

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

**GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPING PRESENTATIONS  
March 14, 2006**

**Introduction**

This document is intended to help guide the development of information and presentation for the Tongass Conservation Strategy Review (CSR) workshop. The workshop will be held April 10-14, 2006, at the Ted Ferry Center in Ketchikan. It will bring together scientists, technical experts, and land managers with expertise in conservation biology, natural resource management, and the Tongass Forest Plan conservation strategy (CS).

Central to the CSR workshop is the premise that, based on information developed up to 1997, the fundamental design of the conservation strategy is a scientifically defensible foundation for meeting biodiversity and other ecological goals and requirements of the Tongass Forest Plan. In addition, the degree of Forest Plan implementation since 1997 is much lower than what the CS was designed for and this makes a review of its effectiveness impractical. Therefore, the CSR workshop will focus on bringing forward new scientific, technical, and professional information since 1997 that might further our knowledge base for the CS and inform the acquisition of new information and amendments to the Forest Plan. The workshop will be structured around presentations of the new information with an emphasis on discussion and review. Key products from the workshop will be considerations for the CS that may inform future information investments in, and the design and implementation of, the CS and the workshop proceedings.

The workshop will be open to the public and all proceedings and documentation will be public documents.

**Definition of Terms**

Below are definitions of key terms that are used throughout this guidance and will be used at the CSR workshop. These definitions describe much of what this workshop is, how it is organized, and how presenters should prepare.

Topics and Topic Sessions: The CSR workshop agenda is organized around general **topics** (e.g. northern goshawk, brown bear, other mammals) for which there are new information since 1997 that might inform the CS. The presentation and discussion of a topic is called a **topic session**.

Topic Contributors, Collaborators, and Presenters: Development of information for a topic will require the input of several knowledgeable specialists and experts called **contributors**. The level of input by individual contributors will vary. **Collaborators** are those contributors who make a major contribution towards the development of the presentation. The collaborators include the **presenter** and those who will accompany the presenter in the front of the room when they make their presentation to the Workgroup (see definition below).

Topic Lead: The development of information for a topic will be coordinated by the **topic lead**. The topic lead is one of the **topic collaborators**. The main responsibilities of the topic lead are to, with the help of the contributors, lead the development of the topic presentation, give the topic presentation, ensure that there is a logical flow to information presented, that information presented is not redundant, and that it is concise and integrated into the findings and considerations (see definition below) for that the topic. In addition, the topic lead will provide the coach (see definition below) an initial draft of the presentation outline as soon as possible and a draft of the PowerPoint presentation a week prior to the workshop. Topic leads are asked to stay for the entire workshop if at all feasible (for further information see Workshop Process and Format below).

Considerations: For each topic, contributors will work together to develop **considerations** for the CS. Considerations may take many forms including: information investments, stay the course with a particular aspect of the CS, change an aspect of the CS, and make an addition to the CS. Examples of types of information investments include: research, inventories, monitoring, and task teams to investigate changes to the CS. All considerations should be based on the information presented and the professional judgment of the **topic contributors**. It is recommended that contributors work together to develop considerations so that they are an integrated product of the breadth of information and knowledge on that topic. However, if the group cannot agree upon considerations, then all considerations proposed by contributors should be presented.

Coaches: Larry Lunde and Mary Friberg of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will provide **coaching** to topic contributors to assist them with identifying relevant information for the CSR and relating that information to the CS. Larry and Mary will provide coaching for specific topics. Their contact information and topic assignments are as follows:

Larry Lunde: Location - Ketchikan; Phone - 228-6303; Email – [llunde@fs.fed.us](mailto:llunde@fs.fed.us)

- Conservation Strategy Overview
- Conservation Planning: New Information
- Forest Plan Implementation to Date
- Northern Goshawk and Marten Standard and Guideline Challenges
- Young Growth Management
- Alexander Archipelago Wolf
- Deer Habitat Management
- Investments in New Information

Mary Friberg: Location – Juneau; Phone – 586-7865; Email – [mhammerfriberg@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhammerfriberg@fs.fed.us)

- American Marten

- Northern Goshawk
- Brown Bear
- Other Mammals
- Other Forest Nesting Birds

Coaching will be provided in the early stages of developing topic information for the workshop. As soon as it is made available to them, **coaches** will review with the **topic lead** the initial draft outline of the topic presentation. The coach will review with the topic lead a draft of the PowerPoint presentation a week prior to the workshop. In addition, the coaches will periodically check in with topic leads to ensure that needed assistance is provided. All **contributors** are invited to contact their coach at any time with questions.

Interagency Workgroup (Workgroup): The **Workgroup** collectively represents a cross section of local scientists, technical experts, and natural resource professionals who have specific knowledge of the design, implementation, and monitoring of the Tongass CS. Their role in the workshop will be to receive the presentations on new information and considerations and, through discussions with the topic contributors, help identify the key information and issues and develop new considerations where appropriate. The Workgroup consists of the Tongass National Forest Supervisor (Forrest Cole), USFS Alaska Region Director of Wildlife, Fish, Ecology, Watersheds, and Subsistence (Winnie Kessler), USFS Region 9 Ecosystem Planning Biologist (Gene DeGayner), and key representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Kim Hastings), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Kim Titus), and the Pacific Northwest Research Station (Sandy Boyce).

### **Framework of the Presentation**

As mentioned above, central to the CSR is the premise that based on information available up to 1997 the fundamental design of the conservation strategy is a scientifically defensible foundation for meeting biodiversity and other ecological goals and requirements of the Tongass Forest Plan. Therefore, presentations will focus on new information developed since 1997 and what it tells us about the continued robustness of the 1) assumptions on which the strategy relies, 2) the reserve system/species at risk approach, 3) the design features of the strategy for conservation of specific species (e.g. Forest Plan standards and guidelines (S&Gs) and the size, spacing and connectivity of reserves). In addition, presentation will focus on what it is we do not know about the CS and identify information needs.

The presentation of a topic will account for 1/3 of the time allotted to the agenda topic session. Because of time constraints it is important that the presentations are well organized, succinct, and focused primarily on information that can be related to the CS. The presentation should summarize this information. In many cases, this will mean that supporting information will be provided in a different format (such as reference materials provided in the record of the workshop).

It is recommended that contributors on a topic work together to develop a **single presentation** that summarizes and integrates all the information for that topic and that this information be presented by the **topic lead**.

All topic presentation should include the following elements:

1. Context: *Brief overview of the historical relationship between the topic and the CS* – Briefly describe 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). For example, the brown bear was a design species in the development of the CS. This species, as well as the wolf, drove the incorporation of very large reserves into the CS old-growth reserve system. In addition, there are standards and guidelines that were developed for this species as part of the CS.
2. New Information Since 1997: *Summary of the new information on the topic since 1997 that could bear upon the CS* – Summarize the new information that you think inform 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* – Describe the meaning of the new information relative to the CS.
4. Considerations: *Suggested considerations for the Tongass and the Interagency Workgroup discussions* – Based on the findings, and the contributor’s professional judgment, describe the following:
  - The consideration – Based on the new information and what that means relative to the CS, what are you asking to 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 and how could that product be used?

These elements should be presented in the order listed above. In addition, a PowerPoint template will be supplied for each agenda topic and these should be used to develop the topic presentation.

### **Workshop Process and Format**

As already mentioned 1/3 of the time during the workshop will be devoted to **presentations** and 2/3 of the time will be spent discussing the information presented. All **considerations** forwarded to the Tongass via a presentation will be documented in

**workshop proceedings** or other format. In addition, the **Workgroup** will develop considerations for the CS. The general format and process for this is as follows:

For any given topic the Workgroup and the topic collaborators, including the presenter, will be seated at the front of the room where the presentation will take place. Other contributors will be seated near the front of the room in a section reserved for them and for contributors for other agenda topics. Each topic presentation will be followed by an opportunity for the Workgroup to ask questions of the contributors and for facilitated discussions with the Workgroup. Audience members, which will include the public and agency or academic specialist/experts, will also have an opportunity to provide (in writing) considerations. Therefore, the ensuing discussion could also involve the audience should the Workgroup call upon them for clarifications. This discussion will be facilitated and should draw out the key information and issues on the topic and may result in additional unique considerations for the workshop record.

**Topic leads** are asked to stay for the entire workshop in order to be available for later integration work by the Workgroup and subject matter experts on the accumulation of information generated during the workshop. Other contributors are also encouraged to stay the entire duration of the workshop as their schedule allows.

For further information on the workshop process and format see the Workshop link on the CSR Website:

[http://tongass-constratreview.net/CSR\\_Workshop.htm](http://tongass-constratreview.net/CSR_Workshop.htm)

### **USFS Tools for Developing Presentations**

Conservation Strategy Reference Materials: All contributors should have a good understanding of the general design of the conservation strategy, what the design is based on, the assumptions it relies upon, and the relationship of the conservation strategy and their topic. This information is being provided (with continual updates) on the Conservation Strategy Review Website:

<http://tongass-constratreview.net/>

and in particular on the Background page:

[http://tongass-constratreview.net/CSR\\_Background.htm](http://tongass-constratreview.net/CSR_Background.htm)

Coaches are available to assist those who need help finding CS information most relevant to their topic. All contributors should read the Conservation Strategy Overview posted on the Background page of the CSR Website. To further develop their knowledge contributors should read Appendix N of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Appendix K of the Forest Plan; the Beach and Estuary Fringe and Riparian S&G in Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan; and the relevant portions in their topic of the Threatened,

Endangered, and Sensitive Species S&Gs, Wildlife S&Gs, and the Tongass Forest Plan Clarifications. The sections on Wildlife viability and Biodiversity in Chapter 3 of the FEIS are also valuable references. To further develop their understanding of the relationship of their topic to the CS, contributors could scan the proposed conservation strategy developed by VPOP (Suring et al. 1993), the Pacific Northwest Research Station review of the VPOP proposal (Keister et al. 1994), and the VPOP response to this review (Suring et al. 1994). All of the above are posted on the Background page. Species biological assessments developed for the 1997 Forest Plan will also be very helpful and can be found under the appropriate agenda topic on the Workshop Agenda page:

[http://tongass-constratreview.net/CSR\\_Workshop\\_Ag.htm](http://tongass-constratreview.net/CSR_Workshop_Ag.htm)

GIS and Other Support Tools: GIS mapping, analysis, and similar products needed for presentations, or to streamline presentations (such as making further information available in a poster) can be provided. Large scale maps of the Tongass land use designations, the old growth reserves system (very large, large, medium and small OGRs), and Forest Plan protections within the matrix will be provided. Old growth will be depicted in one or more ways and the new vegetation structure maps will be provided. However, you may have other needs and we will try to meet your requests. Please notify your coach ASAP if you anticipate such needs. All of this information will become part of the workshop record.

Coaches: As mentioned above in the Definition of Terms section, Larry Lunde and Mary Friberg of the USFS will provide **coaching** to **topic contributors** to assist them with identifying relevant information for the CSR and relating that information to the CS. Their contact information is listed above.

### **Workgroup Packet**

The Workgroup will receive a packet that includes a variety of information as a ready reference for them to use throughout the workshop. **Coaches** will collect the following from the **contributors** a short one paragraph **professional biography** of each contributor. These bios should include experience related to the topics covered in the workshop. A format will be posted on the CSR Website on the Workshop page.

### **References for Posting on the Website and for the Workshop Record**

All of the above will be posted on the Web under the appropriate agenda topic on the Workshop Agenda page. The coaches will work with the contributors to identify any supporting materials they wish to post on the CSR Website, to identify materials available as web links, and to ensure that the materials are not copyrighted. These will also become part of the record for the workshop.