



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

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Petersburg Ranger District

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Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Woewodski Island Landscape Assessment. Landscape assessments are mid-level planning tools that fall between forest-wide level planning and site-specific project planning. The Forest Plan is a ten-year plan that describes ecological processes and resource development plans across the entire Tongass National Forest (forest-wide). Imagine for a moment that the Forest Plan looks at Woewodski Island from a satellite. The high-altitude view reveals how Woewodski Island fits into the wide-scale of the Forest.

Mid-level planning, such as an island-wide landscape assessment, takes a closer look at an island or watershed, as if from a floatplane at an altitude of 3,000 feet. This view shows how human/land management activities fit into the landscape area. Mid-level planning does not result in any decisions. Therefore, it does not require National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review.

Site-specific project planning looks closer still, from ground level. It analyzes how each proposed project fits on the ground within the project area and with neighboring projects outlined in the island-wide design. Site-specific project planning, like forest-wide planning, is subject to NEPA analysis and review. Each of these different planning efforts is important for the overall management of National Forest lands.

The Woewodski Island Landscape Assessment provides an island-wide look at existing natural resource conditions and patterns of human use. It describes how the Forest Plan guides management of National Forest lands on the island. It looks at Woewodski Island as a whole, showing how activities and resources are linked together, and identifies possible opportunities for future land management activities.

Consideration of public comments has been essential to this assessment. Both past comments and comments received during this project were incorporated into the document and provided the basis for developing the list of opportunities. This is not a decision document. Some of the projects listed would still require further environmental analysis, public review and decision-making mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act before they could be implemented.

For more information or questions, please contact Jim Steward at (907) 772-3871.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA A. GRANTHAM  
District Ranger

