



Hosting A Tongass BBQ Party

This summer's Tongass BBQ Parties will be a great way to both educate and motivate concerned citizens about why wild salmon need a wild Tongass. So when you host a Tongass BBQ, you should be ready to ask your peers after the movie to do something, like write a letter to their members of Congress—a sample letter is included that folks can use as a guide.

The type of get-together you have depends on you. It can be an after dinner party, a Saturday afternoon barbecue, a fun twist on your groups monthly meeting, or a block party. The key isn't the setting. It's letting people know not only what is at stake, but also that they can have a big impact, whoever they are. *If wild salmon is unavailable in your area, contact [Gwen\[at\]alaskawild.org](mailto:Gwen[at]alaskawild.org) for assistance with finding a vendor.*

The League has produced a video to tell the story of the Tongass National Forest through the voices of the citizens of southeast Alaska. By accompanying the video with tasty wild salmon from our Tongass, your guests will understand the impact they can have in conserving and restoring our nation's largest national forest. *Contact [Gwen\[at\]alaskawild.org](mailto:Gwen[at]alaskawild.org) to request our Tongass DVD.*

Party Tips:

- 1) Invite a variety of people. Think about more than just friends and family. Invite co-workers, hiking buddies, or that person you always see on the elevator. Sometimes having a crowd of a couple dozen people improves the atmosphere.
- 2) Depending on how large you would like the party to be, consider using websites like evite.com which allow you to email invitations to folks and track RSVP's or mail out fun invites since we all appreciate getting something fun in the mail.
- 3) Have paper and pens ready. People will be most motivated to write a letter immediately after the movie, so take that opportunity to ask them to take action and collect the letters to make sure they get to your Representative or Senators. You can send the completed letters back to us in the envelope provided.
- 4) Consider inviting local elected officials to your party like your local city council person, mayor, or even your Representative. If you need assistance finding an address or contact for your Representative just let us know, we'll be glad to help.
- 5) If you know that a local dignitary or well known personality will be attending your event, consider inviting local press to the event to educate them about our Tongass National Forest and to demonstrate local support for conserving and restoring our Tongass and the wild salmon habitat it provides. The League can assist you with a press advisory and press release as well as help you create a media plan for the event if you are interested. *Please contact your regional field staff person or Gwen Dobbs at [gwen\[at\]alaskawild\[dot\]org](mailto:gwen[at]alaskawild[dot]org) in our Washington, DC office if you need assistance.*
- 6) Want to do more? Consider visuals for the event, you can download our presentation available at http://www.alaskawild.org/tongass_bbq/ to run while your guests mingle. Also consider using the DVD during your talk (see the BBQ script below).
- 7) Following the event, send a write up about your event with photos or write a letter to the editor to your local newspaper outlining local support for our Tongass and calling on your Representative and Senators to help work to conserve and restore the forest.
- 8) Please consider taking photos of your event and sending us ([liz\[at\]alaskawild\[dot\]org](mailto:liz[at]alaskawild[dot]org)) a report on how your event went. We'll post your photos on our website to help inspire others to host their own BBQ.

Sample Recipe for Grilled Wild Alaska Salmon

Wild Alaska salmon is so flavorful that to serve it with competing flavors is to disrespect the fish. The key to good salmon is to buy it as fresh as possible, be sure that it's wild caught, and to know that it tastes best when shared.

*Wild Alaska king or sockeye salmon fillet, skin on
Light-tasting olive oil
Brown sugar
Paprika
Kosher salt
Black pepper*

Rinse the salmon and pat it dry. Brush both sides of the fish lightly with olive oil. Sprinkle brown sugar and paprika evenly on the flesh side, gently pressing the rub into the fish. Top off with a little salt and pepper. Sear the salmon on a hot grill, flesh side down. Carefully flip the fish over so the skin side is down. Remove the salmon from the grill when white opaque droplets begin to form on the fish. The flesh should be firm on the outside but still a little rare in the middle, as it will continue to cook after it's off the grill. Take great care not to overcook the fish. Enjoy!

Featured in the book "Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska's Tongass Rain Forest" by Amy Gulick, published by Braided River. For more information, visit www.alaskawild.org/salmon.

The Facts: Tongass National Forest

—America's Rainforest—

On our continent's shimmering western edge, lies a mist-shrouded place of emerald islands, towering, ancient spruce, rugged mountains and fast-running rivers bursting with fish. It is America's Tongass National Forest located in southeast Alaska. Rising majestically from the deep, clear waters of southeast 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 verdant world.

It is a rare place where people 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. It is our National Forest System's crown jewel. Yet, despite its vast bounty and its value to America and the world, our Tongass has been severely impacted by past unsustainable old-growth logging practices within sensitive areas, risking essential salmon and wildlife habitat.

The Tongass National Forest is – at 17 million acres – by far our largest national forest and is one of the last coastal temperate rainforests left on our changing planet. Its value to us – and the world – flows from its uniqueness, its vast scale, and from the diversity of wildlife and traditional ways of life it supports.

- The Tongass' eastern edge is bordered by the highest coastal mountain range in the world.
- **Grizzly bears are estimated to number nearly → 7,000 in the Tongass.**
- As many as 10,000 bald eagles – the world's largest concentration – reside in the Tongass.
- About a million acres of Southeast Alaska's coastal rainforest old-growth trees have already fallen to clear-cut logging.
- As much as 200 inches of rain falls each year in the Tongass.
- The Tongass contains nearly 30 percent of the world's remaining old-growth, temperate rainforest.
- Eighteen federally-recognized tribes use the resources in the Tongass for traditional living and cultural uses.



Photo by Jason Soza



Photo by Erin McKittick

- Five species of Pacific salmon – Chinook, Coho, Sockeye, Pink and Chum – spawn in the streams and rivers of the Tongass.
- Sustainable salmon fisheries contribute more than \$600 million annually to local economies and represent nearly 11 percent of all employment.
- Commercial fishing in the Tongass contribute nearly \$1 billion dollars annually when combined with sport and personal use fishing.

← **The Tongass and Southeast Alaska attract approximately 1.2 million visitors every year.**

Alaska Wilderness League is committed to protecting this national treasure — ensuring that our Tongass remains a place of wild majesty. Working in Southeast Alaska with numerous stakeholders, including native groups, commercial and sport fishing interests, local business owners, loggers and conservationists, the League is leading the charge to keep America's Rainforest the ecological wonder it is today.

Alaska Wilderness League is working hard to ensure that future resource extraction from our Tongass does not destroy the forest's rich yet fragile ecosystem. If we hope to pass this unique place on to future generations, then we must prioritize protection and restoration of the region's fragile ecosystem.

The Tongass National Forest belongs to all Americans, and we need your help to conserve and restore this national treasure. We still have the chance to conserve our Tongass National Forest on an ecosystem scale for future generations.

With your help and your voice, we can achieve the strongest possible protections for our Tongass.



Photo by Joe McCabe

*For more information, contact Alaska Wilderness League's Laurie Cooper, (907) 523-9344, or Steve Kline, (202)544-5205
www.AlaskaWild.org*

Sample script: How to discuss the Tongass with your BBQ guests.

Hello everyone. My name is X and I'm a volunteer for Alaska Wilderness League. Thank you so much for coming to our barbeque tonight to learn more about our Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska and taste some of its famous wild salmon. These events are being held around the country throughout the summer, hosted by staff and volunteers from Alaska Wilderness League. The League is the only national organization dedicated solely to protecting our nation's public lands and waters in Alaska.

On our continent's shimmering western edge, lies a mist-shrouded place of emerald islands, towering, ancient spruce, rugged mountains and fast-running rivers bursting with fish. It is our Tongass National Forest, America's Rainforest, located in southeast Alaska – not just a national treasure but a world treasure.

Inspired by its grandeur, Theodore Roosevelt created the Tongass National Forest in 1907. A year later, it was combined with the earlier-established Alexander Archipelago Forest Reserve to create most of what we now know as the national forest. Further additions were made by presidential proclamation in 1909 and in 1925.

Rising majestically from the deep, indigo waters of southeast 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 verdant world.

It is a rare place where people can still travel over timeless glaciers, fish in pristine streams, or find solace at a remote cabin while immersed in the breath-taking beauty of wild Alaska.

A true frontier, our nation's largest national forest, unique in its bounty of wildlife found nowhere else on Earth, our Tongass is one of the few places left on our planet that still supports a healthy, intact web of life, and a wondrous balance between land, water, animal, and human.

Our Tongass can support vibrant communities and a robust economy through sustainable use of the forest's resources including timber and fish, as well as with the outdoor recreation and tourism it attracts every year.

Recent studies indicate that sustainable salmon fisheries contribute more than \$125 million annually to local economies.

[Contact Gwen Dobbs at gwen@alaskawild.org to request a video that can be shown at this time.]

Alaska Wilderness League has produced a video to allow the voices of southeast Alaska to tell the story of our Tongass National Forest and efforts to come together for a long term solution to conserve and restore the forest.

[SHOW VIDEO, IF AVAILABLE]

I hope you enjoyed learning more about our Tongass National Forest and its beauty, diversity and unique culture. As you can see, wild salmon need a wild Tongass.

Alaska Wilderness League is committed to protecting this national treasure – to ensuring that our Tongass remains a place of wild majesty. Though our Tongass has been carelessly clear-cut in the past and lasting damage has been done to essential habitat, there is much we can do to conserve its last remaining old growth and restore critical fish and wildlife habitat. Alaska Wilderness League is working hard to ensure that future development does not destroy the forest's rich yet fragile ecosystem.

Alaska Wilderness League is working locally and nationally with a diverse set of stakeholders. We believe collaboration offers us an important opportunity to achieve our primary goals for our Tongass National Forest, which are to: obtain the highest possible level of long-term protections for the most important areas of our Tongass. If we hope to pass this unique place on to future generations, conservation is needed for the region's fragile ecosystem, while allowing for economic stability to meet the region's needs. The Tongass National Forest belongs to all Americans, and we need your help to conserve and restore this national treasure.

We still have the chance to conserve our Tongass National Forest on an ecosystem scale for future generations. With your help and your voice, we can achieve the strongest possible protections for our Tongass.

I hope you will join me tonight in writing a letter to REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR X asking that HE/SHE work to conserve and restore our Tongass National Forest.

In addition to writing a letter, you can help conserve our Tongass by purchasing wild salmon for southeast Alaska. We have information here* about how you can purchase salmon directly from fishermen in southeast Alaska.

Dear Honorable _____:

Our Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska is among the largest intact coastal temperate rainforests left in the world – and it belongs to all of us. Established over a century ago by President Theodore Roosevelt, at 17 million acres, the Tongass is our largest national forest. It is home to towering old-growth trees, five species of Pacific salmon, some of the highest concentrations of grizzlies and bald eagles found anywhere on earth, and southeast Alaskan communities and Native cultures which depend on the rainforest and waterways for their livelihoods and way of life.

Our Tongass and Southeast Alaska supports a diverse economy which in many ways relies on a healthy and intact ecosystem including the two largest private industries – tourism and commercial fishing. Each year, over one million people visit our Tongass for a wilderness experience that includes watching its wildlife, kayaking its waters, hiking its trails, and fishing its waters. The sustainable wild Alaskan salmon fishery contributes more than \$125 million annually to local economies.

Our Tongass is a national treasure and an ecological wonder that belongs to us all. But this mighty forest, having provided for Americans for centuries, now needs our help to be restored and remain intact for future generations. Despite its vast bounty and its value to America and the world, the Tongass has been severely taxed by unsustainable old-growth logging in sensitive areas risking essential salmon and wildlife habitat. And too much of the big-tree, old-growth forest and salmon habitat left remain open to clear-cut logging and development.

With sound science, on-the-ground expertise – and your help – we will have what we need to conserve vital fish and wildlife habitat, honor southeast Alaska's heritage, meet the needs of the local communities whose livelihoods depend upon the forest, and keep the Tongass living and working for generations to come.

Please support restoring and conserving America's Rainforest by working to provide lasting protections for our Tongass National Forest.

Sincerely,