

A spatial optimization of Biodiversity and Timber Values in development of an integrated Conservation Area Design

in the Tongass National Forest
and Southeast Alaska

Summary:



This map represents a preliminary proposal for consideration as part of the ongoing amendment of the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan. This is the result of a systematic analysis of the distribution and condition of a wide range of ecological values among biogeographic provinces both at the watershed- and sub-watershed scales. Moreover, relative suitability of areas for production of commercial timber was determined based on considerations of operability, proximity to existing roads and marine log-transfer facilities, and existing mills. This provides a blue-print of opportunities for conservation of intact landscapes, restoration of critical habitats, and appropriate production of commercial timber. This represents an ecologically-based estimate of sustainable timber production in Southeast Alaska, yet does not account for specific demands on intact ecosystems such as subsistence harvest and community-use areas.



Key to Symbols:


Conservation Priority Watersheds

High value watersheds in primarily intact condition. Managed for intact ecological values and habitat productivity.

-  Core Areas of Biological Value
-  High Value Watersheds

Lower Value - Intact Watersheds



Lower biological values in primarily intact ecological condition. Managed for intact ecosystem and other values.

-  Lower Value - Intact Watersheds

Integrated Management Watersheds



(High Value Watersheds - Modified Condition)

High value watershed with roads and past timber harvest. These areas are managed for a balance of old-growth forest structure and rotational harvest of young-growth.

-  Core Areas of Biological Value (young-growth harvest only)
-  High-value Watersheds (young-growth and old-growth harvest)



Timber Production Watersheds

Watersheds with past harvest and existing infrastructure. These areas are managed for rotational harvest of existing old growth and young-growth forest stands.


-  Core Areas for Timber Production
-  Lower Value - Modified Watershed

Protected by Congress

Wilderness and LUD II

-  LUD II / Wilderness (core habitat)
-  LUD II / Wilderness (other)

Private or Other Lands

-  Private and other lands within Tongass NF

