



Dennis Landwehr
Forest Soil Scientist
Tongass National Forest

I get involved in restoration work from the program manager level on the budgeting side, as well as little bit in the field.

My field work that relates to salmon and watershed restoration is primarily concerned with where we get wood for our instream projects and where we get rootwad trees to put in the streams.

The other facets of my job are soil mapping and monitoring, so we look at the effects of all the activities that the Forest Service does on the ground.



Gordon “Gordy” Reeves
Research Fish Biologist,
Pacific Northwest Research Center

I’m a research biologist, so my job is to understand how land management practices—human activities— affect the freshwater environment of salmon.

Salmon are an indicator of the condition of the ecosystem. Salmon integrate all of the processes and functions going on in the terrestrial system, along with what’s going on in the ocean. They reflect the health and vitality of those two environments.

You look at your salmon population and you’re going to have a really good perspective on what’s going on in the world around you.



Chris Leeseberg
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Sitka Ranger District

My job is to overview any proposed projects for the district, and how they affect fish and wildlife habitat.

You hear it said all the time that the forests here are salmon forests and they truly are. Salmon go out to the ocean and they bring back marine nutrients and nurse the forest.

We’re just starting to really understand how important salmon are to our ecosystems here, so from a biological component they’re really important to me. They signify everything around us.



Faces of the Tongass National Forest

Fisheries and Watershed Program Staff

Russel “Tarz” Snook

Hatchery Creek Weir Crew Leader
Thorne Bay Ranger District

We take biological samples of the fish (sockeye) and we mark them. They go through the net weir, and they're recorded on camera, so we kind of double check ourselves with that. Other than that, we keep this place running.

For my whole family, salmon are really important. The subsistence fishery is really important to us. Everybody in my family participates in that, the canning and smoking fish, and just freezing it. It's really important all the way through the winter, it cuts down on the grocery bill. We collect as much food as we can—venison, salmon, and halibut.

Joe Serio

Fisheries Technician
Sitka Ranger District

I'm a technician for the Forest Service. I'm in charge of running the Redoubt Lake Weir. There's a lot of things going on with this project. We're counting salmon, we're determining the escapement for each season, we're taking water samples, we're fertilizing.

To see how people depend on salmon, how the bears depend on salmon, how the eagles, how even the insects come out of the ground and eat carcasses the bears have left, how salmon are infiltrated into the trees—it's interesting because the more you find out the more you realize we don't really know. That's what I love about salmon.

With over 17,000 miles of salmon habitat, the Tongass National Forest produces more wild salmon than all other national forests combined. Each year 50 million Tongass salmon make up the majority of Southeast Alaska's commercial catch, supporting 1 in 10 of the region's jobs and adding \$1 billion to the regional economy.

Forest Service programs protect and restore salmon streams, add fish passes to enhance salmon runs, and work with state and local partners to ensure that salmon remain an important part of the Tongass National Forest.

For the more than 50 fisheries and watershed staff—fish biologists, hydrologists, weir watchers, soil scientists, and researchers—who work in programs across the Tongass National Forest, salmon are an important part of their lives, both professionally and personally.

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