



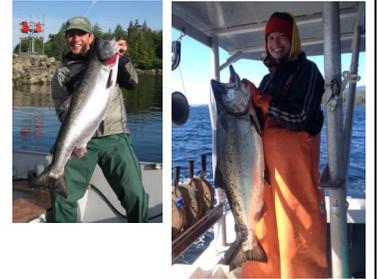
Tongass National Forest Watershed Restoration Program, 2018

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Fish are a mainstay of living and working in Alaska.

- ◆ Salmon habitat protection and restoration are stakeholder priorities.
- ◆ Salmon support 1 in 10 jobs in Southeast Alaska.
- ◆ Nearly 90% of rural households in Southeast Alaska use salmon.
- ◆ The Tongass produces 70% of all the wild salmon produced from all National Forest lands.
- ◆ 80% of the annual Southeast Alaska commercial salmon catch (about 49 million salmon) comes from streams and lakes of the Tongass, valued at \$60 million annually.



Integrated, multidisciplinary, strategic investments in relatively few degraded watersheds can successfully restore function critical to salmon life stages, enhance ecological sustainability and promote resilience to climate change.

The forest-wide Watershed Condition Framework assessment found that most of the 900 watersheds within the Tongass are in near natural condition (Condition Class I). Less than 7% have higher condition scores and may be “at risk” for maintaining ecological function due to past management practices; these watersheds likely have restoration needs (see map, other side)



1960s: extracting gravel from Twelvemile Creek to use for road construction

Degraded watershed condition in the Tongass primarily results from timber harvest and road building between 1950 and 1979. The Tongass Timber Reform Act (1990) and subsequent Forest Plans (1997, 2008, 2016) require more restrictive measures to protect watershed condition and salmon habitat. Old growth harvest is no longer allowed in Trout Unlimited’s “Tongass 77” watersheds.

Following a review by Tongass staff and stakeholders, the Forest Supervisor established Priority Watersheds (see map, other side) to focus restoration plans and activities.

Restoration projects include road storage and decommissioning, removal and remediation of fish barriers at road-stream crossings, wildlife habitat improvements in young-growth forests, riparian young-growth forest treatments, and large wood placement to restore floodplain and stream functions that provide spawning and rearing habitat features critical to freshwater salmon life stages.



2014: placing large wood in Saginaw Creek to restore stream function and habitat features.

Partnerships are fundamental to improving watershed condition in the Tongass.

Thanks to The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, State of Alaska, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Sitka Conservation Society and National Forest Foundation watershed condition has been restored through the completion of all essential projects in Harris River, Twelvemile Creek, Sitkoh River, and Sitkoh Creek. Ongoing partnerships support restoration that will soon be completed in Shelikof (Iris Meadows) and Stoney watersheds.



2010: wood structures placed in Harris River to restore stream function and habitat features.

The National Fish Habitat Partnership recognized Twelvemile Creek and Shelikof Creek as “Waters to Watch.” Restoration is ongoing in Saginaw and Luck/Eagle watersheds and plans are underway in Shaheen and Margaret watersheds. The Tongass participates in the Hoonah Native Forest Partnership, a Natural Resource Conservation Service-funded all-lands collaboration of private landowners, Tribes, state and federal agencies, and conservation organizations seeking to improve watershed condition to benefit the community of Hoonah.

Tongass National Forest Watershed Classification & Prioritization

09/19/2016

Map Elements

 Priority Watersheds - Active

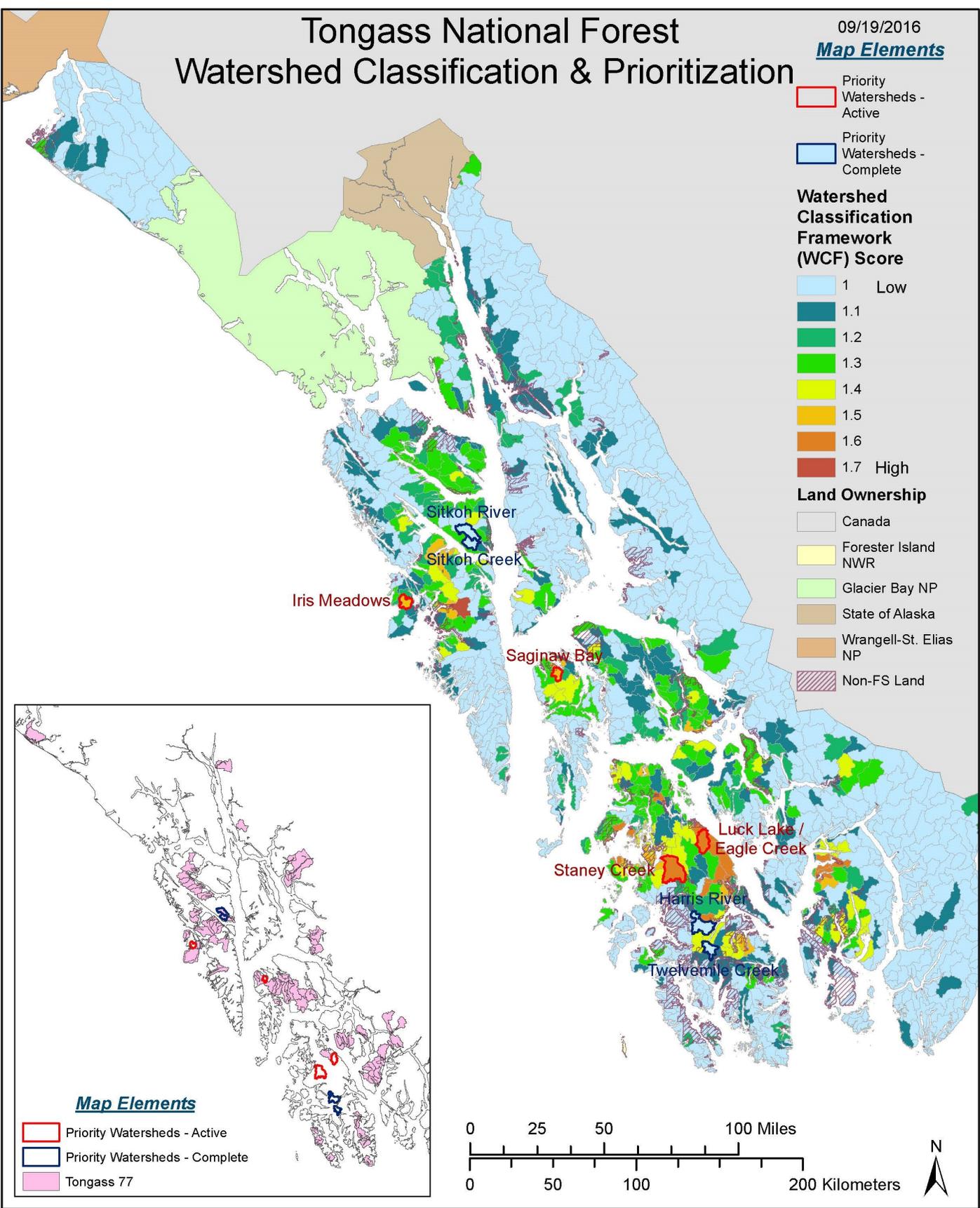
 Priority Watersheds - Complete

Watershed Classification Framework (WCF) Score

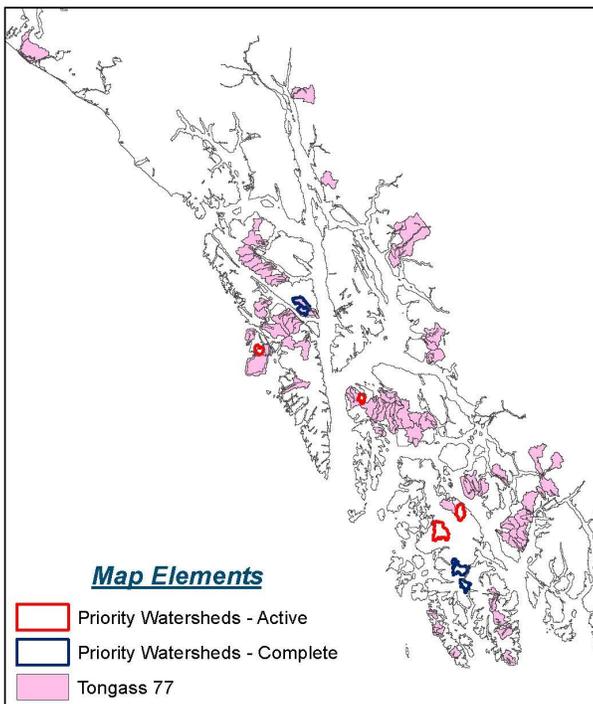
 1 Low
 1.1
 1.2
 1.3
 1.4
 1.5
 1.6
 1.7 High

Land Ownership

 Canada
 Forester Island NWR
 Glacier Bay NP
 State of Alaska
 Wrangell-St. Elias NP
 Non-FS Land



Sitkoh River
 Sitkoh Creek
 Iris Meadows
 Saginaw Bay
 Luck Lake / Eagle Creek
 Stoney Creek
 Harris River
 Twelvemile Creek



Map Elements

 Priority Watersheds - Active

 Priority Watersheds - Complete

 Tongass 77

0 25 50 100 Miles

0 50 100 200 Kilometers

