For immediate release: May 8, 2015

Sent on behalf of the Tongass Advisory Committee

Contacts: Les Cronk (<u>lesc@sousteve.com</u>) and Lynn Jungwirth (<u>lynnj@hayfork.net</u>)

Tongass Advisory Committee Announces its Unanimous Recommendations

Our recommendations represent the best efforts of a diverse group of stakeholders to develop a path forward that addresses the conflicts of the past while increasing the certainty and stability for the communities and people of Southeast Alaska. The apprehension expressed by user groups and individuals who contributed feedback were reflected in the challenging deliberations we undertook. Our recommendations represent not only the views and interests of the TAC members, but also sought to incorporate the diversity of values and perspectives of those outside of the room – local communities, user groups and the American public at large. We look forward to working with the Forest Service throughout the rest of the forest plan amendment process, and the implementation of the young growth transition. – Statement from the Tongass Advisory Committee

"This is an honorable plan and the people of the Tongass deserve the opportunity to make it work." – co-chair Lynn Jungwirth

"The recommendations were unanimous and respectful." - co-chair Les Cronk

A more detailed press release to follow. For more information about the Tongass Advisory Committee, visit http://www.merid.org/tongassadvisorycommittee.