



THE TONGASS 77

***CONSERVING SOUTHEAST ALASKA WATERSHEDS
FOR FISH, WILDLIFE AND RECREATION***

At nearly 17 million acres, the Tongass National Forest

makes up 80% of the Southeast Alaska region and is our country's largest and most unique national forest. This magnificent landscape is part of the world's largest remaining intact temperate rain forest. With nearly 18,000 miles of freshwater salmon habitat and average annual salmon returns of 48 million fish, the Tongass is also a salmon forest. Salmon returning to their natal streams and rivers are the basis for a complex nutrient chain that support much of the vegetation and trees which make-up the forest and also nourish a wide variety of birds, mammals and other fish. This diversity of fish and game species and the untrammled landscape of the region make the Tongass a unique destination for sportsmen.

The Tongass abounds with hunting opportunities - literally from sea-level to the tops of the region's craggy peaks. The Tongass is a stop-over point for large migrations of ducks and geese which can be hunted in the numerous bays and estuaries of the Tongass. Moving inland to the dense Sitka spruce and hemlock forests, Sitka black-tail

deer, moose, elk and both black and brown bears may be pursued. The highest alpine areas are home to mountain goat while ptarmigan and grouse can be found throughout these elevations depending on the season.

Many residents of the Tongass rely on game animals and salmon resources for their sustenance - rural households in the region consume an average of 250 pounds of venison yearly. Southeast Alaska Conservation Assessment - Chapter 9.1-John Sisk.

The Tongass and Southeast Alaska have been the source for many record book big game animals and the region boasts over 50 registered guides and master hunting guides.

Hunting seasons are long and bag limits are liberal by Lower 48 standards. Although the diversity of species and hunting opportunities are outstanding, the attribute that sets the Tongass apart from most other hunting destinations is the ability to seek ones quarry free from crowds of other hunters and in a near-pristine landscape. But this landscape is changing.

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Threats

While Tongass wildlife and fish resources are currently healthy and abundant, there are a variety of threats that could harm their future productivity. These threats include several initiatives that would privatize large swathes of the Tongass for development and resource extraction, as well as dozens of hydroelectric dam proposals and new mining activity. Climate change impacts and funding cuts for research programs that guide conservation efforts are also threats.

A Roadmap for a Solution

Wildlife and fish—and the communities, cultures and economies they sustain—require clean, healthy, non-developed landscapes to remain productive. Researchers with Trout Unlimited’s Alaska Program analyzed the results of a study which used state-of-the-art GIS and conservation planning software to evaluate the over 1,000 watersheds which comprise the Tongass to identify the “best of the best” places that currently lack watershed-scale protection. After consulting with federal and state biologists and an assortment of fishing and hunting stakeholders, the list was narrowed to 77 high-value watersheds comprising 1.9 million acres that form the backbone of the salmon fishing, hunting and recreation opportunities on the Tongass National Forest. Based on the outstanding wildlife and fish habitat in these watersheds and their contributions to local communities and economies, the highest and best use of the “Tongass 77” is the production of wildlife and fish.

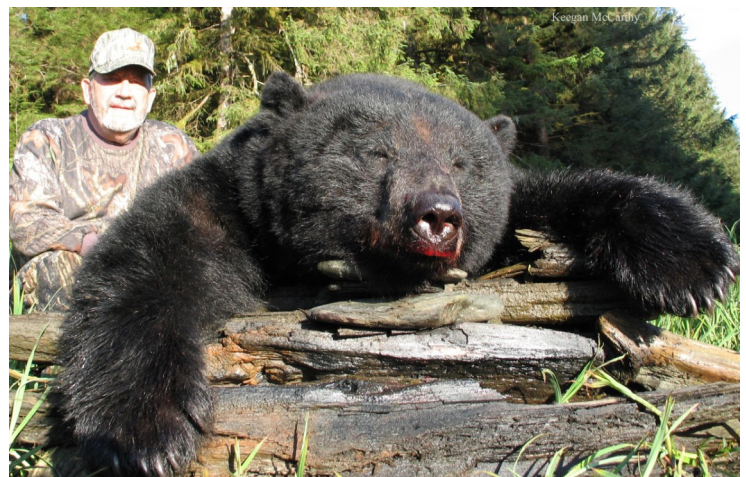
Federal legislation to permanently conserve the Tongass 77 is necessary to ensure the long-term productivity of these important watersheds. Maintaining natural production, species diversity, traditional use and access, and the health and function of fish and wildlife habitat should be the top management priorities in these areas. Additionally, by prohibiting commercial logging, new road building and new mining developments within the Tongass 77, we can help ensure Southeast Alaska’s abundant wildlife and fish remain for generations to come and continue to fuel the region’s communities and economy.

Boone and Crockett Records from the Tongass

- ⇒ #1 all-time non-typical Sitka black-tail deer
- ⇒ 8 of Top 10 non-typical Sitka black-tailed deer
- ⇒ 7 of all-time Top 10 typical Sitka black-tail deer
- ⇒ 7 of all-time Top 20 mountain goats
- ⇒ #10 all-time black bear

Pope and Young (Archery) Records from the Tongass

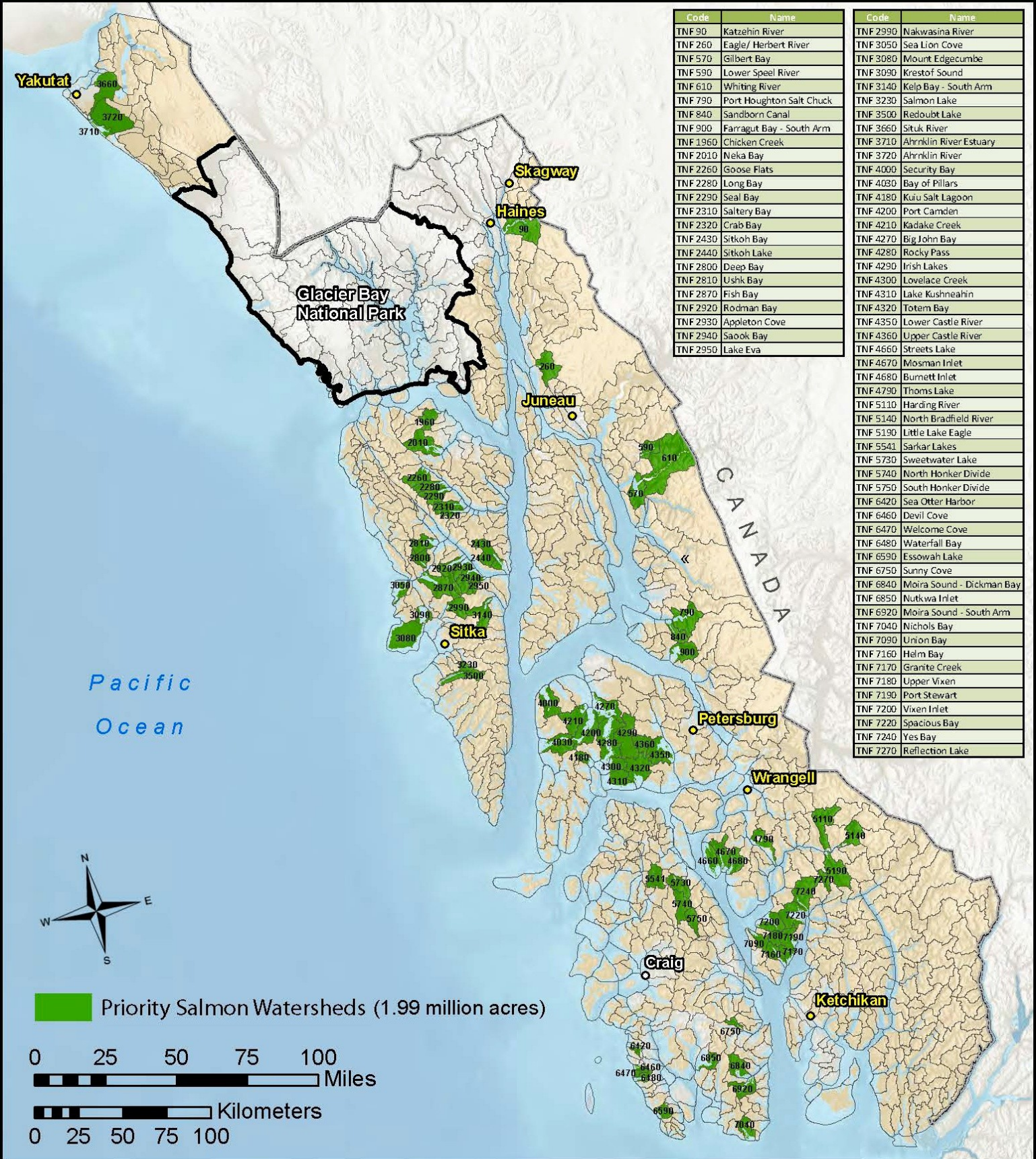
- ⇒ #1 and #2 Sitka black-tailed deer
- ⇒ 5 of Top 10 Sitka black-tail deer
- ⇒ 3 of Top 10 mountain goats



The Tongass 77 - Conserving Southeast Alaska’s Most Diverse Watersheds



THE TONGASS 77



Code	Name
TNF 90	Katzeihin River
TNF 260	Eagle/ Herbert River
TNF 570	Gilbert Bay
TNF 590	Lower Speel River
TNF 610	Whiting River
TNF 790	Port Houghton Salt Chuck
TNF 840	Sandborn Canal
TNF 900	Farragut Bay - South Arm
TNF 1960	Chicken Creek
TNF 2010	Neka Bay
TNF 2260	Goose Flats
TNF 2280	Long Bay
TNF 2290	Seal Bay
TNF 2310	Saltery Bay
TNF 2320	Crab Bay
TNF 2430	Sitkoh Bay
TNF 2440	Sitkoh Lake
TNF 2800	Deep Bay
TNF 2810	Ushk Bay
TNF 2870	Fish Bay
TNF 2920	Rodman Bay
TNF 2930	Appleton Cove
TNF 2940	Saook Bay
TNF 2950	Lake Eva

Code	Name
TNF 2990	Nakwasina River
TNF 3050	Sea Lion Cove
TNF 3080	Mount Edgcombe
TNF 3090	Krestof Sound
TNF 3140	Kelp Bay - South Arm
TNF 3230	Salmon Lake
TNF 3500	Redoubt Lake
TNF 3660	Situk River
TNF 3710	Ahrnklin River Estuary
TNF 3720	Ahrnklin River
TNF 4000	Security Bay
TNF 4030	Bay of Pillars
TNF 4380	Kuiu Salt Lagoon
TNF 4200	Port Camden
TNF 4210	Kadake Creek
TNF 4270	Big John Bay
TNF 4280	Rocky Pass
TNF 4290	Irish Lakes
TNF 4300	Lovelace Creek
TNF 4310	Lake Kushneahin
TNF 4320	Totem Bay
TNF 4350	Lower Castle River
TNF 4360	Upper Castle River
TNF 4660	Streets Lake
TNF 4670	Mosman Inlet
TNF 4680	Burnett Inlet
TNF 4790	Thoms Lake
TNF 5110	Harding River
TNF 5140	North Bradfield River
TNF 5190	Little Lake Eagle
TNF 5541	Sarkar Lakes
TNF 5730	Sweetwater Lake
TNF 5740	North Honker Divide
TNF 5750	South Honker Divide
TNF 6420	Sea Otter Harbor
TNF 6460	Devil Cove
TNF 6470	Welcome Cove
TNF 6480	Waterfall Bay
TNF 6590	Essowah Lake
TNF 6750	Sunny Cove
TNF 6840	Moira Sound - Dickman Bay
TNF 6850	Nutkwa Inlet
TNF 6920	Moira Sound - South Arm
TNF 7040	Nichols Bay
TNF 7090	Union Bay
TNF 7160	Helm Bay
TNF 7170	Granite Creek
TNF 7180	Upper Vixen
TNF 7190	Port Stewart
TNF 7200	Vixen Inlet
TNF 7220	Spacious Bay
TNF 7240	Yes Bay
TNF 7270	Reflection Lake

Take Action

Far too often, people wait to address issues until their ability to solve them is long past. The demise of wildlife and fish habitat outside Alaska did not happen overnight, nor was it the result of one specific event or circumstance. Rather, it was the accumulation of impacts from a variety of human actions: "death by a thousand cuts." By conserving the Tongass 77 now, we can secure a self-sustaining, annually renewable resource that can fuel Southeast Alaska communities and businesses forever.

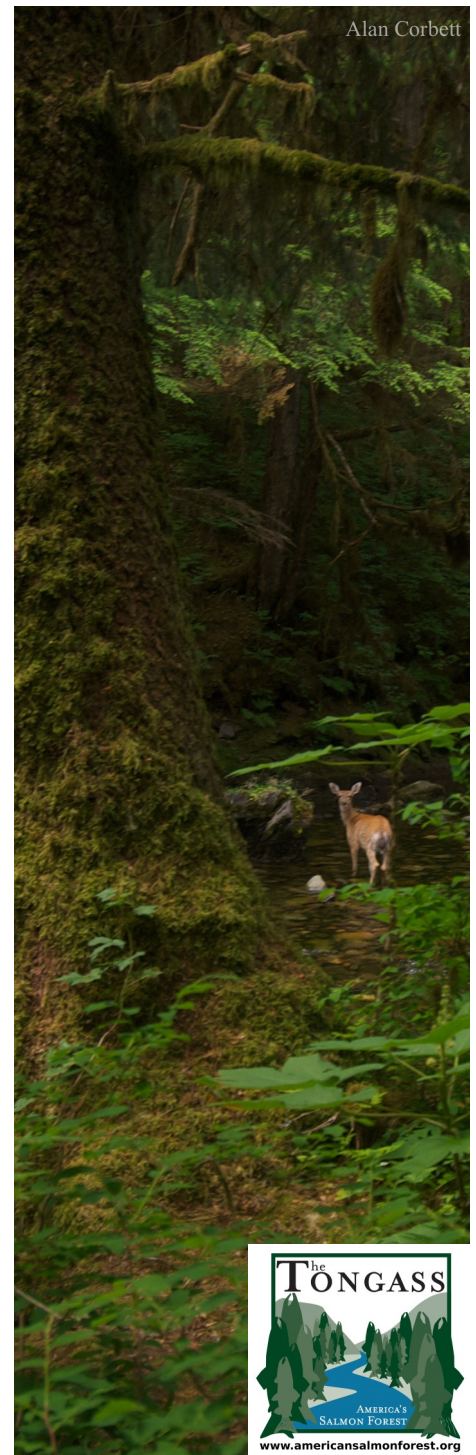
Conserving the Tongass 77, in essence, conserves opportunities for sportsmen, as well as the economy and jobs of Southeast Alaska and beyond which depend on wildlife, fish and wild lands.

YOU CAN HELP

Whether you hunt or fish, eat wild Alaskan fish and game or just like knowing they're out there, you can be part of the solution.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Congress, and the Alaska delegation in particular, needs to know you support "The Tongass 77." Your phone call, email or letter could make all the difference. Please sign our open letter to Congress at www.americansalmonforest.org



Trout Unlimited Alaska

Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program works to conserve, protect and restore wild salmon and trout populations throughout Alaska. TU's vision for the Tongass National Forest includes permanent conservation designations for high-value salmon, wildlife and recreation watersheds, as well as the implementation of a comprehensive plan for restoring fish passage and impacted watersheds throughout the region. These actions will sustain and enrich the vital economic and social contributions of salmon and trout to Southeast Alaska.

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