

The Tongass at 16.8 million acres, is as big as 10 states. It is our forest and our home. In Southeast Alaska, it supports tourism, fishing, recreation, timber and mining. We have 19 legislated wilderness areas. Additional wilderness designation will restrict legitimate forest uses and the communities that depend on the forest resources.



The Viking Lumber Company sawmill is the largest year round employer on Prince of Wales Island. Below, sockeye salmon share our rich forest resources.

Photo by Henry Williamson



MULTIPLE USE
WATERSHED HEALTH
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY
FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
RECREATION
NATIONAL FOREST ROADS

Our Tongass National Forest is successfully managed for multiple uses. Help us keep it this way!

Southeast Conference
 PO Box 21989
 Juneau, AK 99802
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 111 Stedman, Ste 200
 Ketchikan, AK 99901
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TONGASS FACTS

1 OLD GROWTH

93% of the total productive old growth and 85% of the highest volume of old growth timber remains - much of this preserved in wilderness areas. Over the next 100 years, the Forest Service would allow harvest on less than 10% more of this high-volume old-growth.

2 PROTECTION

The Tongass National Forest Plan is written specifically to protect the biological heart of the Forest. The Plan has been scientifically reviewed by independent biologists who found it to be fully capable of meeting our obligations to manage habitat to maintain well-distributed, viable wildlife populations.



3 TIMBER PRICES

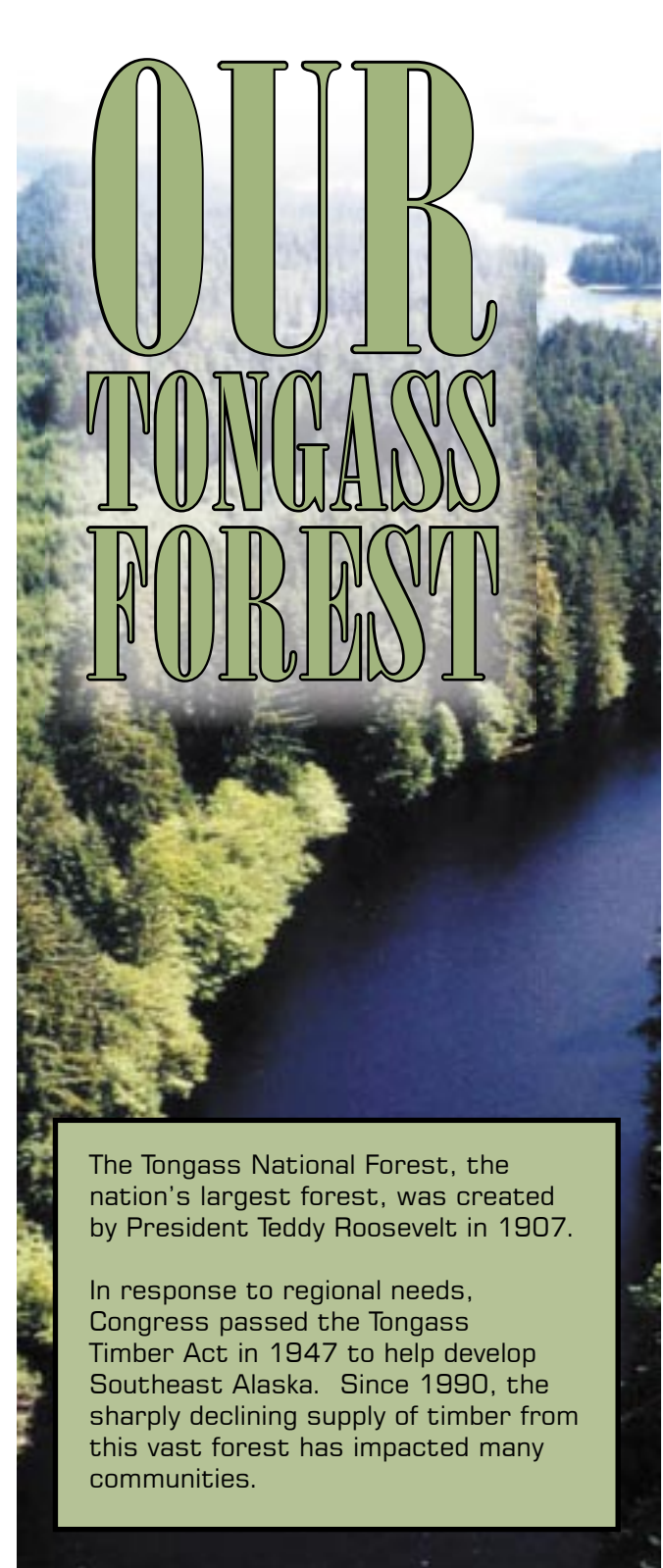
The cost of timber sales is about \$36 per thousand board feet. The price companies pay the Forest Service averages \$41 per thousand board feet.

4 LAND RESTRICTIONS

One third (5.8 million acres) of the Tongass is designated as wilderness. Federal land comprises about 94% of Southeast Alaska. Our interrelated communities in Southeast Alaska rely on the forestland for their economic base. This includes fishing, mining, logging, timber manufacturing and tourism.

Source: USFS web site www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/

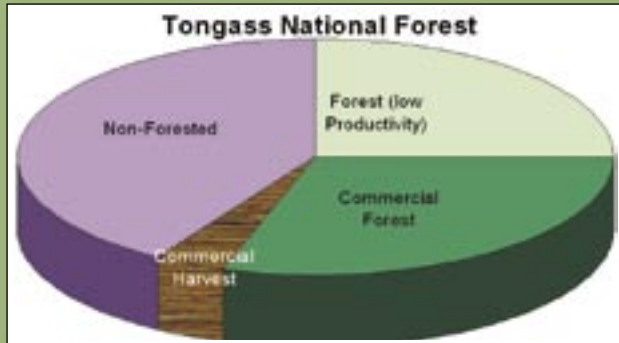
OUR TONGASS FOREST



The Tongass National Forest, the nation's largest forest, was created by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1907.

In response to regional needs, Congress passed the Tongass Timber Act in 1947 to help develop Southeast Alaska. Since 1990, the sharply declining supply of timber from this vast forest has impacted many communities.

THE TONGASS IS AS LARGE AS WEST VIRGINIA.



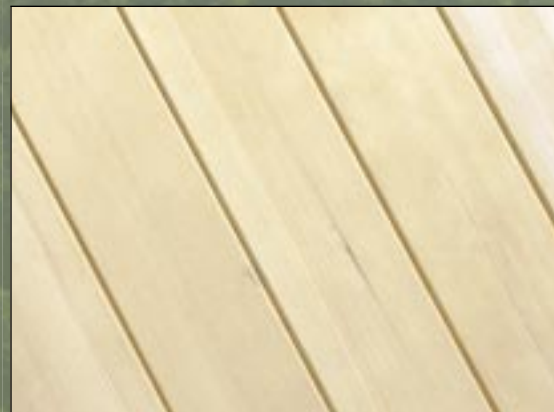
The Tongass has 10 million acres of forest.

After 50 years of commercial activity in the Tongass:

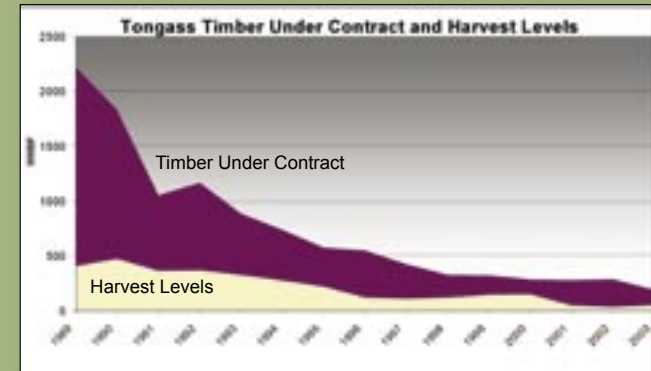
- 1 There are no threatened or endangered species.
- 2 Deer populations allow sport hunters to take 4-6 deer annually
- 3 The Tongass Land Management plan maintains habitat for viable, sustainable ecosystems and all the species that currently exist here.
- 4 For each 1 acre of the Tongass that can be harvested, there are 10 acres of forest land that will never be harvested and another 14 acres that are managed for recreation, wildlife habitat and other uses.
- 5 All harvested acres are reforested with healthy, vigorous stands of second-growth timber. When regrown, the second-growth timber will have almost double the volume of timber that was originally growing on these acres.



This 70 year old second-growth timber was thinned about 15 years ago and now has more volume per acre than the original old-growth.



Wood from forests like the Tongass create materials for houses and employment for our communities.



Below, clockwise from left, the Sitka spruce is the Alaska state tree; typical scenery in Southeast Alaska; a Sitka blacktailed deer browses on the edge of the forest.

