Interdisciplinary Sampling for Collection of Wildlife, Timber, and Other Resource data for Timber Sale Evaluations in Alaska[TWS]

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An interdisciplinary sampling method was developed to collect data for timber sale evaluations in Alaska. Teams consisting of a forester and a wildlife biologist systematically collected timber cruise and general habitat data (e.g., plant association, timber volume, canopy closure, stand structure, snag counts), and conducted deer

winter range habitat assessments, neotropical migratory bird point counts, and goshawk presence/absence surveys. Each team member was also cross-trained in collecting data on stream habitat, soil stability, visual concerns, and cultural resources. The forester-biologist teams thus identified specific areas that other specialists should examine. This interdisciplinary method is compared with a more traditional approach where each resource team conducts separate surveys/ reconnaissance. The advantages/disadvantages of each method is presented. We used the interdisciplinary sampling method on 2 projects: one on the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska and one on the Chugach National Forest on the Kenai Peninsula. The interdisciplinary sampling method allowed for a more coordinated data collection effort and, therefore, more useful data were collected and better coverage for threatened and endangered species sampling was obtained. The method was also more cost-effective and allowed for a timber sale that incorporated wildlife and other resource information throughout the design process; therefore, better final products were produced. Poster.