United States Department of Agriculture

South Revillagigedo Integrated Resource Project

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Volume 1

Forest Service
Alaska Region

Tongass National Forest
Ketchikan Misty Fjords
Ranger District

R10-MB-834a

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Table 14. Log tow costs

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Total Rafting and Barging Costs	$0	$6,500 k	$5,538 k	$6,208 k
Rafting or Barging Costs $/MBF	$0	$70.44	$70.48	$70.39

Source: FASTR v6222020 LogCost Calc. 06292020

Estimated Employment and Income

Direct employment and income likely to result from timber harvest is estimated by converting board feet to jobs and income. The amount of timber volume and type of timber volume (old growth verses young growth) would have an effect on employment as shown in table 15, which displays the estimated direct employment that would result from volume if timber sales were offered from this project. The direct employment and income displayed assume the total maximum design criteria of potential volume for each alternative would be harvested, thus reflecting the totals for the 15-year timeline.

Table 15 displays estimated direct logging, transportation, and sawmilling-related employment and income based on old-growth volume. The number of jobs supported and related income shown in table 15 reflect the difference in for a higher market with more domestic processing as compared to a lower market with more export based on the Limited Export policy for a relative comparison of the alternatives. The market scenarios are based partly on cost collection data and an analysis of the current trends from 2014 through 2017 (Petaisto 2019). No analysis was done for 100 percent domestic processing except for western redcedar. Although some domestic processing may occur, the smaller, lower value hemlock and Sitka spruce are considered exported. The analysis of number of jobs supported used the jobs per MBF coefficients from the Daniels 2019 report and does not represent actual jobs.

Young-growth volume is assumed to be 100 percent exported because there is currently no established market for domestically sawn young-growth harvest. This was assumed true for the life of this project since the estimated amount of young-growth available on the Tongass in the next 15 years would not be enough to warrant the construction of a mill especially designed to handle young-growth logs. Recent young-growth contracts with domestic processing have not been fully successful for the purchasers due to a lack of local markets for sawn young-growth. Contracts where export of young-growth was allowed have been more successful for purchasers. Past log export and interstate shipments are reported annually on the public website:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fsbdev2_038785.

Figure 14 shows the total volume of timber harvested from the Tongass and the volume exported as logs to demonstrate the variation in the proportion of exports over time. This includes both international and domestic exports to the lower 48. Except for 2016, the majority of timber harvested from the Tongass has not been exported in log form and remained in-state for processing. Timber harvest data were collected from the cut and sold reports that are also available on the Forest Management Reports and Accomplishments page on the Alaska Region website. While this shows past export volume, it gives no indication or trend in the amount of volume that may be exported in the future.