



BRAIDED RIVER

CHANGING PERSPECTIVES

Contact:
Rita Cipalla
Cipalla Communications Inc
206/281-9021
rita@cipalla.com

Tongass National Forest: Quick Facts

Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska's Tongass Rain Forest explores one of the rarest ecosystems on Earth. The 176-page book showcases some 160 stunning color images by photographer Amy Gulick.

LOCATION	Southeast Alaska, also called the Panhandle of Alaska or the Inside Passage
SIZE	16.8 million acres, about the size of West Virginia. The Tongass is 3 times the size of the next largest U.S. national forest.
GEOGRAPHY	A narrow arc on the mainland coast that borders Alaska and British Columbia, and more than 5,000 islands in the Alexander Archipelago.
ECOLOGY	A coastal temperate rain forest with an annual precipitation ranging from 38 inches to more than 200 inches. This exceptionally rich ecosystem holds more organic matter per acre than any other in the world, including tropical jungles.
GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE	Contains nearly one-third of the world's rare old-growth coastal temperate rain forest
SALMON IN TREES	<p>Migrating salmon are a conveyor belt for nutrients, moving marine nitrogen from the Pacific Ocean upstream to Southeast Alaska rivers. Hungry bears carry fish away from the streams and into the forest; the nutrients from the salmon carcasses decompose into the soil and fertilize the trees.</p> <p>Recent studies show that trees on the banks of salmon-spawning streams grow three times faster than their counterparts alongside a salmon-free stream.</p> <p>Salmon, in turn, benefit from trees. The trees clean and shade the water, helping eggs to survive. Fallen trees over the streams create protected pools for juvenile fish and provide food for the insects they eat.</p>
WILDLIFE	Some of the world's highest densities of grizzly bears, black bears, bald eagles and salmon. The Tongass encompasses some 4,500 salmon-spawning streams.
BIRDS	The Tongass is home to more than 300 species of birds. There are an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 bald eagles, along with some of the world's deepest diving birds, such as long-tail ducks, loons and the common murre, which can dive to 630 feet.
NATIVE CULTURES	Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian

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