



TONGASS YOUNG GROWTH

TRANSITION FRAMEWORK IN ACTION

Tongass young-growth timber has the opportunity to provide quality wood products while improving the social, economic and environmental sustainability of our region. As local knowledge, infrastructure, and capacity adapt and grow, the key to successfully developing this market is striking a balance between what an environmentally healthy, sustainable harvest rotation can supply, and in finding markets for 2nd growth products.

The focus on Tongass young-growth is a key tenet of the Tongass Transition, a management framework put forward by the US Forest Service to develop and diversify the Southeast Alaska economy. This means creating access to, evaluating, and promoting young-growth timber an effort to rapidly transition away from old growth. The transition also seeks to grow a local, appropriately scaled timber industry that is sustainable, fosters local capacity, creates jobs, and keeps regional dollars in the Southeast.

SCS has partnered with multiple community groups and volunteers to make use of the National Forest Foundation's (NFF) Community Capacity and Land Stewardship (CCLS) program and develop community projects that highlight young-growth timber. In 2013, a bike shelter was constructed with young-growth Sitka spruce as the framing material. This project allowed participants to be innovative and explore various use of young-growth timber and is one the first times Tongass young-growth has been used in this capacity.

Young Growth Bike Shelter

Timber frame construction
Sitka, Alaska



Shingles: Red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

Frame: Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)

Siding: Red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

Flooring: Yellow cedar (*Cupressus nootkatensis*)

1 STEWARDSHIP CONTRACT

SMALL BUSINESSES

Bill Thomason, Harvester
Mel Cooke, Miller
Good Faith Lumber, Kiln
Keith Landers H & L salvage

EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING

Randy Hughey and Dan Sheehan, Instructors
10 Sitka High School Students
7 Community volunteers

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TRANSITION FRAMEWORK

Put forward in 2010, the Tongass Transition Framework outlines a series of economic development actions to stabilize communities in Southeast Alaska. This includes “the focus on a broader suite of opportunities the Tongass can provide to support a diversified economy in Southeast Alaska” and “promoting small business creation, creating jobs...job training and educational opportunities, and maximizing a forest restoration economy and by-product use”



RESTORATION

Past logging practices in the 60s and 70s resulted in homogenous, even-aged stands that pose threats to ecological function and wildlife. Restorative thinning projects improve habitat, create jobs, enhance subsistence opportunities and generate restoration by-products for lumber and biomass.



SMALL BUSINESSES

Locally available Tongass products opens up diverse opportunities to cultivate businesses around sustainable timber harvesting at various scales, producing value added products and increasing import substitution in our region, keeping local dollars reinvested in our community.



TRAINING

Training opportunities and education keep local skills and knowledge preserved. This local investment ensures a healthy and versatile work force.

RESILIENCE.

Sitka Conservation Society

Protecting the natural environment of the Tongass while supporting the development of sustainable communities in Southeast Alaska

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