

Southeast Alaska Young Growth Forestry Symposium

OCTOBER 21-23, 2019

The Landing Hotel
3434 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan, AK

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Create space for sharing information about related and parallel efforts and opportunities for collaboration and shared learning.
- Share newly acquired/updated data, mapping, analysis, and information concerning forest resources and management approaches.
- Identify emerging opportunities and challenges associated with managing a young growth forest economy, including young growth markets and manufacturing, carbon markets, and biofuels.
- Discuss emerging opportunities for economic sustainability and workforce development in the region.

AGENDA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

Sunny Point Ballroom

9:30 AM Registration

10:00 AM Symposium Welcome and Event Objectives

Jerry Ingersoll, US Forest Service, Region 10

Troy Heithecker, US Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Diana Portner, Natural Connections, LLC (an Affiliate of Meridian Institute)

Paul Hackenmueller, Spruce Root, Inc.

- Welcome to the symposium
- Overview of event objectives and agenda

10:30 AM Working Together: Collaboration on the Forest

Andrew Thoms, Sitka Conservation Society

Jason Anderson, US Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Chris Maisch, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

- Provide context for the event by sharing progress on collaborative efforts, including coordination among landowners, agency collaboration, and implementation of recommendations put forward by the Tongass Advisory Committee
- Discuss themes such as agency culture change, All Lands-All Hands approaches to management, coordinated investments, improved transparency in decision-making, and workforce training and development

- 11:15 AM** **The Socioeconomic Context: Exploring Economic Trends in the Region**
Meilani Schijvens, Rain Coast Data
Heidi Huber-Stearns, University of Oregon
Chad VanOrmer, US Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
- Provide an overview of current economic status and trends in the region by exploring changes in economic contributions by industry
 - Review the purpose, scope, and initial data from a baseline study that explores the socioeconomic conditions of the region
 - Share updates from recent US Forest Service projects, including the Roadless Rulemaking process, the Prince of Wales and Central Tongass Landscape-Level Assessments, and recent timber sales
- 12:30 PM** **Lunch** *(Not provided.)*
- 1:30 PM** **Realities on the Ground: Forest Inventory and Mapping Efforts**
Sheila Spores, US Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
Brian Kleinhenz, Terra Verde, Inc.
Conor Reynolds, The Nature Conservancy
Mike Sheets, US Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
- Share and provide interpretations of inventory data, including young growth and old growth forest inventory and initial stream inventory on US Forest Service lands
 - Discuss the process of collecting and interpreting the data, how it compares to previous modeling efforts, and implications for planning and management
- 3:30 PM** **Break**
- 4:00 PM** **Table-top Discussions: In-depth Review of Maps and Inventory Outcomes**
- Panelists from the previous session, with other experts as available, will host table-top discussions to review maps and data analysis in more detail, answer questions, and share more information
 - Participants will be given the opportunity to rotate between panelists and topics (approx. 20 min. at each) or remain at the same table for the session
 - Discussion topics may include young growth age classes and growth patterns, old growth availability and operability, stream classification and environmental protections, and data from other landowners
- 5:00 PM** **Adjourn**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

Sunny Point Ballroom

- 8:30 AM** **Registration**
- 9:00 AM** **Framing the Conversation: Discussion Recap and Agenda Overview**
Paul Hackenmueller and Diana Portner
- High-level overview of key discussion themes and agenda for the day

9:15 AM Community Forestry: Best Practices for Landscape Level Planning and Holistic Forest Management

Cassidy Gasteiger, Meridian Institute

Samia Savell, Natural Resource Conservation Service

Ian Johnson, Hoonah Native Forest Partnership

Miakah Nix, Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership

- Presentation and panel discussion of current landscape-level community planning processes, including lessons learned from the Hoonah Native Forest Partnership and the Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership
- Discuss outcomes of local-level forest resources inventory and planning efforts

10:15 AM Break**10:45 AM Employing Southeast: Workforce Development and Sustainable Economies**

Bob Christensen, SEAWEED and Sustainable Southeast Partnership

Cathy Needham, Kai Environmental Consulting Services

Tony Christianson, Hydaburg Cooperative Association (Invited)

Bob Girt, Sealaska

Corey Peratrovich, Sealaska

- Individuals involved in workforce development in the region will review and discuss outcomes and lessons learned from current workforce development and economic development programs
- Topics will include the Forest Training Academies, Training Rural Alaskan Youth Leaders & Students (TRAYLS), vocational-technical and educational programs, and internships

11:45 AM Identifying Needs and Opportunities: The Future Workforce of Southeast

- In small groups, participants will discuss current and ongoing needs for workforce development and long-term employment.
- Identify tangible opportunities and partnerships to pursue
- Brief report-outs and discussion with the full group

12:30 PM Lunch (Not provided.)**1:30 PM Young Growth: Markets, Manufacturing, and Other Creative Opportunities**

Conor Reynolds, The Nature Conservancy

Eric Nichols, Alcan Timber

Bill Imbergamo, Federal Forest Resource Coalition

- Discuss outcomes of recent small-scale young growth projects
- Overview of the economic context of the timber industry and young growth manufacturing and export
- Overview of enabling conditions for local young growth manufacturing, using case examples from the lower 48
- Q&A with the audience

2:45 PM Break

- 3:00 PM** **Young Growth: Markets, Manufacturing, and Creative Opportunities (cont.)**
Catherine Mater, Mater Engineering
Karen Petersen, Southeast Conference
Wes Tyler, Icy Straits Lumber (invited)
Mitchell Haldane, Sealaska
- Discuss the development of a pilot project for manufacturing young growth at scale, and challenges and opportunities associated with local implementation
 - Overview of opportunities associated with timber residuals and woody biomass
 - Share current trends in small-scale processing in the region
 - Discuss the role of carbon markets in providing supplementary income
 - Q&A with the audience
- 4:15 PM** **Opportunities and Challenges: Ensuring a Viable Forest Products Industry**
- Building on the panel discussions, participants will talk in small groups about the various opportunities and challenges related to ensuring a viable forest products industry
 - Brief report-outs of themes and ideas that emerged from small group discussions
- 5:00 PM** **Putting it all Together: Identifying Key Themes and Open Space Topics**
- Facilitators will review themes and outcomes from Symposium discussions
 - Participants to share key ideas and opportunities that emerged
 - Identify topics to explore during final day workshops
- 5:30 PM** **Adjourn**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019

Jeremiah's Banquet and the Fireplace Room

- 8:00 AM** **Registration Open**
- 8:30 AM** **Introducing the Concept: Open Space Conversations**
Paul Hackenmueller and Diana Portner
- Review discussion topics, process, and format
- 8:45 AM** **Open Space Conversations: Ideas and Discussion to Inform the Future**
- Concurrent open space discussions to explore the implications of information discussed during the Symposium, how it aligns with current plans/policies, and opportunities for collaboration to ensure sustainable forest management and economic opportunities
 - Session topics will be determined based on participant interest
- 12:00 PM** **Key Themes and Lessons Learned: Building a Viable Future for Southeast**
Paul Hackenmueller and Diana Portner
- Review tangible outcomes, action items, and next steps
 - Participant reflections and individual commitments to action items
- 12:30 PM** **Adjourn**