



NEWS RELEASE

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Signing ceremony concludes two-year collaboration on Prince of Wales

KLAWOCK, Alaska – The USDA Forest Service will sign a decision Saturday, March 16 that aims to improve forest health while supporting the resilience and economies of local communities.

The decision will implement a 15-year, integrated resources management plan for federal lands on Prince of Wales Island. It is the result of a highly collaborative, public process that included significant input from an independently formed, broadly based group, as well as local tribes, youth and the general public.

The purpose of the project is to improve forest ecosystem health in the project area, help support community resiliency, and provide economic development through an integrated approach to meet multiple resource objectives. There are a host of actions within the decision, spanning many programs and stakeholder interests, including but not limited to: up to 200 miles of instream restoration, up to three recreation cabins, 12 new three-sided shelters, 4,500 acres per year of per-commercial and wildlife thinning treatments, and trail construction and maintenance.

“It is important that we honor the effort of the members of the Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team,” said Tongass Forest Supervisor M. Earl Stewart. “Their hard work, meeting monthly over the course of a year to achieve consensus on the collection of actions, helped ensure the Forest Service’s management actions on Prince of Wales will align with the agreed direction of this district’s diverse stakeholders.”

Media: Please join us for the Record of Decision Signing Ceremony

- Saturday, March 16, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
- Craig Tribal Association Building, 1330 Craig-Klawock Highway, Craig, AK.

Stewart will be joined by members of the Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team. For interviews and information to be used for publication, contact the Tongass Public Affairs Officer at 907-228-6201.



The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 30 percent of the nation's surface drinking water to cities and rural communities and approximately 66 million Americans rely on drinking water that originated from the National Forest System. The agency also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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