

# **Adaptive Management Strategy for Timber Harvest**

## **Program Information**

- The adaptive management strategy restricts the ASQ landbase to roaded and lower value roadless areas until actual timber harvest indicates more of the landbase is needed.
- The available land base from which to offer timber is driven by the quantity of timber an integrated industry will need to provide jobs for local communities in Southeast Alaska, rather than the broader and less predictable demand of a global market place.
- The innovative adaptive management strategy is directly tied to the volume of timber the existing mills in Southeast Alaska need over a given time period, and provides for future support to the growth of an integrated regional timber industry.
- This integrated industry would have facilities capable of processing the full range of timber, including lower-grade utility logs, which come from most sales on the forest.
- This concept was endorsed by many parties throughout development of this Amendment.
- The adaptive management strategy first provides for a stable, predictable supply of timber for the current mill operations, being supplied initially from roaded and lower-value roadless areas of the forest.
- Over time, an emerging integrated industry could be supplied from moderate-value roadless areas or through managed second-growth stands.
- This approach will enable the many small, family-owned mills to continue to contribute to the economies of their communities and the region.
- As timber industry integration and growth continue, the land base could be expanded to include some higher-value roadless areas, increased dependence on second growth timber, and some restoration forestry.

## **Program Talking Points**

- The new Adaptive Management Strategy will be implemented in phases, based upon performance.
- Under Phase 1 timber harvests will be restricted to roaded and lower value inventoried Roadless areas (areas in close proximity to existing roads) until the level of timber harvest reaches 100 million board feet a year for two consecutive years.
  - Personal use of timber, micro sales, salvage sales, small commercial timber sales generally less than one MMBF, young-growth management projects, and the roads associated with these activities, would be allowed in development LUDs beyond the Phase 1 portion of the ASQ land base.
- Phase 2 restricts harvest to Phase 1 lands and most of the moderate value inventoried roadless areas (areas farther from existing roads with multiple-use value for recreation, fish and wildlife use) until the level of timber harvest reaches 150 million board feet a year for two consecutive years.
- Finally, Phase 3 of the Strategy applies, and includes the remaining suitable land base. The total land base the Plan outlines suitable for timber harvest is comparable to the 1997 Plan at about 770,000 acres.