

ROADS TO NOWHERE
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST¹
2002 – 2006

Historically, timber sale purchasers on the national forests have usually been required to build or pay the cost of building any roads needed to provide access to the timber. In the last five years, however, markets for timber in the Tongass National Forest have been so weak that the value of the timber is normally insufficient to cover the cost of the roads. The Forest Service has responded to this by using taxpayer money to build roads for the timber sale purchasers, even where the cost of the roads far exceeds the revenues the public receives from the timber sales. The timber sales listed below constitute the large majority of all timber sales over two million board feet currently under contract in the Tongass. The losses on this table result only from road construction. The Forest Service loses millions of dollars more in planning and administering these sales.

<u>Timber Sale Name</u>	<u>Date of Public Road Contract</u>	<u>Cost of Public Road Contract</u>	<u>Date of Timber Sale Award</u>	<u>Bid Value of Timber Sale</u>	<u>Timber Sale Contractor</u>	<u>Loss to Taxpayers on Roads</u>
Midway	6/21/02	\$ 2,500,000	11/3/04	\$ 52,467	Icy Straits	\$ 2,447,533
Summore Change II	6/21/02	2,539,000	1/22/03	443,524	Viking	2,095,476
Kogish-Shinaku II	6/10/03	875,923	1/14/05	96,001	Viking	779,922
Fusion ²	8/03 and 2/04	1,405,853	5/26/04	277,772	Viking	1,128,081
Finger Point	3/31/04	680,991	9/3/04	67,561	Viking	613,430
Skipping Cow	6/05	1,300,000	4/06	143,196	Alcan	1,156,804
Luc Lac II	7/20/05	224,627	9/1/05	121,817	Viking	102,810
Upper Carroll II	7/20/05	1,555,000	12/9/05	179,952	Pacific	1,375,048
Lindenberg ³	3/2/06	391,000	12/21/05	231,295	Viking	159,705
Buckdance-Madder	4/21/06	2,877,000	4/06	106,926	Pacific	2,770,074
TOTAL		\$ 14,349,394		\$ 1,720,511		\$ 12,628,883

¹ Source: U.S. Forest Service.

² The Fusion sale had three public works road contracts dated 8/18/03, 2/2/04, and 2/28/04. The figure in the cost column is the sum of the cost of the three contracts.

³ Although the road contract for the Lindenberg sale was not entered until after the bid date of the timber sale, public construction of the road was a requirement of the timber sale contract.