



TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-FOREST SERVICE

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Public Input Sought for Wrangell Island Project

Wrangell, AK – The Forest Service is in the beginning or scoping stages of planning for a project that combines timber sales, road construction, restoration, and habitat enhancement work on Wrangell Island, and is looking for the public's help in crafting it.

This project is being proposed under the USDA's Strategic Five Year Plan to address rural prosperity and to provide an economically viable long term supply of timber that will help provide jobs to the communities in Southeast Alaska. The project will also identify forest restoration and enhancement activities on Wrangell Island to be done through stewardship or other contracting methods.

“It is important that this project reflect the needs, issues, and concerns of the local communities—and these meetings are a way for us to gather some of that information,” notes Bob Dalrymple, District Ranger for the Wrangell District. “This project is a great way to look at a wide variety of needs and opportunities on Wrangell Island, and respond to what communities need or want. We're excited to be moving ahead with this one.”

Two separate meetings, one in Petersburg and one in Wrangell, have been scheduled in order to gather public input to be used as the Forest Service develops the environmental analysis.

The meetings will be held in Petersburg on January 11, 2011 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Petersburg Ranger District (12 Nordic Drive), and in Wrangell on January 13, 2011 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Nolan Center (1096 Outer Drive).

Additional public meetings will be held in the fall of 2011 when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for comment.

Scoping comments will be accepted through January 31, 2011 and can be submitted at the public meetings; faxed to (907) 279-7944; submitted online at www.wrangellislandprojecteis.com/comment; dropped off at the Wrangell Ranger District (525 Bennett St.); or mailed to 317 Forest Park Dr., Ketchikan, AK 99901. More information on the project can be found at www.wrangellislandprojecteis.com

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