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Dear Readers,

The Tongass National Forest web site contains the 2008 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 2008.

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 budget 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 2008 Monitoring and Evaluation Report have changed relative to the Record of Decision for the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) Amendment. 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 were 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 we are 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 Office, 907-228-6341.

Sincerely,

FORREST COLE  
Forest Supervisor

