



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Tongass Forest Plan Revision Status

Erin Mathews, Tongass National Forest, Plan Revision Coordinator
February 18, 2025



Plan Revision

- Timeline
- Assessment Phase
- Next Steps



Anticipated Timeline



Assessment
2024/2025

Draft assessment
Draft Wild and scenic rivers inventory
Draft Wilderness inventory
Potential species of conservation concern.

Plan Development
2025

Preliminary need to change
Draft Wilderness evaluation
Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility
Engage: Management areas, plan components, desired conditions

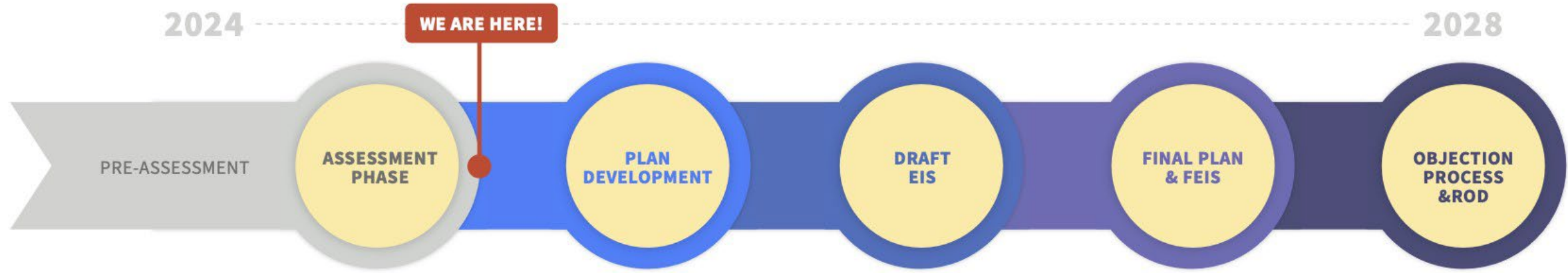
**National Environmental
Policy Act (NEPA) Processes**

Proposed Action
Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Finalize Plan / EIS
**Objection Period / Record of
Decision**
2027-2028

Final Plan
Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Objections process

 **WHERE WE ARE HEADED**



Draft Assessment Release



Draft Assessment Sections: User Guide

1. The Tongass as an Indigenous Place
2. Terrestrial Ecosystems
3. Aquatic Ecosystems
4. Watershed Condition and Water Resources
5. Soil Resources
6. Species of Conservation Concern
7. Subsistence and Other Harvest
8. Carbon Stocks
9. Timber Resources
10. Air Quality
11. Energy and Minerals
12. Socioeconomic Conditions
13. Lands: status, ownership, and uses
14. Infrastructure
15. Recreation and Tourism
16. Scenic Resources
17. Designated Areas
18. Cultural and Historic Resources
19. Geology and Geologic Hazards
20. Drivers, Stressors, and Climate Change
21. Federally Recognized Species: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate Species

Comment Period



- **Friday, January 10th**
 - Released Draft Assessment
- **Comment Period**
 - Open until February 24, 2025
 - CARA
- **Purpose of Assessment**
 - Current Conditions
 - Need for Change
 - Not the only source of information during Draft Plan/Environmental Impact Statement
 - Comments throughout the revision process



Assessment Authors



- Each section identifies primary author
- **Assessment Contributors**
 - Tongass and Regional Staff that contributed to the assessment

Timber Demand

- Led by Pacific Northwest Research station
 - Support the revision
 - Requirements of Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990
- Draft study ~March 2025
- Stand-alone study
 - Maintain consistency in data
 - Summarized data for draft assessment *if* available in time
- *May* be used in plan development





Roadless and Revision



- Plan components applicable to inventoried roadless will be compatible with restrictions
- Direction to Review current 2023 Roadless Rule
- No more details about how this will impact Revision process at this time



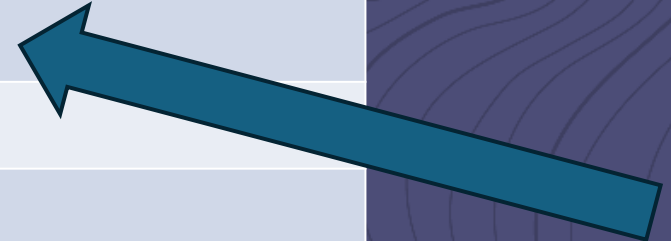
2025 Engagement

- Developing Plan Content
 - Desired Conditions
 - Objectives
 - Standards and Guidelines
 - Suitability of Lands
 - Location of Management Areas



Upcoming Comment Periods

Stage of Plan Revision	Product
Assessment	Community Workshops: Engagement on Vision for Tongass
	Comments on Parallel Process Products
	Draft Assessment Report
Need to Change	Preliminary Need to Change
Plan Development (Proposed Action)	Draft proposed plan
Analysis / Environmental Impact Statement	Draft Environmental Impact Statement & Monitoring Plan
	Final Environmental Impact Statement / Draft Record of Decision
Monitoring	Draft Monitoring Program



**January
2025**



External Revision Office Hours

	When	Where
Revision Office Hours	1 st Tuesday of the month, 10-11am 3 rd Tuesday of the month, 5-6pm	Virtual Zoom meeting

Informal virtual opportunity





Get Involved!

Get Involved!

We have many opportunities for you to get involved in our land management plan revision process! Whether you are looking for more information, want to share information or help develop a part of the plan, or are looking for opportunities to comment on document releases, you can find it all here. You can sign up for our mailing list to receive periodic updates about the plan revision process. Have a question for us? Send a message to our [plan revision inbox](#) and a team member will get back to you.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Mathews, Revision Plan Coordinator at erin.mathews@usda.gov.

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