

# Chichagof Conservation Council

Box 621 Tenakee Springs AK 99841 April 2006

---

## **THE NEXT BIG THING -Tongass Land Mangement Plan Revision**

A court decision last year required the Forest Service to revisit and revise the Tongass Land Management Plan(TLMP). In the 1997 plan, the Forest Service wrongly doubled its projections of market demand for Tongass timber. On August 5, 2005, a federal court ruled that the 1997 Tongass plan was illegal and the Forest Service had to fix it.

The current administration plans to fast-track the revision process and is likely to put many vitally important watersheds in land use categories that will allow industrial strength clearcutting.

In Tenakee Inlet only Kadashan and Trap Bay have legislative protection under the Tongass Timber Reform Act. Every other square inch of Tongass land is vulnerable. **Seal Bay, Long Bay, and Goose Flats are likely to be designated for timber production.**

The Forest Service recently released a TLMP scoping notice. In the months ahead specific proposed actions will be identified and posted on the website <http://tongassfpadjust.net>. It is not clear when (or whether) there will be scoping hearings. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is will be released in November 2006, followed by a 90 day comment period. **PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING PROCESS AND BUILDING A RECORD OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PROTECTION OF SPECIAL AREAS IS CRITICAL**

SEACC staff will come to Tenakee at least once this spring with the latest analysis of fish and wildlife habitat, and to find out what areas are most important to people who live here. A presentation is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2006. Your participation is the key to defending Tenakee Inlet.

If you feel like we've done this before, it's because we have. Thirty years of public outcry greatly reduced the incredible destruction originally planned for the Tongass. **Unfortunately there is real danger that the next TLMP revision will carry us back to the dark ages of long-term contracts and huge federal subsidies for clearcutting.**

---

The next pages contain a chronology of TLMP events that you may find interesting or helpful. If you detest the alphabet soup of acronyms, don't worry. **What matters most is speaking out about the real places that you care about and depend on.**

### **A brief history of TLMP:**

**1970** Tongass Plan calls for 'liquidation' of 98.4% of Tongass timber. Two pulp mills operating under 50 year sweetheart contracts, two more pulp mills planned.

**1979** First TLMP under National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requirements. Revisions planned at 10-year intervals. An extreme example of "timber first" planning, with an allowable sale quantity (ASQ) of 450 million board feet/yr. Every watershed in Tenakee Inlet slated for clearcutting.

**1980** Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) protects lots of Tongass rock, ice, and low volume timber but few highly productive forest areas. Last minute language mandates 450 million bd ft (mmbf) annual Tongass cut and automatic minimum \$40 million/year subsidy for timber industry.

**1985** City of Tenakee vs. Courtwright successfully challenges road construction in the Kadashan watershed. Road construction and clearcutting stopped by injunction.

**1986** TLMP amendment adjusts timber output schedule to reflect new information and poor timber market.

**1990** Tongass Timber Reform Act protects 18 high value areas as Wilderness or Legislated LUD II areas. (Seal Bay, Long Bay, Goose Flats and the head of Tenakee Inlet were protected by the TTRA version passed by the House of Representatives, HR987. Only Kadashan and Trap Bay made it into the final version that became law.)

**1993** Sitka pulp mill (APC) closes

**1994** APC long-term contract terminated for breach of contract and mill closure.

**1997** Ketchikan pulp mill (KPC) closes. KPC agrees to negotiated termination of its long term contract with provision for up to 100 mmbf /yr to supply KPC sawmills

**1997** TLMP revision - another bad plan is immediately appealed by many groups, communities, and individuals. Seal Bay, Long Bay and Goose Flats threatened.

**1999** TLMP appeal response by Agriculture Under-Secretary Jim Lyons (head of forest Service) gives administrative protection to many important watersheds including Seal Bay, Long Bay, and Goose Flats. Appealed by several groups, both environmentalists (not SEACC or CCC) and timber interests. Tongass management reverts to 1997 TLMP.

**2000** Clinton institutes "Roadless Rule" during final days in office, which temporarily protects Seal Bay, Long Bay and Goose Flats.

**2001** Bush administration appoints former pulp industry lobbyist Mark Rey as head of the Forest Service.

**2001** Court decision throws out 1999 TLMP Record of Decision, but also finds 1997 TLMP unlawful because the Forest Service didn't evaluate recommendations for new wilderness designations.

**2003** Completion of court-ordered Tongass Wilderness Review with no increase in land protection. Senator Stevens passes an appropriation rider that prohibits appeals of this decision.

**2003** Forest Service head Mark Rey and Murkowski chief of staff Jim Clark (former Alaska Loggers Association lawyer) settle a state challenge to the Clinton Roadless Rule in Alaska by temporarily exempting the Tongass, thus stripping that protection from areas like Seal Bay, Long Bay, and Goose Flats.

**2005** 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals decision on 1997 TLMP. SEACC's challenge to centered on the impact of a Forest Service error that doubled its projections of market demand for Tongass timber. The court recognized that sufficient timber is available in already roaded areas to satisfy market demand, and ordered the Forest Service to rewrite the 1997 plan.

**2006** Average annual Tongass cut since 2000 equals 42 million board feet, while the Forest Service generally offers twice that amount for sale.

**2006** Mark Rey is still in charge of the Forest Service, and with little fanfare has stripped away many opportunities for public participation. New forest planning regulations drop NEPA from Forest planning requirements, significantly weaken the role of science in planning, and remove key requirements for protecting wildlife populations. (Fortunately this TLMP revision will be considered under 1982 regulations rather than the current ones.) Governor Murkowski's administration pushing for annual Tongass cut of 360 million board feet and 10 year timber contracts.

---

**Ready for some good news???** The application for a geoduck farm in Corner Bay was denied by DNR. Many thanks to everyone who wrote and called DNR to express local concern.

---

CCC president - John Wisenbaugh

Vice president - Joan McBeen

Secretary- treasurer- composer of newsletters - Molly Kemp

Board Members - Steve Lewis - Sam McBeen

Chichagof Conservation Council  
Box 621  
Tenakee Springs AK 99841

**Chichagof Conservation Council  
2006 Membership application/renewal**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues: \$5 individual, \$10 household. Additional contributions are welcome!

CCC is a registered 501c non-profit organization and all contributions are fully deductible.

Would you like to receive membership information from SEACC? (Southeast Alaska's regional conservation coalition) yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive select email alerts about conservation issues affecting Chichagof Island? These alerts would be screened for relevance before forwarding from SEACC and other sources. yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_