

Southeast Conference

Resolution 17-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, URGING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE THAT COMPELS THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE A RATIONAL, CREDIBLE ANALYSIS OF THE EARLY TRANSITION OF THE TONGASS, THEN PROCEED WITH A PUBLIC PROCESS THAT INCLUDES ALTERNATIVES THAT TRANSITION IN 30 YEARS, COMPLIES WITH THE TONGASS TIMBER REFORM ACT AND THAT ALSO FIXES THE CONSTRAINTS THAT PREVENT THE AGENCY FROM IMPLEMENTING THE TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in July 2013 U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack unilaterally directed the United States Forest Service to initiate an abrupt change in position regarding when to transition from old growth to young growth harvest in the Tongass National Forest;; and

WHEREAS, the amended forest plan for the Tongass is a draft document that seeks to guide a 16-year transition from old growth logging to young growth timber

WHEREAS, this new draft document is illegal as well as unworkable (i.e. violations of Administrative Procedures Act (APA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Forest Management Act (NFMA), and the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA); and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service needs to postpone the transition to young-growth timber until the completion of a comprehensive inventory is done and a credible, transparent financial feasibility analysis of the proposed early transition is completed; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service needs to increase its mature timber sale program and address the costly constraints in the current Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) that prevent the implementation of the timber sale program authorized under law; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Southeast Conference urges legislative and administrative actions that compel the agency to immediately provide a rational, credible analysis of the proposed early transition, which includes a comprehensive inventory and updates to the young growth timber *growth model* to insure it works for the higher elevation and lower site class stands that have been harvested since model was originally developed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that both a scientific and financial analysis is needed to determine when it will be financially feasible to transition fully to young growth harvesting and manufacturing. The Forest Service should then proceed with a public process that includes financially feasible alternatives for the transition that comply with the Tongass Timber Reform Act and other laws and that also fixes the constraints that prevent the agency from fully implementing its timber sale program.

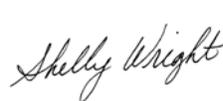
ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 14, 2016 AND RESOLUTION WILL SUNSET ON DECEMBER 14, 2017.

Witness by:



Chelsea Goucher
President

Attest:



Shelly Wright
Executive Director