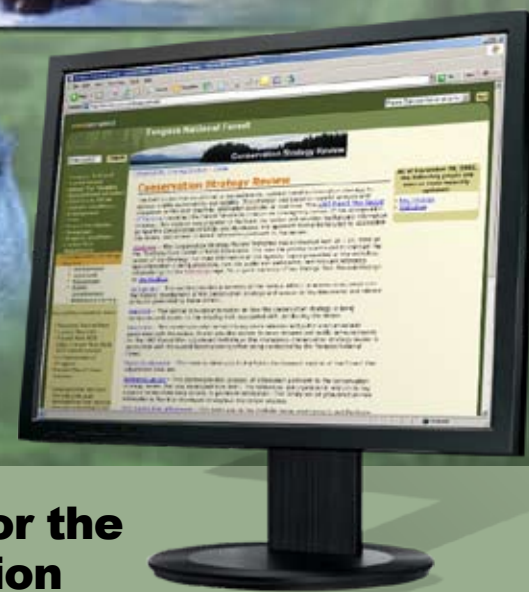


What is the Forest Plan Conservation Strategy?

During the 1997 Forest Planning process, a comprehensive, science-based conservation strategy was developed to meet the requirement of the National Forest Management Act, which calls for maintaining viable, well-distributed wildlife populations. This strategy primarily addresses old-growth-associated wildlife and is the product of careful analysis and integration of the best scientific information available at that time. The strategy is a habitat-based wildlife conservation strategy that employs old-growth-associated umbrella species to design a coarse filter/fine filter approach for species conservation. At the coarse filter level, a network of interconnected, variably-sized old-growth reserves was established across the Forest. At the fine-filter level, species-specific forest management standards and guidelines were developed for those vertebrates that needed additional protection measures to ensure their viability and well-distributed status. The 1997 Forest Plan Record of Decision committed the Forest Service to conduct an interagency review of this conservation strategy.



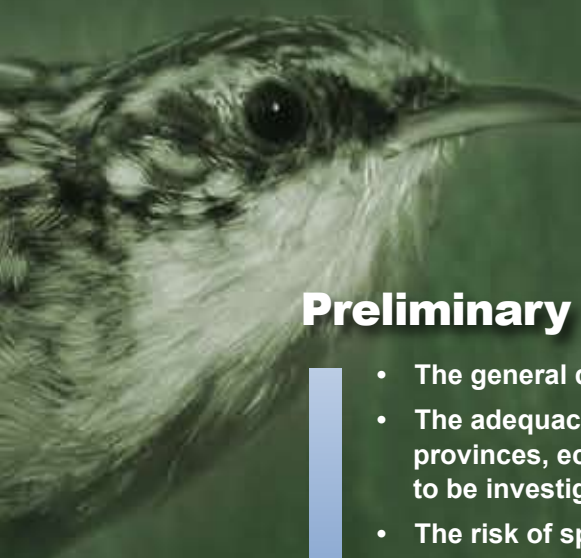
Web Site for the Conservation Strategy Review

A Web site was developed and is being maintained to facilitate the Conservation Strategy Review and provide background information on how the conservation strategy was developed, the approach that is being used to accomplish the review, and access to latest information pertinent to the review. This Web site is located at:

www.tongass-constratreview.net

Conservation Strategy Workshop

The basic approach and central focus for the interagency review of the conservation strategy consisted of a structured information assessment or workshop, which was held in April 2006. This assessment examined pertinent new information accumulated since 1997, evaluated what it tells us about the conservation strategy, and identifies what additional information may be needed to better understand the strategy's effectiveness. Workshop presentations are available for public review on the Conservation Strategy Review Web site. The workshop produced a number of key findings and several additional tasks are ongoing to resolve concerns identified during the workshop.



Preliminary Key Findings

- The general design of the Conservation Strategy is sound and is consistent with the current literature.
- The adequacy of the representation of various ecological categories (e.g., based on biogeographic provinces, ecological subsections, or plant associations) within old-growth reserves should continue to be investigated and refined.
- The risk of species viability problems related to Forest Plan implementation is relatively low.
- Endemic species continue to be a high priority information need.
- There are opportunities to manage habitats to emphasize prey species or foods for herbivores.
- Management of young-growth forests for wildlife habitat is promising, especially for black-tailed deer.
- There is a need to better understand the role and management of the Matrix part of the Strategy, including the role of non-National Forest System lands.
- The wildlife monitoring program needs to be updated.