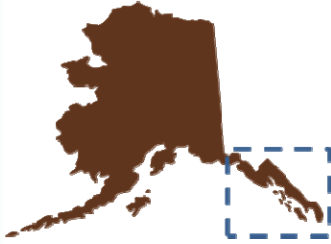


Tongass National Forest

*A Vital Economic Engine
for the Southeast Alaska Region*

Introduction to the Tongass



The Tongass National Forest covers approximately 80% of the southeast panhandle.

At 17 million acres, the Tongass is America's largest national forest. This coastal temperate rainforest rises majestically from the deep, clear waters of Alaska's Inside Passage. This is a land of huge bears grown fat on salmon, eagles soaring the endless skies, and 500-year-old trees standing silent sentry over a rich and lush world. Some of the world's largest concentration of bald eagles and brown bears reside in the Tongass. The Tongass contains nearly 30 percent of the world's remaining old-growth, temperate rainforest. The Tongass is a rare place where



The Tongass National Forest comprises nearly one-third of the world's remaining old-growth coastal temperate rainforest. © Amy Gulick/amygulick.com

people still live off the lands and waters and where visitors and locals alike can still travel over timeless glaciers, fish in pristine streams, or find solace at a remote cabin, immersed in the breath-taking beauty of wild Alaska.

Tongass: Vital to Jobs and the Economy

At the end of 2010, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) released a Transition Plan and Vegetation Schedule to shift unsustainable and unprofitable practices of logging old-growth trees in the Tongass towards a sustainable jobs plan that will revitalize the local economy and create long-term opportunities for local residents and conserve this one-of-a-kind rainforest. Emerging and established opportunities in southeast Alaska include forest restoration, renewable energy, tourism, recreation, subsistence, and commercial fishing. Alaska Wilderness League applauds these steps by the U.S. Forest Service, but there is still more to be done. In order to safeguard the region's wild assets and continue to provide opportunities for existing and new jobs in the forest the current Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) – the formal document which serves as the foundation for USFS decisions – must be amended to reflect the new direction as spelled out in these newly released documents. As the 2008 TLMP stands, the majority of areas in the Tongass that are open to logging are intact and roadless watersheds as well as old-growth forests that are vital to fish and wildlife habitat. Simply put, TLMP is out of step with the new USFS vision.



Salmon and trout species in southeast Alaska are estimated to produce more than \$1 billion of economic activity annually in southeast Alaska. © Amy Gulick/amygulick.com

What You Can Do

The next actions U.S. Congress should take include:

- Enact durable congressional protections – the strongest possible protections for the Tongass National Forest;
- Oppose new and old threats to the Tongass; and,
- Call on the U.S. Forest Service to amend the Tongass Land Management so that it embraces their new vision for the Tongass, enhancing environmental and economic sustainability.

About Alaska Wilderness League

Alaska Wilderness League is working in Alaska and Washington DC, and everywhere in between, as an advocate for the Tongass. This national and natural treasure belongs to all Americans, and we have the opportunity to conserve this special place for future generations. We can make decisions about America's rainforest that we can be proud of—balanced decisions which allow us to continue to experience and use the rainforest and its resources, without losing them. With your help and your voice, the League is working to ensure our actions today keep the Tongass special. For more information, please visit www.alaskawild.org.