



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Alaska Region  
Tongass National Forest

648 Mission Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Phone: (907) 225-3101  
Fax: (907) 228-6215

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Dear Readers,

The Tongass National Forest web site contains the 2007 Tongass National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report. An annual written summary of forest wide monitoring programs is specified in Chapter 6 of the Tongass Land Management Plan (Forest Plan). This report summarizes specific monitoring that was completed during fiscal year 2007.

For the past several years, we have put the report on this web site to make it widely available. This system saves the cost of printing and mailing the document while still disseminating the monitoring information. This cost savings is important due to shrinking budgets and buying power. The monitoring report can be found on the Tongass web site under Projects and Plans.

Some of the monitoring protocols used for the 2007 Monitoring and Evaluation Report will change in 2008 with the issuance of the Record of Decision for the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) Amendment. This plan amendment was completed in January 2008. Some of the monitoring questions have changed to help the Forest better define and focus the monitoring work. A few monitoring questions have been dropped and a few questions have been added to address some information and evaluation needs. The monitoring conducted will help answer the monitoring questions and define whether the appropriate standards and guidelines have been implemented. The monitoring will also collect data and provide evaluation to determine if the standards and guidelines are helping the Forest reach our goals. Some of the monitoring will describe validation monitoring conducted to determine if our predictions and assumptions used in developing the plan are correct. The reporting period for most of the monitoring activities has changed so starting in 2008 we will be providing an annual short summary and reporting on the annual/ biannual reporting items as specified in the Plan, then subsequently providing a detailed more comprehensive evaluation in five years.

If you have questions or comments about this report, please contact Carol Seitz-Warmuth at the Ketchikan Forest Supervisor's Office, 907-228-6341.

Sincerely,

FORREST COLE  
Forest Supervisor

