

# 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**