters and collaborators
- III. Workshop integration session.
- IV. Workshop closeout session.

- I. **Setting the Stage** – Introductory sessions on Monday morning, April 10, will include introductions, objectives, outcomes, presentations to provide overviews/context for the workshop.

Process/Format: Presentations by USFS (workshop host), facilitator and invited presenters. Workgroup participates in question/answer sessions and follow-up discussion.

II. **Specific CSR Topics: Expert Presentations, Workgroup Discussion and Processing of Considerations**

Process/Format: For each specific topic area session, the process and format will be:

- A. **Presentations** – On Monday afternoon through Thursday, April 10-13, presentations will be given by invited presenter(s), in collaboration with others with relevant scientific and/or management expertise. A lead topic presenter will be identified. Presenters and collaborators will be provided a guidance packet and coaching by someone familiar with the conservation strategy to ensure the presentation targets relevant information.

Presenters will be asked to address the following topics, as appropriate to their specific topic area. The intent is that the presenters/collaborators will review new scientific or other relevant information since 1997, present a summary of key findings regarding what the new information means with regard to the Tongass conservation strategy, and provide “Considerations” for the workshop record and the Workgroup to discuss regarding the strategy.

1. Context: *Brief overview of the historical relationship between the topic and the CS* – Brief description of the role of the topic in the development of the CS and the element of the CS the topic relates to (e.g. design feature, assumption, approach of strategy).
2. New Information Since 1997: *Summary of the new information on the topic since 1997 that could bear upon the CS* – Examples of new information include inventories, monitoring, or research that inform us about: S&G implementation challenges, factors affecting viability (e.g. habitat use, reproductive success, reproduction rate, genetics, mobility), conservation planning approaches, and the historic range of variability in Southeast Alaska.
3. Findings: *Summary of the bearing of the new information on the CS* – Description of the meaning of the new information relative to the CS.
4. Considerations: *Considerations for the workshop record and Workgroup discussion* – Based on findings and professional judgment, presenters will provide “Considerations” relative to the conservation strategy. As noted above, considerations might include identification of the need to attain additional information or conduct additional analysis regarding a scientific or technical question or issue, the need for change to the conservation strategy,

or other investments or work. Considerations will include the following information:

- The Consideration – Based on the new information and what it means relative to the CS, what should be considered?
- What would be required to implement the consideration – e.g., skill level, level of scientific rigor, time/effort involved, etc?
- What would be the expected product/output of the consideration?
- How could that product/output be used?

B. Workgroup Questions, Discussion & Development of Additional Considerations – Following each specific CSR topic presentation, the Workgroup will participate in a facilitated discussion with the presenter(s) and collaborators to clarify and further understand the topic, especially as it may relate to overall understanding, implementation and monitoring of the conservation strategy.

It is anticipated that during the discussions, additional considerations relevant to the topic area will be generated. These considerations will be crafted in the same format that will be used by presenters (described above) and become part of the workshop record.

Potential prompting questions for the Workgroup discussion could include:

- Are there any clarifying questions for the presenter(s)/collaborators, regarding the new information since 1997 or the findings they have presented based on that new information?
- Are there clarifying questions regarding how the new information is being interpreted by the presenter(s)/collaborators to support the considerations they have recommended?
- Are there additional considerations that the Workgroup members would propose to address the topic area?

While the focus of the facilitated discussion will be among the Workgroup, topic presenters and collaborators, the Workgroup members may choose to call on other subject matter experts who are not seated at the presenter/collaborators table for the session to answer specific questions or contribute to the discussion.

C. Preparation for the Workshop Integration Session – As new information accumulates during the workshop, it is anticipated there will be information and opportunities relevant to more than the presented topics themselves. Therefore, most of the last day of the workshop will be dedicated to capturing some of these opportunities. This opportunity to integrate various aspects of multiple topics should yield high potential payoffs because of the expertise available and the freshness of the information shared during the workshop.

To assist with preparation for the Workshop Integration Session, the Tongass National Forest has also assembled an Integration Staff Group whose task will be to listen to all presentations and Workgroup discussions, and to identify high payoff opportunities to integrate the considerations. The Integration Staff Group will help develop the agenda for the integration exercise on Friday, April 14, and will present that information at the beginning of that day.

- III. Workshop Integration Session** – The Workshop Integration Session on Friday, April 14, is the time for the Workgroup to discuss key issues relevant to the conservation strategy, identify considerations or packages of considerations with a higher potential pay-off or benefit, etc. The Integration Session will also provide a forum for discussion of opportunities to coordinate and/or combine considerations to increase their potential benefit, improve and align investment opportunities, etc.

The session will begin with an Integration Staff Group report, which will propose an agenda of topics to discuss during the Integration Work Session, with rationale for the topic list. The Integration Staff Group will interact with workshop staff, the Workgroup and others throughout the week to ensure that they will be on point with their presentation and suggested integration agenda topics.

Following the panel presentation, the Workgroup will participate in a facilitated work session / discussion to meet the objectives of the integration session described above. During this session, the Workgroup members may choose to call on other subject matter experts to answer specific questions or contribute to the discussion

- IV. Workshop Closeout Session** – The closeout session will provide an opportunity to discuss how the Workshop proceedings will be circulated for review, finalized and potentially prepared for publication. The closeout session will also evaluate the process and outcome of this conservation strategy review, and suggestions for future reviews.

Opportunities for Audience Input

The audience at the workshop will include subject matter experts (when they are not participating in a session as a presenter/collaborator) and members of the public at large. During specific CSR topic sessions, the audience will be invited to submit written considerations for the workshop record. The same form that is being used by presenters and the Workgroup to describe considerations will be provided for the audience's use. All considerations submitted by audience members will be included in the workshop record.

The public is also welcome to submit considerations relevant to the CSR via the project website, through April 21. The web site is <http://tongass-constratreview.net/>

Workshop Recording and Documentation

The entire workshop will be tape-recorded. The Tongass National Forest has contracted for a complete workshop proceedings to be prepared for distribution to workshop participants and included in the public record. At the workshop closeout session,

workshop staff will discuss how the proceedings will be drafted, circulated for review, and finalized. The final proceedings could be prepared for publication in the future.

Staff and Equipment to Support the Workshop

The Tongass Forest will ensure that the workshop is fully supported with the staff and equipment needed to meet its objectives completely and efficiently. Two computer/power point stations will be available to support scientific presentations, while allowing a second station to be used to access digital information or the web, and/or to compose text to capture considerations drafted during the workshop. Staff will be available to completely support workshop recording, documentation, procedures for audience input, etc.