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Chapter 2

Goals and Objectives

Introduction

The management direction for the Forest is described under the section titled "Forest Plan Management Direction" in Chapter 1. This chapter presents the Plan's desired conditions for the Forest and the Forest-wide goals and objectives. Achievement of the goals and objectives is subject to all applicable management standards and guidelines, as are presented in Chapters 3 and 4, and will be strongly influenced by annual budget direction and fiscal limitations.

Forest Desired Conditions

Desired landscape attributes describe the mosaic of land and resource conditions envisioned for the Forest in the future. They are attained through Forest-wide multiple-use goals and objectives, and through the cumulative achievement of the goals, objectives, and desired conditions for each of the 19 individual Land Use Designations (LUD's) described in Chapter 3. Desired landscape attributes include:

- The Forest is managed to produce desired resource values, products, services, and conditions in ways that also sustain the diversity and productivity of ecosystems.
- The Forest is characterized by extensive, unmodified natural environments. Old growth is the predominant vegetative structure on the Tongass. Large areas of previously harvested young-growth is trending towards mature, old-growth forest conditions. Connections between patches of old-growth are evident. On those portions of the Forest available for harvest activities, stands contain a variety of tree ages ranging from 0 to 300+ years. Some stands contain trees of uniform height and sizes, while other stands contain a variety of sizes and heights. Endemic levels of insect and disease perform their natural role in the ecosystem.
- Viable populations of native and desired non-native species and their habitat are maintained [and are not threatened by invasive species](#). [Viable populations of sensitive and rare species and their habitats are considered and maintained as to preclude the need for listing species as threatened or endangered](#). There are no threatened or endangered species on the Forest.
- [A range of recreation opportunities are maintained on the Forest from primitive to more urban settings. Recreation opportunities will allow for a different type of experience in visual quality, access, remoteness, visitor management, on-site recreation development, social encounters and visitor impacts.](#)
- Opportunities for hunting, trapping, and viewing game species are being provided. World class wildlife resources such as brown bears, wolves and eagles, considered threatened or endangered in the lower 48 states, are relatively abundant and available for human use and enjoyment [into perpetuity](#).
- Overall aquatic habitat quality is considered good to excellent. Fish thrive in the Forest's lakes and streams due to good water quality and other habitat features, and provide world class fisheries.

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- Rural residents have opportunities to participate in subsistence activities and to harvest subsistence resources. In accordance with the direction in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.
- The outstanding scenery of the Forest is a major attraction for resident and non-resident recreation users; a full range of recreation opportunities are present. In some cases, scenic values from certain travel routes, trails, high vista points or aerial observations are affected by timber harvest or mining activities. Users have the opportunity to experience independence, closeness to nature, solitude and remoteness.
- Occasional natural catastrophic events occur; however, the improved condition of watersheds and riparian areas, and careful design and location of roads, minimize resource degradation due to such events.
- Areas congressionally designated as either Wilderness or LUD II will be managed consistent to their legislative intent. The desired conditions for Wilderness are as specified in Section 2 of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The desired conditions for LUD II areas are as specified in Section 508 of the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act.

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Forest-wide Multiple-use Goals and Objectives

Forest plan goals are responsive to identified public issues and resource use opportunities, and collectively describe the desired conditions sought to be attained in the long run. Consistent with the NFMA planning regulations, goals are expressed in broad, general terms and specify no date by which they are to be accomplished. Complementary goals are listed under the Management prescriptions in Chapter 3 for each Land Use Designation. Taken and considered together, goals represent management from an "ecosystem" perspective, where ecosystems are considered from the "site" to the "Forest" level.

Goals are achieved through the allocations of lands to the set of Land Use Designations (LUD's), through implementation of the Standards and Guidelines specified for the LUD's, and through other activities conducted on the Forest. The management objectives are expected to be achieved during the 10-15 year life of this Plan to help accomplish Plan goals. Additional objectives to help accomplish the goals are listed under the Management Prescriptions presented in Chapter 3, and in the Resource Schedules contained in Appendix L.

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<i>Resource</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objective</i>
Air	Maintain the current air resource condition to protect the Forest's ecosystems from on- and off-Forest air emission sources.	Attain national and state ambient air quality standards forest-wide.
Biodiversity	Maintain ecosystems <u>capable of supporting the full range of native and desired non-native species and ecological processes.</u> Maintain a mix of <u>representative habitats at different spatial and temporal scales.</u>	Maintain a Forest-wide system of old-growth forest habitat (includes reserves, non-development LUD's, and beach, estuary and riparian corridors) to sustain old-growth associated species and resources. a) Ensure that the reserve system meets the minimum size, spacing and composition criteria described in Appendix K. b) Provide sufficient habitat to preclude the need for listing species under the

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<i>Resource</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objective</i>
		Endangered Species Act due to National Forest habitat conditions. c) Manage the Forest in order to reduce, minimize, or eliminate the potential for introduction, establishment, spread and impact of invasive species. d) Develop a baseline estimate of current habitat types, patterns and structural components on the Tongass National Forest.
Fish	Maintain or restore the natural range and frequency of aquatic habitat conditions on the Tongass National Forest to sustain the diversity and production of fish and other freshwater organisms.	Use baseline fish habitat objectives (identified in Fish Forest-wide Standards & Guidelines) to evaluate the relative health or condition of riparian and aquatic habitat. Design and implement fish habitat improvement projects annually across the Forest.
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Heritage Resources	Identify, evaluate, preserve, and protect heritage resources.	Protect heritage resources (as described in the Heritage Resources Forest-wide Standards & Guidelines).
Karst & Cave Resources	Maintain, to the extent feasible, the natural karst processes and the productivity of the karst landscape while providing for other land uses where appropriate.	Allow for the continuation of natural karst processes. Maintain the productivity of the karst landscape while providing for other lands uses where appropriate. Manage lands in a manner which protects significant caves, and their associated resources.
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		Deleted: Maintain and protect significant caves and karst ecosystems Forest-wide.
Local and Regional Economies	Provide a diversity of opportunities for resource uses that contribute to the local and regional economies of Southeast Alaska.	Work with local communities to identify rural community assistance opportunities and provide technical assistance in their implementation. Support a wide range of natural-resource employment opportunities within Southeast Alaska's communities.
Minerals and Geology	Provide for environmentally sound mineral exploration, development, and reclamation in areas open to mineral entry and in areas with valid existing rights that are otherwise closed to mineral entry. Seek withdrawal of specific locations where mineral development may not meet Land Use Designation objectives. Maintain inventory of surficial geology, geomorphic features, geologic hazards, and paleontological resources.	Implement the Minerals and Geology Forest-wide Standards & Guidelines.
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Plants	Maintain viable plant communities and populations; maintain a mixture of habitats	Prevent species from becoming listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive.

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Resource	Goal	Objective
Recreation & Tourism	<p><u>that are capable of supporting the full range of naturally occurring flora, including a variety of vegetation types, botanical life forms, patterns, structural components, and the consideration of rare species.</u></p> <p>Provide a range of recreation opportunities consistent with public demand, emphasizing locally popular recreation places and those important to the tourism industry.</p>	<p>Manage the Forest's recreation settings in accordance with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) standards and guidelines for each Land Use Designation.</p> <p><u>Maintain existing Forest Service system trails to a standard that provides for the health and safety of all users. Construct or reconstruct trails to encourage a healthier lifestyle for the public. Emphasize projects that facilitate community use or community connections.</u></p> <p><u>Maintain existing recreation sites and facilities to provide for the health and safety of all users. Construct or reconstruct facilities in locations where the needs for the facilities are supported by either known use, partnerships for long-term maintenance, or repeated safety concerns.</u></p>
Research	<p>Continue to seek out and promote research opportunities that are consistent with identified information needs.</p>	<p>Cooperate with PNW in pursuing the high priority information needs identified in Appendix B, through the intra-agency agreement entitled "Joint Studies for Improved Future Tongass National Forest Planning" and other means.</p>
Sacred Sites	<p><u>Consult with Tribes to protect and maintain sacred sites Forest-wide.</u></p>	<p><u>Manage and protect sacred sites as an integral part of the landscape and land management planning (as described in the Heritage and Sacred Sites Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines).</u></p>
Scenery	<p>Provide Forest visitors with visually appealing scenery, with emphasis on areas seen along the Alaska Marine Highway, State highways, major Forest roads, and from popular recreation places; recognize that in other areas where landscapes are altered by management activities, the activity may visually dominate the characteristic landscape.</p>	<p>Manage the scenery of the Forest in order to achieve the following <u>Scenic Integrity</u> Objectives on the following acreage (lying outside of established Wildernesses) (in millions of acres):</p> <p><u>High</u> xx</p> <p><u>Medium</u> xx</p> <p><u>Low</u> xx</p> <p><u>Very Low</u> xx</p>
Soil and Water	<p>Maintain soil productivity Forest-wide and minimize soil erosion resulting from land-disturbing activities.</p>	<p>Meet Alaska Regional soil quality standards.</p> <p>Attain State of Alaska water quality standards forest-wide.</p>

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 Construct or reconstruct enough developed recreation sites to annually increase or improve the developed site capacity for 190 People At One Time (PAOT's), on average.¶

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<i>Resource</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objective</i>
	Minimize sediment transported to streams from land-disturbing activities.	Perform watershed restoration projects in at least two large watersheds (over a ten-year period).
	Maintain and restore the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of Tongass National Forest waters.	Perform an average of 3 single-year-type watershed improvement projects annually across the Forest.
Subsistence	Provide for the continuation of subsistence uses and resources by all rural Alaskan residents.	Evaluate and consider the needs of subsistence users in making project land management decisions.
Timber	Manage the timber resource for production of saw timber and other wood products from suitable timber lands made available for timber harvest, on an even-flow, long-term sustained yield basis and in an economically efficient manner.	<p>Pre-commercial thin an average of xxx acres annually of previously harvested suitable timber land.</p> <p>Evaluate non-clearcutting silvicultural systems (see Priority Research Needs in Appendix B). Deleted: ¶</p> <p>Conduct a systematic inventory of all vegetation for Southeast Alaska by completing the installation and measurement of the permanent plot inventory grid. Deleted: ¶</p> <p>Seek to provide a timber supply sufficient to meet the annual market demand for Tongass National Forest timber, and the market demand for the planning cycle, up to a ceiling of this Plan's allowable sale quantity. Deleted: ¶</p> <p><u>Manage young-growth to improve habitat for wildlife and for commercial timber products.</u> Deleted: , which is 653 million CF or 2.67 billion BF per decade</p>
Transportation	Develop and manage roads and utility systems to support resource management activities; recognize the potential for future development of major Transportation and Utility Systems.	<p>Provide access for forest users.</p> <p>In support of forest resource management activities, design and construct up to an average of 110 miles of roads annually.</p> <p>Manage and maintain roads to protect water, soil, fish, and wildlife resources.</p>
Wetlands	Minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and preserve and enhance wetland functions and values.	<p>Avoid alteration of, or new construction on wetlands, wherever there is a practicable, environmentally preferred alternative.</p> <p>Implement best management practices (BMP's) and estuary, riparian, soil, and water standards and guidelines specific to wetlands.</p>
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Maintain the outstandingly remarkable values and the free flowing conditions of rivers designated or recommended for designation as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.	Manage the 32 rivers (or segments) recommended for designation as Wild, Scenic and Recreational (see Appendix E), pending designation by Congress, to maintain the eligibility of the total miles of river for the following recommended classifications:

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Resource	Goal	Objective		
		Wild Scenic Recreational	359.5 miles 87.5 miles 89.0 miles	Deleted: 64.5
Wilderness	Manage designated Wilderness to maintain an enduring wilderness resource while providing for public access and uses consistent with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA).	<p><u>Provide for public use of the Wilderness in accordance with ANILCA provisions for motorized and non-motorized access and travel, including reasonable traditional subsistence use by rural residents.</u></p> <p><u>Provide trails and primitive facilities that are in harmony with the natural environment and that promote primitive recreation opportunities. Feature facilities designed primarily to provide resource protection and encourage smaller group size. Facilities and trails tend to allow for challenge and risk instead convenience.</u></p> <p><u>Maintain the wilderness to provide information on natural ecological processes</u></p> <p><u>Preserve and perpetuate biodiversity inventory, reduce and eliminate non-native species in wilderness</u></p> <p><u>Manage wilderness as a place where self reliance and primitive skills are needed and can be honed by both the general public and/or agencies participating in activities or administrative actions in these areas.</u></p>		Formatted: Indent: Left: 0"
Wildlife	<p>Maintain the abundance and distribution of habitats, especially old-growth forests, to sustain viable populations in the planning area.</p> <p>Maintain habitat capability sufficient to produce wildlife populations that support the use of wildlife resources for sport, subsistence, and recreational activities.</p>	<p>See biodiversity objectives.</p> <p>Design and implement non-structural wildlife habitat improvement projects to improve an average of 8,000 acres annually across the Forest. Include a young-growth management program to maintain, prolong, and/or improve understory forage production and to <u>improve habitat distribution, including</u> future old growth characteristics in young-growth timber stands for wildlife (e.g., deer, moose, black bear, and other species).</p> <p>Design and implement an average of 75 structural wildlife habitat improvement projects annually across the Forest.</p>		<p>Deleted: In Wilderness, manage for the adopted ROS class. Where ROS has not been adopted, manage for no greater development than semi-primitive motorized (with certain localized exceptions due to the effects of activities outside wilderness and ANILCA exceptions).¶</p> <p>Deleted: increase</p>