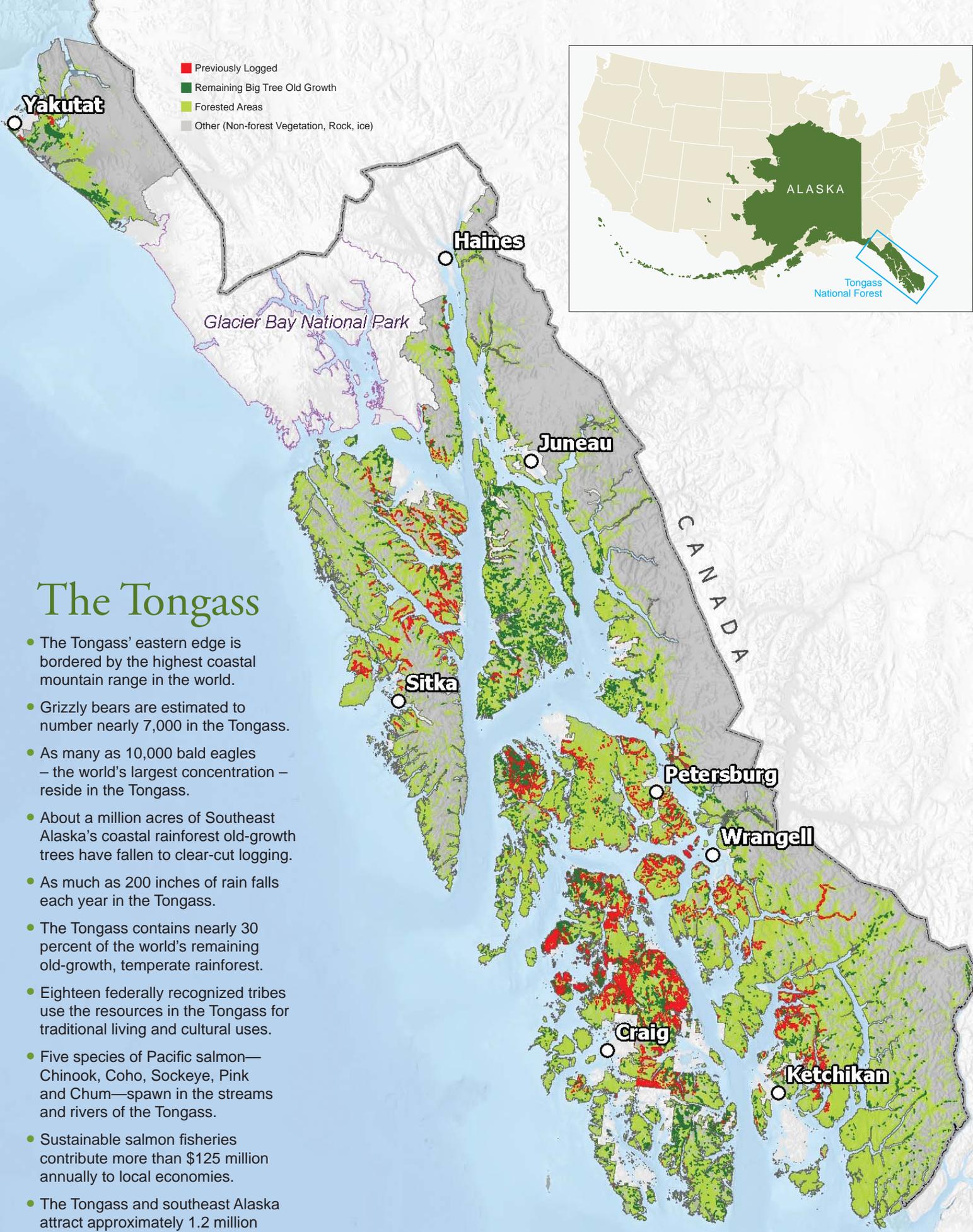




# TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

*America's Rainforest*



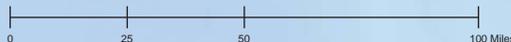


- Previously Logged
- Remaining Big Tree Old Growth
- Forested Areas
- Other (Non-forest Vegetation, Rock, ice)



# The Tongass

- 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 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.
- 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 \$125 million annually to local economies.
- The Tongass and southeast Alaska attract approximately 1.2 million visitors every year.





# national treasure

America's Rainforest—wild, rare, thriving...

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. 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 breathtaking beauty of wild Alaska. A true frontier, the Tongass is unique in harboring certain wildlife in concentrations found in few places on Earth. It is one of the extraordinary places left on our planet that still supports an intact web of life and a wondrous balance between land, water, animal and human. 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 unsustainable old-growth logging in sensitive areas, risking essential salmon and wildlife habitat.

**A**laska Wilderness League is committed to protecting this national treasure — to ensuring that our Tongass remains a place of wild majesty. Working arm-in-arm with numerous stakeholders, including native groups, commercial and sport fishing interests, loggers and conservationists, the League is leading the charge to keep America's Rainforest the ecological wonder it is today — for all future generations.





**The Tongass National Forest is America's Rainforest and a national treasure.**

At 17 million acres, the Tongass is 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. Our Tongass remains an ecological wonder, a natural paradise of old-growth trees that predate Columbus's arrival in the New World more than 500 years ago.



## ...an ecological wonder.

“We are owners of a local sea kayaking business in Gustavus, Southeast Alaska. We have the good fortune to share with travelers the abundant wildlife, spectacular vistas, and solitude of the old-growth rainforests that make up the Tongass National Forest. We offer visitors the opportunity to experience what is becoming increasingly rare in America and around the world — access to truly wild places. Protected lands are not only vital to the health of our

business, they also support the streams that give us the fish we eat and whales we watch, the wolves and bears that awe and inspire us, and the quiet of pristine forests that soothe our spirits. Whether we’re guiding a trip, picking berries or going for a hike in the wild places of our Tongass, this wondrous place enriches our lives and the lives of our many visitors.”

—Jai Crapella and Stephen Vanderhoff  
*Owners and Operators  
of Spirit Walker Expeditions*



“I am a scientist, an educator, and a mountaineer who fell in love with wildness at 17. A day after my high school graduation, I flew to Alaska for a summer job in the wild. Since that time, I have spent nearly every summer there. I have had run-ins with grizzlies, seen the startling fangs of wolverine and wolves, watched whales breach, paddled through glacial debris, sheltered through frigid nights, seen the inside of more than one crevasse, and

eaten blueberries until I thought I might turn blue myself. I have been lucky. I try to explain Alaska to my friends and family and all I can say is this: Alaska has taught me how to think — how to be in this world. It is my context and my source of grace and humility. The wildness of Alaska has shown me how to be bold; to expect uncertainty; to tolerate adversity; to move forward when I am not sure what comes next.”

—Bonnie Kreps

Though the 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 resource extraction from our Tongass does not destroy the forest's rich yet fragile ecosystem.

The Tongass is a national treasure and an important ecosystem for the world. We have reached the point of needing to do what is right for the forest and all its inhabitants. This means repairing what has been damaged by past logging, using science to determine where and how logging can continue, and protecting healthy, intact areas of the forest to the greatest degree possible.

The Tongass is so much more than the world's lumber yard. 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.**

To learn more and get involved, please go to [www.alaskawild.org/rainforest](http://www.alaskawild.org/rainforest).



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**“In Wildness is the preservation of the World”**

— Henry David Thoreau

*Your Land.  
Your Voice*



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