

Quick Guide

Social and Economic Monitoring of the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska Communities

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Purpose

As part of the Tongass National Forest's transition to predominantly young-growth timber harvest, the Tongass Advisory Committee recommended the development of a plan to track social and economic conditions in Southeast Alaska before and after the transition to young growth. The purpose of this Quick Guide is to present the social and economic monitoring guide for the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska Communities, developed by the Ecosystem Workforce Program, in consultation with stakeholders.



How to use this quickguide

This monitoring plan contains four main questions for which we analyzed baseline conditions in the companion report to this guide: Social and Economic Monitoring of the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska Communities: A Monitoring Plan and Baseline Report.¹ The monitoring plan should be used every 2-5 years for data collection, to track changes in southeast Alaska related to communities and the Tongass National Forest. We provide guidance on the types of indicators, data sources and methods to use to address the key monitoring questions developed in the plan, with the intent for future work to replicate the processes provided here, to build on the existing baseline report (which contains data through 2018). Additional details about data cleaning and analysis are provided in the appendices of the full monitoring report.²

1 Huber-Stearns, H., A. Santo, and E. Steinkruger. 2020. Social and Economic Monitoring of the Tongass National Forest and Southeast Alaska Communities. Ecosystem Workforce Program, University of Oregon. Working Paper #98. Available at: http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_98.pdf.

2 The full monitoring report and appendices are available on the project page: <http://ewp.uoregon.edu/TongassTransition>.

Table 1 Social and economic monitoring questions and methods for the Tongass NF Transition and Southeast Alaska communities

1. What are the socioeconomic conditions and context in communities surrounding the Tongass NF?*	
Indicators	Data source
Demographic trends in Southeast Alaska communities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population (by community and total) ▪ Average age of population ▪ K-12 school enrollment 	Southeast Alaska by the Numbers, a Southeast Conference Publication by Rain Coast Data
Economic opportunity:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # individuals receiving SNAP benefits ▪ Unemployment rate ▪ Total labor force ▪ Average annual wage ▪ Employment trends by sector (government, visitor industry, seafood, trade, private health care, construction, timber, all other) 	# individuals receiving SNAP benefits: US Census. All others: Southeast Alaska by the Numbers, a Southeast Conference Publication by Rain Coast Data
Tongass National Forest capacity:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tongass NF annual budget ▪ Tongass NF annual # FTEs 	Request from Forest Service Alaska Regional Office. Full dataset available in Appendix J.
2. How do timber sales, restoration projects, and other natural resources projects on the Tongass NF affect communities in Southeast Alaska?	
Indicators	Data source
# and value of service contracts awarded by the Tongass NF by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business location ▪ Product Service Code (PSC) ▪ Type of work being contracted out 	Federal Procurement Data System, through a request to the Forest Service Alaska Regional Office. Full dataset available in Appendix D.**
# and volume of timber sales awarded from the Tongass NF by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operator location 	Timber Information Manager (TIM) database , through a request to the Forest Service Alaska Regional Office; if unable to access TIM, look up using business websites, social media, or business licenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operator size 	Direct communication with Forest Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timber volume under contract 	Tongass NF Cut and Sold Reports (https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fsbdev2_038785)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timber volume harvested from Southeast Alaska (by landownership) 	Alaska Regional Office Forest Management Reports and Accomplishments Reports (https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fsbdev2_038785)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timber volume processed in Southeast Alaska (by landownership) 	Alaska Regional Office Forest Management Reports and Accomplishments (https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fsbdev2_038785)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good Neighbor Authority Sales 	Direct Communication with Forest Service; Forest Service Schedule of Proposed Actions
Timber processing facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Southeast Alaska sawmill locations and status 	Original list put together with information from Central Tongass Project DEIS, list of active sawmill business licenses, and Southeast Conference. Call facilities to determine if active or inactive. Full list available in Appendix F.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Southeast Alaska biomass utilization facilities locations and status 	Original list put together with information provided by Southeast Conference. Call facilities to determine if active or inactive. Full list available in Appendix G.

Table 1, continued

3. What is the status of collaborative work on the Tongass NF and surrounding communities?	
Indicators	Data source
Tongass NF Grants and Agreements by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organization location ▪ Type of work awarded ▪ Type of organization 	
I-Web Grants and Agreements database, through a request to the Forest Service Alaska Regional Office. Full dataset available in Appendix H.	
4. What are stakeholders' perceptions and concerns about changes occurring in Southeast Alaska communities and on the Tongass NF?	
Indicators	Data source
Stakeholder perspectives regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changes in social and economic conditions/well-being in their communities ▪ Concerns voiced by members of their communities ▪ Reflections on the status of the Tongass Transition and what a "successful" Transition would entail ▪ Ideas about how and what to track to understand social and economic change in their community 	
Original qualitative data collected through semi-structured interviews with diverse stakeholders. Semi-structured interview protocols listed in Appendix I.	
Small mill operator perspectives on future markets and challenges	Original qualitative data collected through document review and qualitative interviews.

* Recommended frequency of monitoring for each question is: once every 2 years for Questions 1, 2, and 3; once every 5 years for Question 4.

** Also available at USAspending.gov.

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