United States Department of Agriculture

Alaska Region
New Employee Orientation

Forest Service | Alaska Region | R10-UN-017 | July 2020

Front cover shows employees working in various ways around the region.

Alaska Region
New Employee Orientation

R10-UN-017 July 2020

Juneau's typically temperate, wet weather is influenced by the Japanese Current and results in about 300 days a year with rain or moisture. Average rainfall is 92 inches in the downtown area and 54 inches ten miles away at the airport. Summer temperatures range between 45 °F and 65 °F (7 °C and 18 °C), and in the winter between 25 °F and 35 °F (-4 °C and -2 °C).

On average, the driest months of the year are April and May and the wettest is October, with the warmest being July and the coldest January and February.

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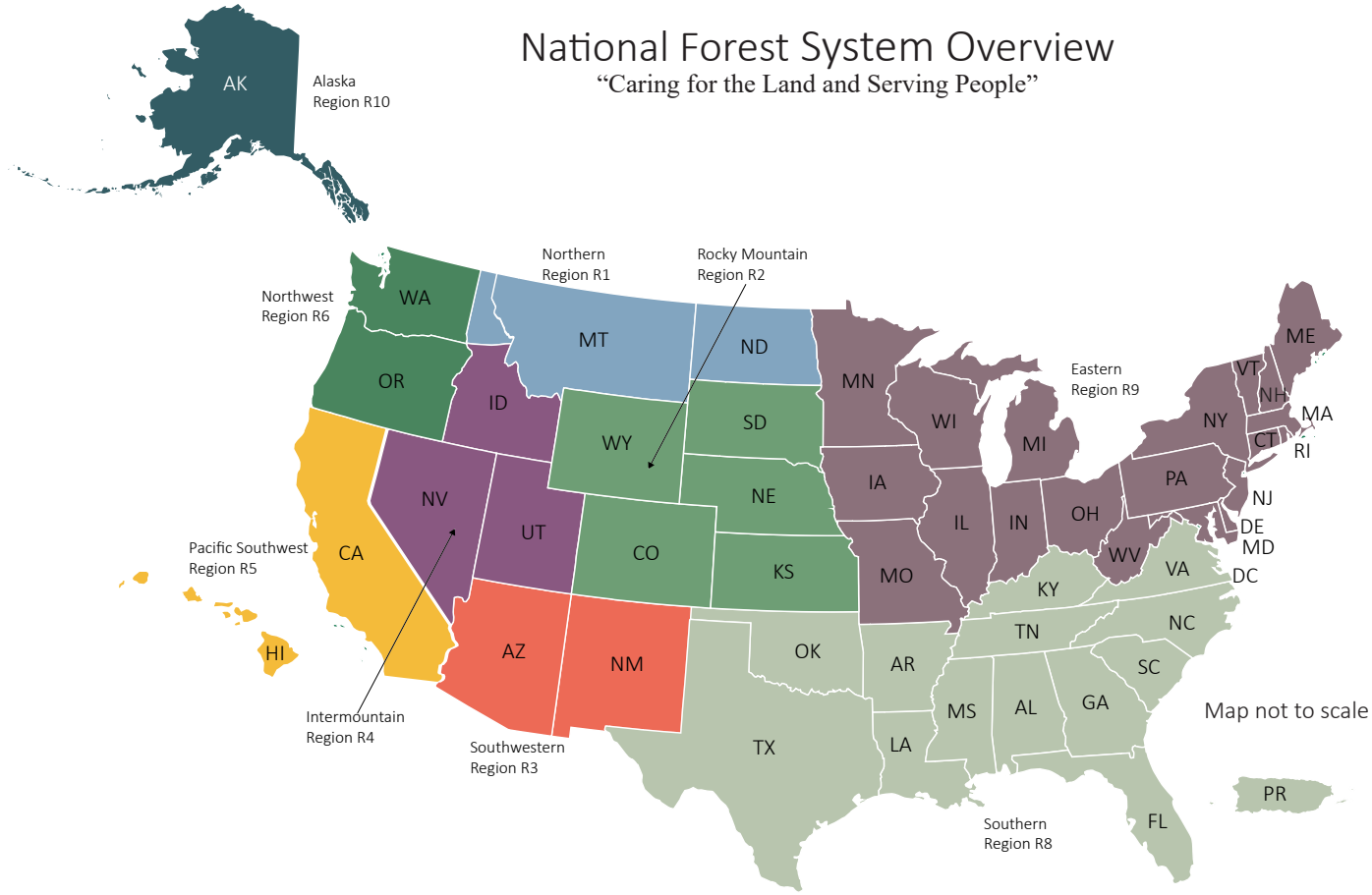
National Forest System Overview

"Caring for the Land and Serving People"



154 National Forests, 20 National Grasslands, as well as special areas such as Experimental Forests & Ranges, and Research Natural Areas covering 193 million (192,994,069) acres of National Forest System land.

Forests and Grasslands

The Forest Service manages the National Forests and Grasslands for sustainable multiple uses to meet the diverse needs of people, ensure the health of our natural resources, provide recreational opportunities, manage wildfire, guard against invasive threats, and work with state and private forest landowners, cities and communities, and international cooperation.

Forests
The Forest Service stewards an impressive portfolio of landscapes across 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands in the public trust. The agency's top priority is to maintain and improve the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of current and future generations.

Minerals and Geology
The Forest Service manages its mineral and energy program to provide commodities for current and future generations along with the need to sustain the long-term health and biological diversity of ecosystems.

Plants
Native plants are valued for their economic, ecological, genetic, and aesthetic benefits. Using native plant material in vegetation projects maintains and restores native plant gene pools, communities, and ecosystems, and can help reverse the trend of species loss in North America.

Rangelands
Rangelands in the United States are diverse lands. They are the wet grasslands of Florida and the desert shrub ecosystems of Wyoming. They include the high mountain meadows of Utah and the desert floor of California.

Recreation
Providing the greatest diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities in the world means working to balance the desires of recreationists while ensuring future generations have the same access.

Restoration
Restoration is helping nature recover from degradation, damage and destruction. The goal is to re-establish a balance of nature needed for air, water, plants and animals to thrive.

Water
Water is one of the most important resources flowing from national forests and grasslands, providing drinking water to more than 180 million people.

Wildlife and Fish
Our work includes restoring aquatic organism passage, stream habitat, and floodplains; enhancing lake productivity; restoring habitat for a vast array of wildlife species from hummingbirds and bighorn sheep to spotted frogs and black bears; and connecting people to the outdoors.

Regional Forester's Welcome

Welcome to Alaska

It is always a great pleasure for me to welcome new employees to the Forest Service – Alaska Region – a land of extremes where massive Sitka spruce create cathedral-like forests; frigid blue glaciers grind their way relentlessly through mountains; humpback whales frolic in the waters encircling the forests; and bears, eagles and salmon are plentiful.

The beauty and bounty of Alaska's two national forests - the Tongass and Chugach - draw attention from around the nation and around the world. And now, you are a part of this wonderment.

Welcome to the Team

You join upwards of 600 men and women who work with the public to manage more than 23 million acres of their public lands in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska. We are a leader in protecting the land's bounty while providing a place for people to live, work and play.

The Chugach National Forest makes a 210-mile arc around Prince William Sound, with the state's largest city, Anchorage, as an access point. It has three ranger districts and is home to Seward, Cordova, Valdez and other communities.

The Tongass National Forest stretches the 500-mile length of the Alaska Panhandle and encompasses more than 80 percent of the land. It has 10 ranger districts and is home to the cities of Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Petersburg, and other communities located in this vast temperate rain forest.

Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Our motto is *"Caring for the Land and Serving People."*

In the Alaska Region, you will be introduced to healthy, functioning ecosystems and abundant resources that provide global benefits.

From a natural laboratory for studying changing climates and lands and resources that support economic prosperity, to unparalleled recreational opportunities, you will be a welcomed addition as we continue to maintain these benefits through the work our all our dedicated and skilled employees, shared stewardship, community connections and strong partnerships.

Remember, Alaska is more than a place to visit; its where we live.

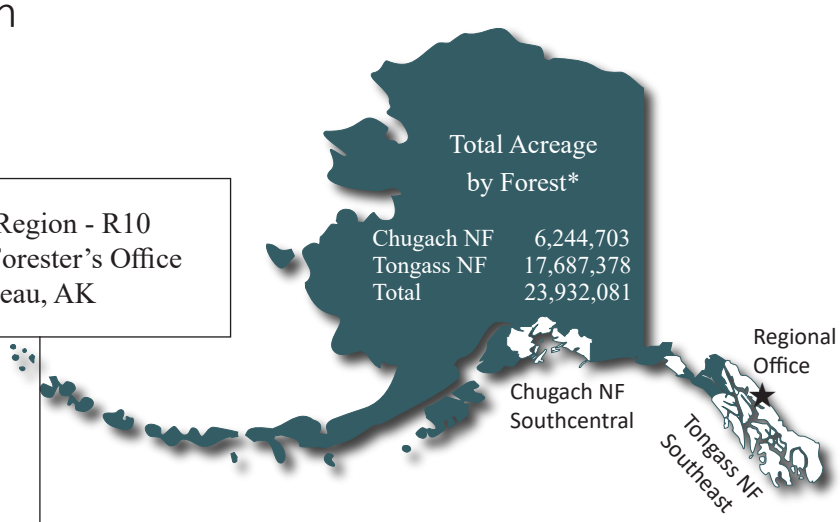
Those who make the last frontier their home, particularly Native cultures, feel a deep and spiritual connection to the land. We can leave this legacy for future generations by ensuring the region thrives ecologically, economically and culturally.

David E. Schmid, Regional Forester

Welcome to your Forest Service Career

Whatever your role is as a new Alaska Region employee, you will be a part of a team that is **Value** based, **Purpose** driven, and **Relationship** focused.

Alaska's National Forest Organization



Alaska Region - R10
Regional Forester's Office
Juneau, AK

- Chugach National Forest
  Forest Supervisor's Office
  Anchorage, AK
  - Cordova Ranger District
    Cordova, AK
  - Glacier Ranger District
    Girdwood, AK
  - Seward Ranger District
    Seward, AK
- Tongass National Forest
  Forest Supervisor's Office
  Ketchikan, AK
  - Admiralty Island National Monument
    Juneau, AK
  - Prince of Wales Ranger District
    Craig, AK
  - Hoonah Ranger District
    Hoonah, AK
  - Juneau Ranger District
    Juneau, AK
  - Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District
    Ketchikan, AK
  - Petersburg Ranger District
    Petersburg, AK
  - Sitka Ranger District
    Sitka, AK
  - Wrangell Ranger District
    Wrangell, AK
  - Yakutat Ranger District
    Yakutat, AK

*Total acreage by forest is based on the most recent Lands Area Report published by the Agency.

Regional Leadership Team (RLT)

The Alaska Region – Regional Leadership Team (RLT) is a dynamic group of exceptional men and women who bring decades of knowledge and experience into a circle of trust that allows them to face the special opportunities and challenges – together – that are truly unique to Alaska and the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

By working closely and collaboratively guided by regional priorities, a strategically managed budget and a streamlined workforce, these program leads, and partners stay connected at all levels, meeting quarterly to march forward in ensuring Region 10 continues to connect people to nature and to each other.

Office of the Regional Forester

Regional Forester (RF)
Juneau, Alaska

Deputy Regional Forester (DRF)
Juneau, Alaska

National Forests

Chugach National Forest (CNF)
Forest Supervisor | Anchorage, Alaska

Tongass National Forest (TNF)
Forest Supervisor | Ketchikan, Alaska

Tongass National Forest (TNF)
Deputy Forest Supervisor | Ketchikan, Alaska

Directors/Deputy Directors

Acquisitions Management
Director | Juneau, Alaska

Civil Rights, R6/R10/PNW (CR)
Director | Portland, Oregon

Ecosystem Planning & Budget (EPB)
Director | Juneau, Alaska

Engineering & Information Management (EIM)
Director | Juneau, Alaska

Engineering, R6/R10 (ENG)
Deputy Director | Portland, Oregon

Fire, Fuels & Aviation Management, R6/R10 (FFA)
Director | Portland, Oregon

Forest Management (FM)
Director | Juneau, Alaska

Occupational Health & Safety (Safety)
Director | Juneau, Alaska

Public Affairs (PAO)
Director | Juneau, Alaska

Recreation, Lands, Minerals (RLM)
Director | Juneau, Alaska

Recreation, Lands, Minerals (RLM)
Deputy Director | Juneau, Alaska

Special Assistant to the Regional Forester
Special Assistant | Juneau, Alaska

State & Private Forestry, R6/R10 (SPF)
Director | Portland, Oregon

State & Private Forestry, R10 (SPF)
Deputy Director | Anchorage, Alaska

Tribal Relations (TR)
Director | Juneau, Alaska

Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watershed & Subsistence (WFEWS)
Director | Juneau, Alaska

RLT PARTNERS

Human Resources (HR)
HR Officer | Sitka, Alaska

Law Enforcement & Investigations (LEI)
Special Agent in Charge | Juneau, Alaska

Office of the General Counsel (OGC)
Asst. Regional Attorney | Juneau

Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW)
Director | Juneau, Alaska

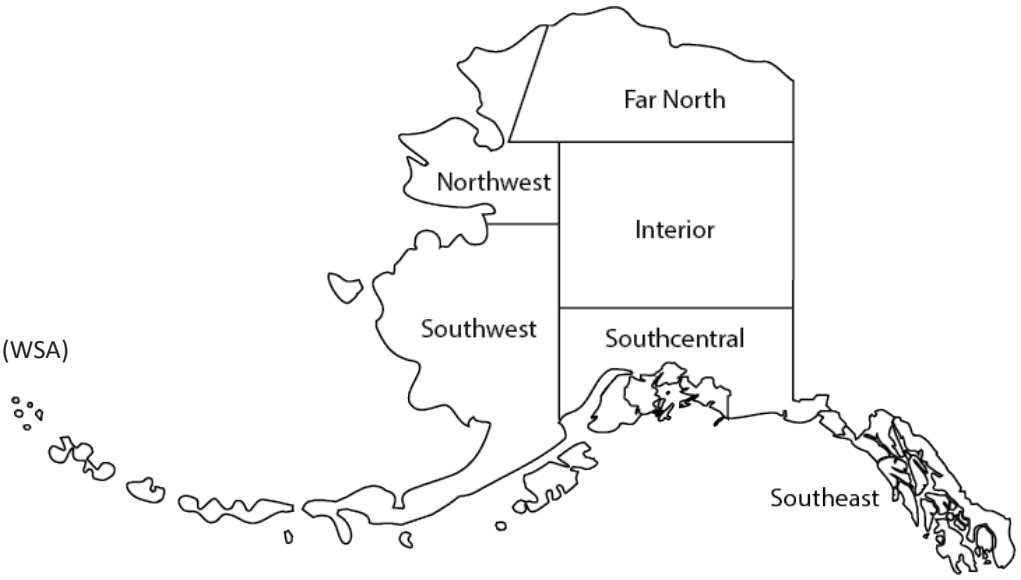
For the most recent RLT chart visit:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd759509.pdf

Common Place Names

Southcentral / Chugach National Forest
Anchorage
Blackstone Bay
Coopers Landing
Copper River Delta
Cordova
Girdwood
Harriman Fiord
Kenai Peninsula
Montague Island
Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA)
Placer River
Portage Valley
Russian River
Seward
Turnagain Arm / Turnagain Pass
Valdez
Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop

Southeast / Tongass National Forest
Admiralty Island
Alexander Archipelago
Angoon
Anan
Auke Bay
Baranof Island
Chichagof Island
Chief Shakes Hot Springs
Chuck River Wilderness
Cleveland Peninsula
Craig
Hoonah
Hyder
Gravina Island
Juneau
Kasaan
Ketchikan LeConte Bay
Misty Fjords
Mitkof Island
Pack Creek
Petersburg
Prince of Wales Island
Revillagigedo Island
Sitka
Situk River
Stikine River
Thorne Bay
Tracy Arm-Fords Terror
Petersburg
Woronkofski Island
Wrangell
Wrangell Narrows
Yakutat
Zarembo Island

Alaska Location Reference



Alaska Native Groups

Commonly engaged with Forest Service

Alutiiq	(al-yoot-eek)
Athabascan	(ath-a-bass-can)
Eyak	(ee-yahk)
Kenaitze	(key-nigh-zee)
Haida	(high-dah)
Tlingit	(kling-it)
Tsimshian	(sim-shin)

Common Geographic Icons

Chugach National Forest
Childs Glacier
Byron Glacier
Portage Glacier
Spencer Glacier
Sargent Icefield
Ted Stevens Icefield

Tongass National Forest
El Capitan Cave
LeConte Glacier
Mendenhall Glacier
New Eddystone Rock

Common Acronyms

This is an abbreviated listing of acronyms and abbreviations you may encounter in Forest Service documents and publications or websites, or those materials (e.g., correspondence) that may have impact on your work or situation, whether you're a scientist, wildlife biologist, administrative assistant, etc.

Forests

CNF	Chugach National Forest
FLT	Forest Leadership Team
NF	National Forest
RD	Ranger District
SO	Supervisor's Office
TNF	Tongass National Forest

Region

RLT	Regional Leadership Team
RO	Regional Office
AQM	Acquisition Management
CR	Civil Rights
EPB	Ecosystems Planning and Budget
ENG	Engineering
FFA	Fire, Fuels, and Aviation
FM	Forest Management
IM	Information Management
Safety	Occupational Health and Safety
PAO	Public Affairs Office
RLM	Recreation, Lands, and Minerals
SPF	State and Private Forestry
TR	Tribal Relations
WFEWS	Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watershed, and Subsistence

Regional Partners

HR	Human Resources
LEI	Law Enforcement and Investigations
OGC	Office of the General Counsel
PNWRS	Pacific Northwest Research Station

Information Management

CIO	Chief Information Office
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FACTS	Forest Activity Center
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSTC	Geospatial Services and Technology Center
IM	Information Management
IRM	Information Resource Management
LMR	Land Mobile Radio
NRIS	Natural Resource Information System
NRM	Natural Resources Management
TIM	Timber Information Management Software

State & Private Forestry

FHP Forest Health Protection
FHM Forest Health Management
FIA Forest Inventory Analysis

Ecosystems Planning

ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
BMP	Best Management Practice
CE	Categorical Exclusion
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DM	Decision Memo
DN	Decision Notice
EA	Environmental Assessment
EADM	Environmental Analysis and Decision Making
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NFS	National Forest System
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOI	Notice of Intent
ROD	Record of decision
SUP	Special Use Permit

Fire

AFMO	Assistant Fire Management Officer
FFAM	Fire, Fuels, and Aviation Management
FMO	Fire Management Officer
NICC	National Interagency Coordination Center
NIFC	National Interagency Fire Center
PIO	Public Information Officer

DOI	**Department of Interior**
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OSMRE	Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
NPS	National Park Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

UDC	**Department of Commerce**
EDA	Economic Development Administration
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

USDA	**United States Department of Agriculture**
ARS	Agricultural Research Service
ERS	Economic Research Service
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FS	Forest Service
NFS	National Forest System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRE	Natural Resources and Environment
OC	Office of Communications (FS)
OSEC	Office of the Secretary (USDA)
RD	Rural Development
WO	Washington Office (FS)

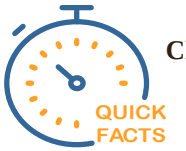
FOREST SERVICE MAP

Constructed in 2012 by digital methods at the Geospatial Service and Technology Center in Salt Lake City, UT.
2012 field review and additional edits were provided by the Alaska Region.

Longitude west f

from Greenwich

Albers Equal Area Projection Central Meridian 149° West
National Geodetic Vertical Datum 1983



Chugach National Forest Quick Facts

- Approximately 5.4 million acres.
- Is the farthest north and west of all U.S. national forests.
- Home to all five North American species of Pacific salmon: king, red, silver, chum, and pink.
- Produces 13 percent of the commercial salmon harvested from Alaska.
- Forty-one public use cabins.
- More than 500 miles of trails including the Iditarod National Historic Trail.
- Approximately 1.6 million acres are covered in ice.

Chugach National Forest

A Forest of Rock & Ice

Ron Neibrugge

The 5.4-million acre Chugach National Forest's stunning landscape stretches across south-central Alaska, from the salty waters and snowy peaks of Prince William Sound to the fabulous salmon and trout streams of the Kenai Peninsula, covering an area the size of New Hampshire. It is one of the few places left in the world where glaciers still grind valleys into the hard rock of the earth.

One of the first forest reserves created by a presidential proclamation in 1892 was located in Alaska. This reserve was later to become the Chugach National Forest in 1907. By 1911, railroads were providing access to the area's copper mines.

Its geographic diversity is unique among national forests. The three distinct landscapes of the Copper River Delta, the Eastern Kenai Peninsula, and Prince William Sound are destinations for adventurers and nature enthusiasts from the world over and are once-in-a-lifetime destinations for a million visitors each year. You'll find a special place here, camping with family and friends, cruising the sound, or watching a million shorebirds. You'll see Alaskans living and working in the national forest. They are guiding visitors on kayak adventures, working gold claims, commercial fishing for Copper River reds, and following a traditional way of life.

Rocked by Earthquakes

This is a richly disturbed land as the Earth's plates collide in a geologic push and shove. On March 27, 1964, one of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded in North America shook the area in and around the Chugach National Forest. The earthquake uplifted land as much as 20 feet, shook buildings to their foundations, and flooded villages with its massive tsunami. Dead trees, killed by encroaching salt water, are still visible along Turnagain Arm east of Anchorage, sentinel reminders of the fury of the event.

Carved by Glaciers

Above 2,000 feet, the alpine tundra snow contributes to the ice that carves the valleys. Famous glaciers like Portage, Childs, and Columbia grind their way through the Chugach National Forest to the sea. Other glaciers like Harvard and Harriman or Dirty and Surprise are scattered throughout the forest.

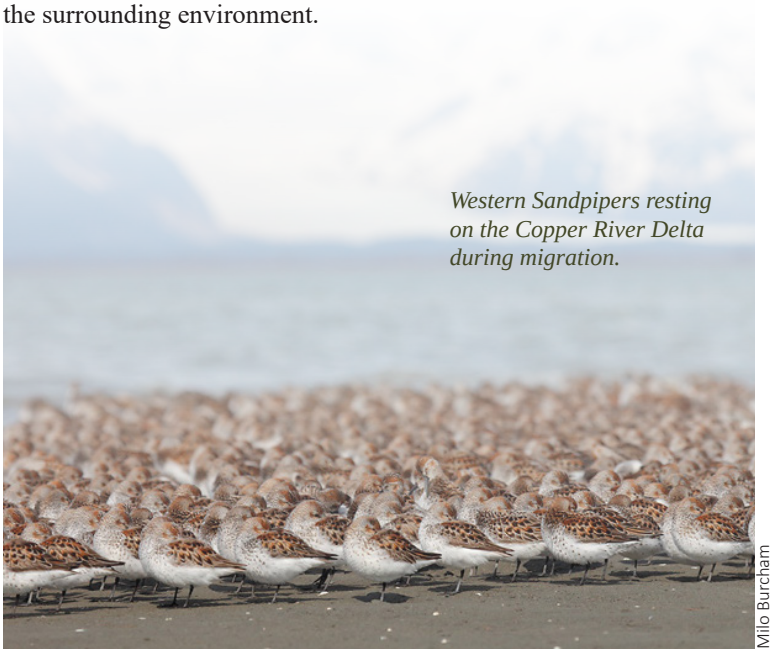
Vast icefields on state, private, and federal lands feed the glaciers, creating a profound solitude unimaginable outside of Alaska. This is solitude where people enter only by hiking, flying, or snowmachining. Where the ice melts, river systems form with amazing deltas that fan across the landscape. Frigid, fresh water lakes and streams dot the map before reaching sloughs and estuaries, and then salt water.

On the edges of Prince William Sound, abundant rain and snow nurture a hushed forest of spongy moss, western hemlock, and straight-growing Sitka spruce. Although the Kenai Peninsula has vegetation similar to interior Alaska, it also supports thousands of acres of birch, aspen, white spruce, and black spruce. The forest has experienced recent years of infestations by the native spruce bark beetle. The beetle has killed thousands of acres of trees on state, private, and federal lands.

A Wildlife Mecca

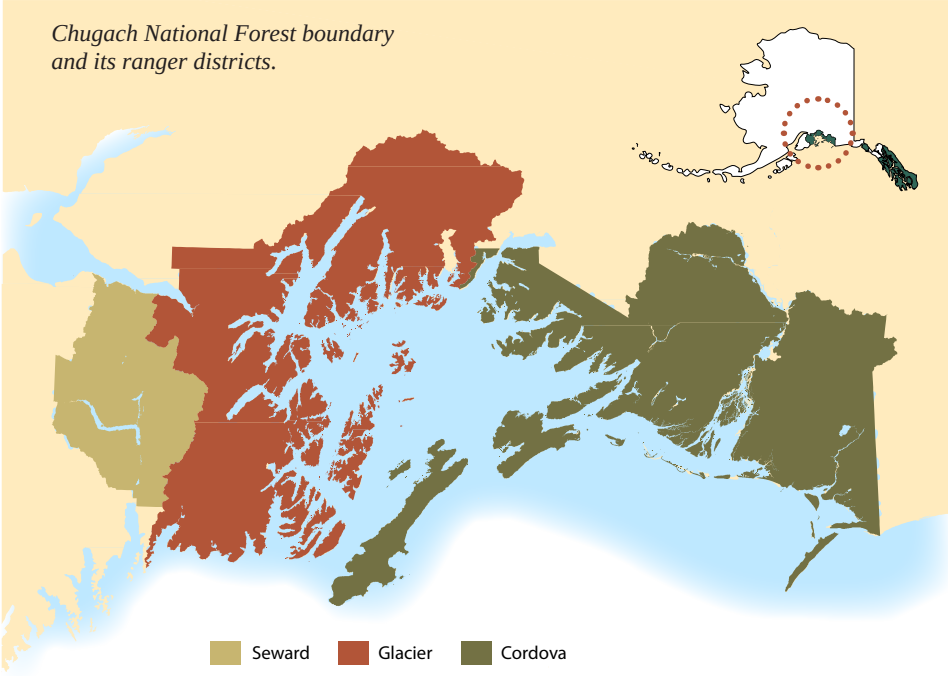
The enormous wetlands of the Copper River Delta near Cordova serve as nesting, staging, and feeding habitat for more than 20 million birds each year. In summer, these wetlands support one quarter of the world's population of trumpeter swans and dusky Canada geese.

The diverse lands and waters of the Chugach National Forest provide habitat for many types of birds, including songbirds, shorebirds, and birds of prey. Fish and marine mammals, such as humpback whales, sea lions, and otters, swim through the waters and take advantage of the surrounding environment.



Western Sandpipers resting on the Copper River Delta during migration.

Milo Burcham



Chugach National Forest boundary and its ranger districts.

Mountain goats and Dall sheep traverse steep hillsides. The Chugach National Forest is the only national forest supporting a population of Dall sheep. Moose ramble their way through the Copper River Delta, and herds of caribou roam the Kenai Peninsula. Sitka black-tailed deer populate the islands in Prince William Sound. Black and brown (grizzly) bears inhabit most of the forest, foraging from the alpine slopes to the intertidal zones.

A Rich Culture

The Chugach National Forest is a melting pot of indigenous cultures. Chugach Eskimo, Eyak Indians, and Kenaitze and other Athabascan Indian peoples continue to live in their homeland. Today they continue traditions extending thousands of years into the past.

A Life Tied to the Land

Less than one third of the Chugach National Forest is readily accessible by road from Anchorage or Seward. Most of the forest and the communities of Cordova, Chenega, and Tatitlek are accessible only by plane or boat.

Today, many rural residents live a subsistence lifestyle, just as Alaska Natives have for centuries. Communities in and around Prince William Sound rely on fishing, tourism, and natural resources. Small gold-mining operations are scattered throughout the Chugach and Kenai Mountains.

The Portage Valley area is on the state's list of top tourist attractions. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people travel the Seward Highway All-American Road to visit the valley and the award-winning Begich, Boggs Visitor Center. Here they are treated to exhibits that interpret Prince William Sound and the Chugach National Forest's spectacular views of valley glaciers, an iceberg-filled lake, multiple trails, and opportunities for salmon viewing during salmon spawning season.

Other visitors come to attend shorebird festivals or to lure salmon out of the Kenai Peninsula's Russian River. In winter, snowmachining, heli-skiing, and dog-sledding are prime activities for residents and visitors.

The weather on the Chugach National Forest varies greatly. A sunny day in Anchorage might turn rainy and foggy after just a short drive along Turnagain Arm. Near Anchorage, the average high temperature for January is 22 °F (-5 °C). By July, the temperature can climb to 65 °F (18 °C).

Rainfall can average as little as 15 inches per year. However, in coastal communities of the Chugach National Forest, rainfall can exceed 160 inches per year.

Visitors traveling to the Chugach National Forest will find remarkable variations in day length. At the summer solstice, the area receives more than 20 hours of daylight. At the winter solstice in December, the sun sets at 3:45 p.m. after just a short 6 hours of daylight. The mountains, glaciers, ocean, and wetlands provide an almost unlimited variety of scenery for the people who live near the Chugach National Forest, and for those who visit the national forest and Prince William Sound.

The Seward Highway is recognized for its scenic, natural, historical and recreational values. The 127-mile Seward Highway holds triple designation: USDA Forest Service Scenic Byway, Alaska Scenic Byway, and All-American Road. Caption credit: www.dot.state.ak.us.

Forest Office Locations

Anchorage skyline

© Karen J. Laubenstein

Forest Supervisor's Office

The population of 298,190 (41 percent of the state's population) makes Anchorage Alaska's largest city. It's known for its cultural sites, including the Alaska Native Heritage Center, which displays traditional crafts, stages dances, and presents replicas of dwellings from the area's indigenous groups.

The city is also a gateway to nearby wilderness areas and mountains including the Chugach, Kenai, and Talkeetna. With more than 60 glaciers within 50 miles of downtown Anchorage, a salmon stream in the heart of the city, six surrounding mountain ranges, 300 miles of wilderness trails, Anchorage has a lot to offer. The Chugach National Forest is within an hour's drive of Anchorage and a drive toward the forest means traveling along Turnagain Arm for an opportunity of an occasional beluga whale cameo. Anchorage is home to the Chugach National Forest Supervisor's Office.

Charles Lindemuth

Front lobby of the Chugach National Forest Supervisor's Office.

Cordova Ranger District

Cordova is home to the Cordova Ranger District and is accessible only by plane or boat, and is one of the ten most important commercial fishing ports in Alaska. Located on the eastern side of the Chugach National Forest, Cordova is a charming community of more than 2,400 people. It is nestled between Prince William Sound to the west and the wetlands of the Copper River Delta to the east.

Cordova was built as the terminus of the Copper River and Northwestern Railway that brought copper ore from the Kennecott Copper Mine to the north. After copper and gold mines closed in the late thirties, Cordova's main industry became commercial fishing and fish processing. Today, "Copper River kings and reds" are clamored for and acclaimed as some of the finest salmon commercially available.

TJ Holley

Eagle-eye view of Cordova.

Glacier Ranger District
Girdwood

Just 30 minutes south of Anchorage, Girdwood is home to the luxurious Alyeska Resort. There, you can expect dozens of fun and entertaining festivals throughout the year and countless options for outdoor adventure in the gorgeous surroundings. Originally named Glacier City, Girdwood began as a supply camp for gold miners at the turn of the century. After the 1964 earthquake dropped the coast along nearby Turnagain Arm 10 feet, the town relocated 2.5 miles up the valley to its present location.

Today, Girdwood is a full-service community of 1,800 that attracts skiers in the winter, hikers in the summer and artists year-round. Alaskans and visitors alike are drawn to its fine restaurants, wide range of accommodations, and local culture.

Just south of Girdwood in Portage Valley, the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center provides an opportunity to learn about the Chugach National Forest through award-winning exhibits, educational presentations and the film Retreat and Renewal: Stories from Alaska's Chugach National Forest, and interactive Ranger led programs. The center is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Girdwood Ranger District Office is located in Girdwood.

Ralph Radford

Packrafters on Spencer Lake, Glacier Ranger District.

Irene Lindquist

A rainbow arches over the Seward Ranger District.

Seward Ranger District
Seward

Within its city limits, Seward has a population of about 2,600 people, with another 2,600 people living just beyond city boundaries. Seward is home to fjords, marine wildlife, icebergs, and crystal-blue waters. It is a progressive community that enjoys a beautiful and scenic natural Alaskan environment with numerous visitor attractions. The town offers day cruises, kayaking, fishing, abundant marine activities, and wildlife, and is the terminus for the Alaska Railroad. One of the easiest ways to explore the shores is from guided kayaking and canoeing tours.

Seward sits on the edge of Resurrection Bay, a deep fjord carved out by a glacier thousands of years ago. High above the town, almost 40 glaciers flow down from the Harding Icefield in the Kenai Mountains. A stop in Seward can combine road-accessible glacier views with day cruises, glacial kayaking or trekking. Seward is mile zero of the Iditarod Trail - now called the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The Seward Ranger District Office is located on the Kenai Lake just north of Seward.

Tom Iraci

Begich, Boggs Visitor Center

Begich, Boggs Visitor Center
Portage Valley

The Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, located on the northern shore of Portage Lake on a terminal moraine of Portage Glacier, has state-of-the art exhibits and an award winning film to help visitors explore the climate, geography, people, and wildlife of the Chugach National Forest and Prince William Sound.

The Center is home to the Portage Valley Learning Center This multi-purpose classroom addition to the visitor center is used primarily for educational programs by the conservation education staff, but the space can also provide opportunities for special events and other uses.

Having a classroom in the natural setting of the Chugach National Forest allows for a true conservation education opportunity. Students have the ability to travel outdoors to experience and learn about the forest firsthand.

Crooked Creek Information Site
Valdez

Nestled at the head of Valdez Arm, the Crooked Creek Information Site is poised between the marine world of Prince William Sound and the forests of the mainland. The site features spawning chum and pink salmon, abundant waterfowl and an occasional hungry black bear.

The Crooked Creek Information Site is a small, three-acre site which harbors a waterfall and a clear water stream where pink and chum salmon return each summer to spawn. Occasionally, black bears can be observed feasting on the returning fish. The first salmon generally appear in the stream by mid-July and are present through October.

Across the Richardson Highway, the intertidal wetlands of the Valdez "Duck Flats" provide staging habitat for a variety of migrating birds and provide nesting habitat for ducks and geese.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Chugach National Forest staffs a small information site at Crooked Creek. Informational exhibits and Forest Service guides help visitors understand this fascinating area.

Crooked Creek Information Site

Alicia King

A section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Iditarod National Historic Trail
Crossing Glacier and Seward Ranger Districts

The Iditarod Trail is the only winter trail in the National Trails System and the only Congressionally designated National Historic Trail in Alaska. The Iditarod National Historic Trail system is comprised of a 1,000-mile main trail between Seward and Nome, and an additional 1,400 miles of side/connecting trails that link communities and historic sites, or provide parallel route.

Most of the historic Iditarod Trail is located on public lands managed by the State of Alaska or federal agencies (although some segments pass over private lands). No one entity manages the entire historic trail - management is guided by a cooperative plan adopted in the mid-1980s. The federal Bureau of Land Management coordinates cooperative management of the trail and is the primary point of contact for matters involving the entire trail.

Notable Work Locations

Copper River Delta
Cordova Ranger District

Nestled between Prince William Sound to the west and the Bering Glacier to the east, the Copper River Delta is the largest continuous wetland on the Pacific Coast of North America.

Much of the wetland ecosystem is public land, managed by the Chugach National Forest. Recognizing the significance of the Copper River Delta to the fish and wildlife resources of Alaska, the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) stipulated that the delta be managed primarily for the "conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats." The richness of the bird populations makes the delta a focal point for the annual Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival held each spring during the height of the shorebird migration. In 1990, the Copper River Delta was designated as a Hemispheric Site in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

Charles Lovely

Aerial view of the Copper River Delta.

Ron Neibrugge

Sportfishing on the Russian River.

Russian River
Seward Ranger District

Located on the very western boundary of the Chugach National Forest on the Kenai Peninsula, the Russian River supports the largest recreational sport fishery in the world.

The summer sockeye (red) salmon runs are the ones that draw the famous crowds. With a season that starts in early August and continues into late September, and is an opportunity to catch the "big one" (coho or silvers average between 10-12 lbs) without all the crowds of summer.

There is also fall hiking on the Russian Lakes trail or camping at the Russian River and Quartz Creek campgrounds.

Whittier Tunnel
Gateway to Prince William Sound

Formally named, Anton Anderson Tunnel, the Whittier Tunnel is the only way by land to reach Whittier which is by far the most visited gateway to the mesmerizing Chugach National Forest wilderness of Prince William Sound. Just past the entrance of the tunnel to Whittier, is the trailhead for Portage Pass Trail (a segment of the longer Iditarod National Historic Trail.) The two mile trail, with 750 feet elevation gain, is a good day hike and provides spectacular views of Portage Lake and Portage Glacier.

Alicia King

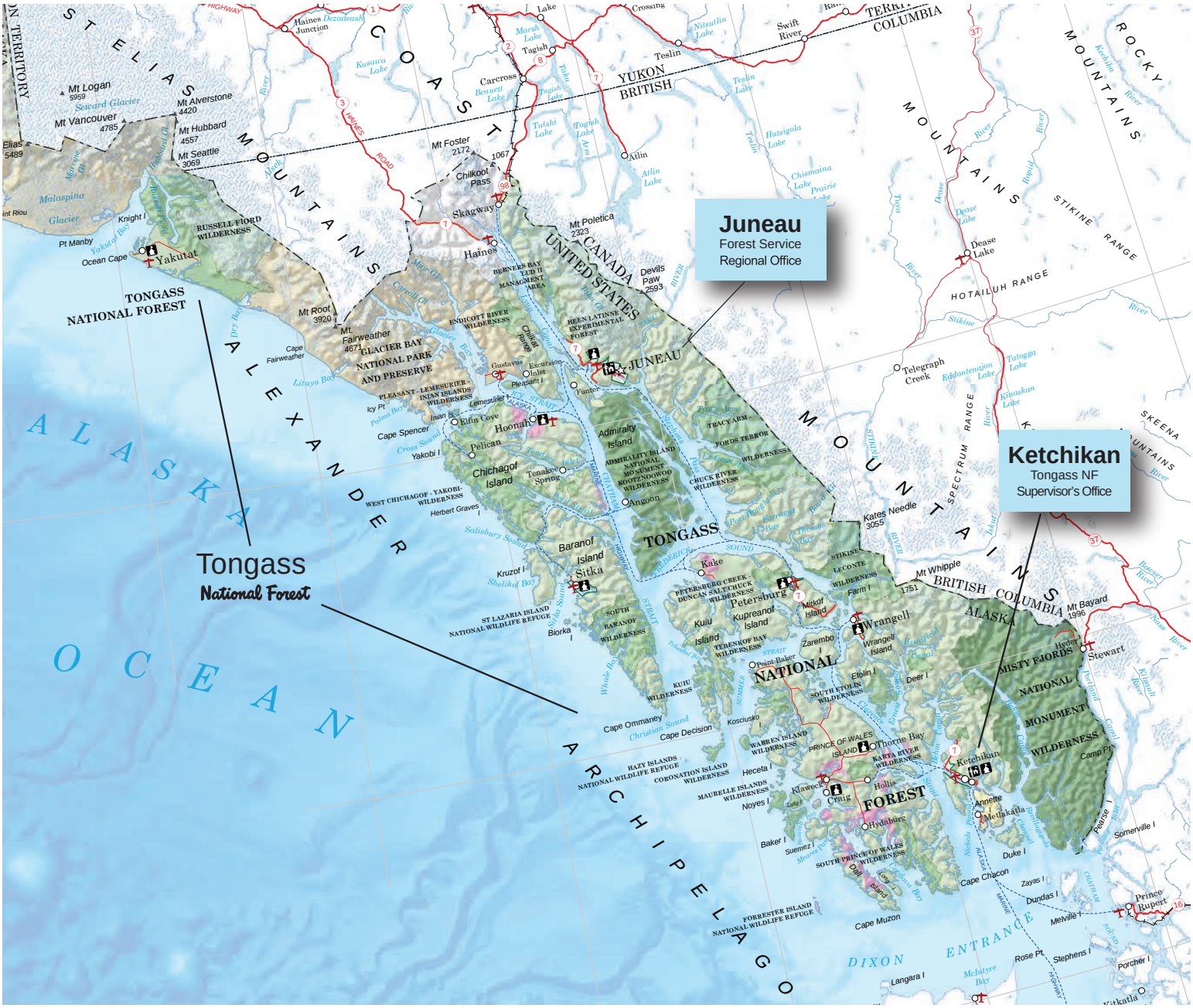
Whittier Tunnel entrance.

Prince William Sound

Prince William Sound is located in the heart of the Chugach National Forest. Over two million acres in size, it encompasses over 3,500 miles of shoreline. In 1980, Congress designated 2.1 million acres of the Chugach National Forest surrounding western Prince William Sound as the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area. The snowcapped Chugach Mountains provide a dramatic backdrop to this marine world of green forests and blue ice. Home to the massive Columbia Glacier, Prince William Sound has the highest concentration of tidewater glaciers (glaciers that end in the sea) in North America.

Sheep Bay

Tom Iraci



Tongass Quick Facts

- Approximately 16.8 million acres.
- Largest, intact temperate rain forest in the world.
- Larger than 10 U.S. states (individually, not combined), including West Virginia, Maryland, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Vermont.
- Home to the country's largest silver mine, Greens Creek, which produced 8.3 million ounces of silver last year.
- Produces 75 percent of the commercial salmon harvested from Southeast Alaska. That's 40 million salmon, valued at $68 million annually.
- 6.6 million acres is Congressionally designated Wilderness.
- Approximately 2,000 miles of road is open to public use (3,600 miles total).

Brittany Burnett

The Tongass National Forest headquarters is located in Ketchikan, Alaska.

The 17-million acre temperate rainforest is the largest national forest in the United States. It encompasses nearly 90 percent of the southeastern panhandle of Alaska. It stretches from the southern tip of Prince of Wales Island 500 miles north to the Hubbard Glacier just north of Yakutat.

Water stored in glaciers creeps out to the sea. Water falls as rain and snow, and feeds the temperate rain forest. Water carves the rocks and sheer cliffs and defines the Tongass National Forest.

Though home to the Northern Hemisphere's largest temperate rain forest, about 40 percent of the Tongass is covered by ice, water, muskeg, and rock. The islands and mainland create 11,000 miles of shoreline where regal mountains rise from tidewater to overlook a mostly undeveloped and isolated landscape.

A Varied Landscape
Few places in the world can boast of the geologic and climatic variations that characterize the Tongass. At sea level, rain—and lots of it—may fall throughout the year. Climb just 1,600 feet, and the climate is too harsh for trees. The lush temperate rain forest thrives at sea level, less than a two-mile's hike from the frigid, windy alpine where buttercups and sedges cling to a tenuous existence.

"Rivers of ice," or glaciers, grind their way down from the mountaintops. While some glaciers remain perched above sea level, others, called "tidewater glaciers" deliver their icy cargo into the ocean. Even the face of the sea changes here as it surges through narrow channels and up glacier-carved fjords. Tides in Southeast Alaska, while not as severe as some of the tides further north, have a variation of as much as 25 feet in one 6-hour period. Tidal highs and lows alternate every 6.5 hours.

The Temperate Rain Forest
In the temperate rain forest, western hemlocks push their floppy tops up through the mist while Sitka spruce brave the icy, salt-laden winds along the water's edge. Sub alpine fir, red and yellow cedar and hardwoods like alder, find their own spot in the forest.

Unlike most places in the Lower 48, it is wind, and not fire, that disturbs the forest, sometimes toppling acres of trees at a time. In areas protected from the wind, usually on the north side of ridges, trees may live to be more than 500 years old. About 90 percent of these old growth forests remain as they were 100 years ago.

Unparalleled Wildlife
Each spring, the buzzy call of the varied thrush announces the arrival of warmer weather. It is joined by songbirds migrating their way north and others, such as the chestnut-backed chickadee and pine siskin, which make their homes here year-round. The largest known concentration of bald eagles gathers each fall and winter along the Chilkat River near Haines. Here, thousands of eagles feast on late runs of chum salmon. In spring, a eulachon (sea-run smelt) run lures hundreds of eagles to the Stikine River Delta near Wrangell. Within weeks, thousands of shorebirds stop on the delta to rest from their long trek north to summer breeding grounds.

Marine mammals are also abundant. Sea otters, seals, sea lions, porpoises and whales are often viewed throughout Southeast Alaska.

The Tongass is home to healthy populations of animals that have become uncommon in other areas of the United States. Biologists estimate that 1,700 coastal brown (grizzly) bears, the highest density in North America, roam Admiralty Island and share the island with large populations of nesting bald eagles. The Alexander Archipelago wolf is fairly common throughout much of Southeast Alaska. Mountain goats climb along steep, rocky crags above the timberline. In fact, there are no terrestrial threatened or endangered species on the Tongass National Forest. Other animals such as moose, deer, beaver, fox and porcupine are common throughout the forest.

All five species of Pacific salmon—chum, coho, king, pink and sockeye—thrive and spawn in the streams and waters of the Tongass. Dolly Varden char, and rainbow, steelhead, and cutthroat trout are common freshwater fish.

A Working Forest
People have lived and worked in this water-drenched land for a multitude of centuries. For thousands of years, the Tlingit and Haida peoples have pulled the salmon and herring out of these waters and

gathered berries and other land bounty. Each generation shares its knowledge of the land with the next. The Tsimshian moved from their former home in British Columbia to Annette Island in the late 1800s.

Gold in this era drew thousands of fortune-seekers up though the Inside Passage to the towns of Douglas, Juneau and Skagway. As the gold potential dwindled in the 1900s, communities built their economies around fishing, timber and then tourism. Past ways still flourish. Today, many bush residents depend on a subsistence lifestyle, just as Alaska Natives have for centuries.

A Forest For Visitors

The water routes are the gateway for Alaska visitors. Each year, nearly one million visitors travel through the Tongass National Forest aboard cruise ships or the Alaska Marine Highway ferries. Local residents and tourists enjoy sailing, motor boating, kayaking and getting out on the water to fish.

The Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Juneau is among the top tourist attractions in the state. Visitors also travel to the Juneau Ice Field via helicopter and take organized boat trips into Misty Fjords and Tracy Arm. Ecotourism is one of the faster growing portions of the tourism industry.

Traveling through this watery world is a challenge. Roads between communities are rare. Only Hyder, Haines, and Skagway are connected to the North American road system. Roads connect many of the communities of Prince of Wales Island. The Alaska Marine Highway ferries serve larger communities like Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg and Sitka. Tiny southeast communities like Coffman Cove and Gustavus may only be reached by boat or small aircraft, generally float planes.

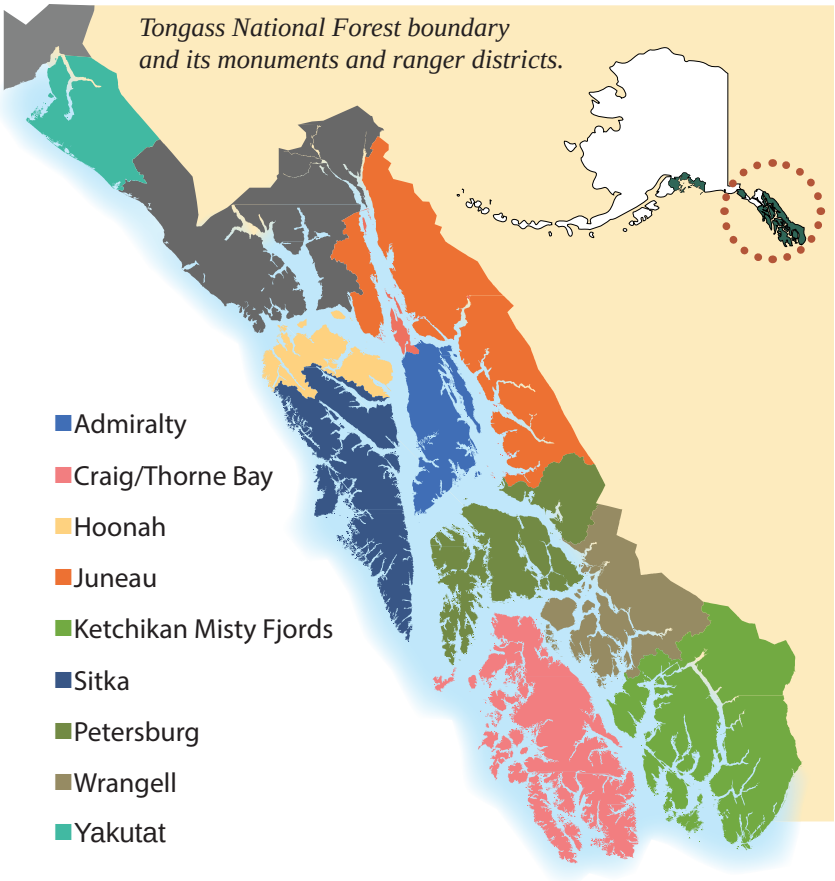
The maritime environment dominates the weather. Normal summer highs average 55 °F to 60 °F (13 °C to 16 °C), with winter highs hovering around 30 °F to 35 °F (-1 °C to 2 °C). Only rarely will the temperatures drop below zero. Average precipitation varies from 141 inches a year in Ketchikan to 21 inches a year in Skagway.

Coastal Temperate Rainforest

Alaska's national forests harbor the largest remaining temperate rain forest in the world. The Tongass National Forest contains fourteen percent of the world's total acreage of these productive forests. The forests of Prince William Sound on the Chugach National Forest represent the northernmost extent of this rich, but uncommon, ecosystem.

Coastal temperate rain forests are found in wet, cool climates where the collision of marine air and coastal mountains causes large amounts of rainfall. In Southeast Alaska, rainfall varies from two to 20 feet each year, depending on location.

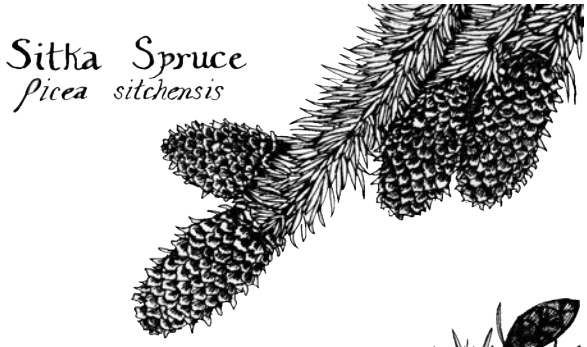
Coastal temperate rain forests extend from Kodiak Island along the coast to California's "fogbelt" redwoods. Much of their remaining 75 to 100 million acres is found there and in Chile. Ecologists use four features to distinguish coastal rain forests from other temperate forest types: proximity to oceans, the presence of coastal mountains, cooler summer temperatures, and higher rainfall levels with significant precipitation occurring in all seasons. These unique conditions lead to vital links between the marine and terrestrial environments. The rain forest ecosystem does not end at the high tide line, rather, nutrients are cycled throughout the system.

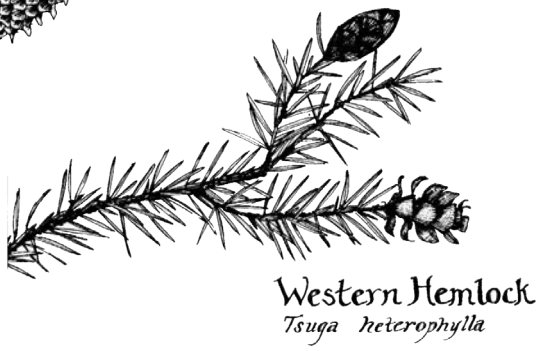


Tongass National Forest boundary and its monuments and ranger districts.

Coastal temperate rain forests foster a hugely disproportionate share of the world's biological production. They accumulate and store more organic matter than any other forest type (including tropical rain forests)–as much as 1,000-2,000 metric tons of wood, foliage, leaf litter, moss, other living plants, and organic soil per acre. The adjacent waters are productive as well. The upwelling zones and cold-water currents that bathe the edges of coastal temperate rain forests account for a substantial share of the biological production of the oceans. The productivity of these marine ecosystems is enhanced by the nutrients and organic debris washed out of the coastal watersheds.

Alaska's temperate rain forests are comprised of thick stands of Sitka spruce, yellow-cedar, redcedar, and western and mountain hemlock.





Forest Office Locations

Forest Supervisor's Office
Ketchikan

Ketchikan is the supply center and transportation hub for southern Southeast Alaska with Saxman and other smaller communities on its road system. Ketchikan is a bustling, lively community of 8,289 people. Ketchikan is long and narrow as it snakes between the Tongass Narrows and tall mountains. The entire width of land is taken up by houses, staircased on steep mountain sides and built out over the water on wooden pilings.

Incorporated in 1900, Ketchikan's rich past dates back generations, as the ancestral home of the Taant'á Kwáan (roughly meaning the Tongass people), a group of distinct clans who fished salmon from the mouth of Ketchikan Creek.

Contemporary settlement and industry began when the first of many canneries opened in 1887, establishing Ketchikan as an economic and cultural hub in Southeast Alaska.

Today the community still relies upon commercial fishing, but cruise ship tourism has become crucial to the city's economic success. The drydock shipyard provides a diversity of job opportunities and training.

Ketchikan is home to the Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District and the Tongass Supervisor's Office.

Paul A. Robbins, Jr

Creek Street walkway in Ketchikan.

Robert Marek

Aerial view of Admiralty National Monument.

Admiralty Island National Monument *and* Admiralty Island National Monument Kootznoowoo Wilderness
Juneau

Located just west of Juneau, Admiralty Island is internationally known for its brown bears and bald eagles, as well as its status as a national monument, wilderness area and Biosphere Preserve. Each year, visitors go to Pack Creek Bear Viewing Area to watch bears in their natural habitat. The site is co-managed with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and is managed as a Recreation Fee Demonstration area. Pack Creek permits, available online at www.recreation.gov, regulate the number and timing of visits, and ensure visitors are informed of bear viewing protocols, tides and other pertinent information.

Craig/Thorne Bay Ranger District
Craig and Thorne Bay

The Craig Ranger District is located on the southern half of Prince of Wales Island, the largest island in Southeast Alaska. Prince of Wales Island has the most extensive road system in Southeast Alaska, ranging from paved scenic byways to logging roads that require four-wheel drive. These roads provide access to numerous areas where you can fish, hike, camp, hunt, boat and view wildlife.

Covering the northern half of Prince of Wales Island, the Thorne Bay District is known for its cave systems and karst topography. The caves offer a unique recreation opportunity for visitors and a valuable research area for scientists. Paddlers can also take advantage of two water trails found on the District.

Benjamin Nash

Hoonah Ranger District
Hoonah

The Hoonah Ranger District encompasses most of Chichagof Island, an island known for its high density of brown bears. A system of dirt roads provides for further exploration and opportunities to rent a remote cabin, hunt, fish, hike, pick berries, mountain bike, and watch wildlife. Access to other remote cabins and hot springs can be made by boat or float plane. Hoonah is one of the largest Tlingit villages in Alaska and offers various cultural sites and events.

Juneau Ranger District
Juneau

The Juneau Ranger District surrounds the largest city in Southeast Alaska and the capitol of the state. Visitors can learn about the Tongass, view a glacier, camp, kayak, take a white-water rafting trip, and access many miles of trails at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and Recreation Area. A growing cruise ship industry brings 1.3 million visitors to Juneau annually and approximately half of them visit Mendenhall and the Juneau Icefields. Accessed by daily helicopter service, the icefields offer guided dogsled rides. Other major activities on the district include the White Pass Railroad offering scenic train rides from Skagway, through the extreme northern end of the district, into Canada. The Kensington Mine located about 30 miles north of the city of Juneau is a major gold producer and one of the largest private sector employers in the area. Juneau is also the headquarters for nearby Admiralty Island National Monument, known for the Kootznoowoo Wilderness Area and Pack Creek Brown Bear Viewing Area.

Irene Owsley

Tracy Arm-Ford's Terror Wilderness
Juneau

The Forest Service established Tracy Arm–Fords Terror Scenic Area in 1960. With the enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, the area became the Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness.

Encompassing 653,179 acres, Tracy Arm–Fords Terror is the third largest designated wilderness in the Tongass National Forest.

Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District
Ketchikan

The Ketchikan Ranger District encompasses the southeastern end of Tongass National Forest and includes the glacier-sculpted Misty Fjords National Monument and Wilderness Area. The Southeast Alaska Discovery Center is also located in Ketchikan, and is a great place to visit and learn about the natural and cultural history of the Tongass.

Mark Meyer

Misty Fjords National Monument *and* Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness
Ketchikan

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed over 2,200,000 acres as the Misty Fjords National Monument. In 1980, this acreage got reduced to 2,142,243 acres but was now congressionally designated as Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness, and still remains the largest wilderness area on the Tongass National Forest. There are thirteen public recreation cabins, five 3-sided shelters, and ten trails that provide altogether twenty miles of hiking activity.

Petersburg Ranger District
Petersburg

In the middle of the Tongass, the Petersburg Ranger District consists of Mitkof, Kupreanof, Kuiu and many smaller islands. The Mitkof Highway provides access to many picturesque recreation areas, including the Swan Observatory, popular fishing and hiking spots, and views of the scenic Wrangell Narrows.

Sitka Ranger District
Sitka

Situated on the outer coast of the Gulf of Alaska, the Sitka Ranger District encompasses Baranof Island and the southern portion of Chichagof Island. The road system provides access to numerous miles of hiking trails, while access to the outer coast provides great opportunities for whale watching and fishing. The Mount Edgecumbe Volcanic Field is an iconic feature found on this district. It is home to the South Baranof Wilderness (319,568 acres) and the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness (273,098 acres) that contain both jagged peaks, and glacially carved fjords are both accessible only by boat or floatplane.

Wrangell Ranger District
Wrangell

The Wrangell Ranger District encompasses Wrangell Island and the surrounding mainland and islands. The heart of the area is the Stikine River, the fastest navigable river in North America and an important stop for birds on the Pacific Flyway. Anan Wildlife Observatory is also a spectacular destination, with the chance to not only view black and brown bears, but bald eagles, salmon, seals and other wildlife.

Yakutat Ranger District
Yakutat

The most northern of the ranger districts, the Yakutat Ranger District is located on mainland Alaska and is surrounded by tall mountains and massive glaciers. Its setting on the Gulf of Alaska provides the area with sandy beaches, waves suitable for surfing, and world-class fishing on the Situk River. The Yakutat Forelands is an important area for migratory birds, and it hosts one of the largest known breeding colonies of Aleutian Terns.

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center
Juneau

At the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center you can savor the outstanding views of the thirteen-mile-long river of ice, which terminates on the far side of Mendenhall Lake. Blue icebergs floating in the water amidst reflections of Southeast Alaska's magnificent Coast Mountains. The Juneau Ice Field, a 1,500 square mile remnant of the last ice age is cradled high in lofty peaks and spilling forth numerous major glaciers, including the Mendenhall.

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center
Ketchikan

At the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center you can explore the unique natural and cultural history of the Tongass National Forest, a place where people have lived in harmony with nature for thousands of years. Stroll through a lush rainforest, visit a re-created native fishing village and learn how the Tongass sustains Southeast Alaska communities today. You can also hear the story of the forest in person from one of our friendly Forest Service rangers, enjoy a film in our comfortable theatre or help your kids become Junior Rangers. In the summer, join a ranger for a guided walk and learn about Ketchikan's enduring ties to the rainforest.

Notable Work Locations

Stikine-LeConte Wilderness
Wrangell Ranger District

Among the wildernesses of the Tongass National Forest, the Stikine-LeConte is unique because it crosses the Alaskan panhandle and goes to the British Columbia border along the navigable waters of the Stikine River.

This feature has made the Stikine River historically important to both countries. The value of maintaining the river's navigability is recognized through long-standing international treaties.

Mark Meyer

Mark Meyer

Hubbard Glacier & Russell Fiord
Yakutat Ranger District

More than 70 miles long, the Hubbard Glacier near Yakutat has been advancing since 1900. In 1986, Hubbard Glacier closed the entrance to Russell Fiord, blocking the flow of the fiord into Disenchantment Bay. The water level in Russell Lake rose to an elevation of 83 feet over sea level to create the world's largest glacier-formed lake. A few weeks later, the ice dam abruptly broke, and the lake disappeared.

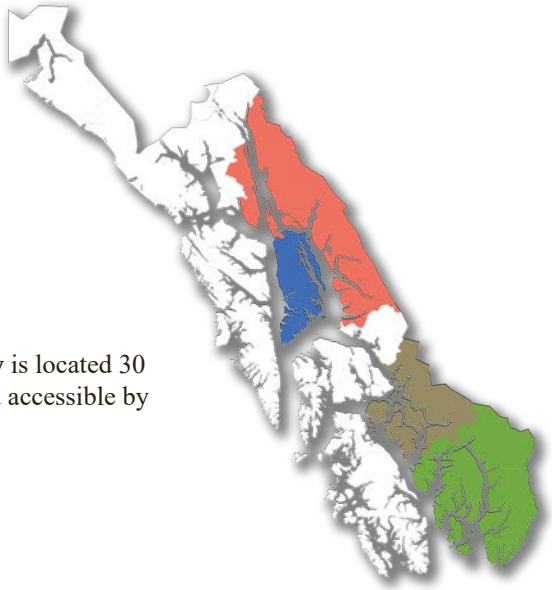
The Situk River
Yakutat Ranger District

The Situk River runs 20 miles from its mountainous source to the Gulf of Alaska. Its tea-colored waters understate its importance. This river is home to all five species of Pacific Salmon, Steelhead, Dolly Varden, and Eulachon. With over 400,000 fish returning to its waters annually, the Situk attracts fishermen today as it did hundreds of years ago. In addition to the sporting fisherman along its banks, individuals may float the Situk and commercial fishermen operate in the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary. The River Rangers monitor sport fishing activity, remove trash and debris from the shore, and share safety information with fishermen and recreationists.

Paul A. Robbins, Jr.

Bear Viewing Work Locations

Bears live, forage, and travel everywhere in the Tongass. Forest Service staff are on-site throughout July and August.



Mark Meyer

Anan Wildlife Observatory is located 30 miles south of Wrangell, and accessible by boat or floatplane.

Paul A. Robbins, Jr.

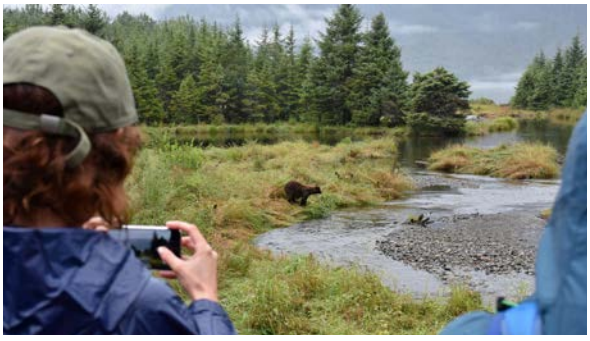
Fish Creek Wildlife Observation Site is located 75 air miles northeast of Ketchikan and three miles north of Hyder, by road, in the Salmon River valley.

Paul A. Robbins, Jr.

Margaret Creek Wildlife Observation Site is located on Revillagigedo Island, 26 miles north of Ketchikan. Accessible by boat or floatplane.

Mark Meyer

Pack Creek Brown Bear Viewing Area is located on Admiralty Island, 27 air miles south of Juneau, accessible by boat or floatplane.



Steep Creek Observation Site is near Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center in Juneau, and is home to spawning salmon from mid-July through October.

Regional Office

Regional Leadership Team RLT

Multiple locations in Alaska and Oregon

Coming together is a Beginning. Keeping together is Progress. Working together is Success. – Henry Ford

The Alaska Region – Regional Leadership Team is a dynamic group of exceptional men and women who bring decades of knowledge and experience into a circle of trust that allows them to face the special opportunities and challenges – together – that are truly unique to Alaska and the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

By working closely and collaboratively, sharing leadership, and guided by regional priorities, a strategically managed budget and a streamlined workforce, these program leads, and partners stay connected at all levels, meeting quarterly to march forward in ensuring Region 10 continues to connect people to nature and to each other.

The regional office is located in the capitol city of Juneau, Alaska.

Aquisitions Management (AQM)

The Forest Service is presently working towards transforming its Acquisition Management (AQM) program area to become a national organization that provides collaborative, innovative and outcome-driven acquisition solutions that support the Agency's mission. This will result in changes to the current structure of AQM in the Alaska Region.

Called AQM Mission Area Consolidation or AMAC, the consolidated AQM organization will focus on customer service; provide ongoing customer engagement and assistance; ensure transparency in AQM activities, including workload, cost and action status; reduce the cost to the agency for goods and services; reduce total cost per contract action; reduce total cost per grant/agreement action; and increase use of excess property disposals to generate revenue.

The new streamlined process will support collaboration across boundaries to address agency needs; increase operational efficiency through new ways of allocating, managing and completing work; address recent policy changes, such as acquisition thresholds and warranting; and use national templates and standardized file formats to increase consistency and compliance.

The new effort is anticipated to reduce duplication by achieving Human Resources-recommended supervisory ratios and flattening organizational levels; sharing policy oversight expertise agency-wide; leveraging policy and oversight from USDA; and increasing awareness and usage of master contract and agreement vehicles.

Civil Rights (CR)

The Civil Rights staff enforces compliance with federal laws such as the Civil Rights, Age Discrimination and Americans with Disabilities acts, and other policies of the USDA and the Forest Service. Civil Rights ensures that every customer and employee is treated equitably, with dignity and respect. This unit helps the Alaska Region to maintain its status as a multicultural organization, and to provide equal opportunity for everyone to participate in the agency's employment program, and goods and services. Staff ensure that no applicant for employment is denied equal opportunity because of race, color, national origin, age, gender, religion, or disability. Civil Rights reaches out to historically under-served populations and communities.

To ensure nondiscrimination, the Region must compete in the national marketplace for diverse applicants. CR helps the Region to retain employees, develop a leadership succession plan that includes diverse candidates, develop an aggressive recruitment/retention plan for a diverse labor force, and build accountability into workforce planning.

Ecosystem Planning and Budget (EPB)

The Ecosystem Planning and Budget staff serves as the primary source of crosscutting analysis and coordination of interdisciplinary issues related to natural resource management in the Alaska Region.

Ecosystem planning

Ecosystem planning is the framework for all activities in the national forests. The planning staff ensures the Alaska Region completes

required plans and complies with laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act. The staff leads regional efforts to incorporate economic and social analysis in the planning processes at various scales. Staff also coordinate the Region's involvement in the development of corporate databases, inventory and monitoring programs, and the coordination of administrative studies conducted or funded by the Alaska Region.

The public has an important role in planning. The planning staff makes sure the public has the opportunity to work with the Forest Service to develop sound decisions for both forest-level plans and local projects. By working with the Forest Service, the public brings knowledge and ideas forward to help the agency consider all aspects of a plan or project, leading to better decisions.

Budget
While some budget and finance duties across the agency are performed at the Albuquerque Service Center, the Alaska Region retains most budget and some fiscal duties for the Region. The Alaska Region Budget staff in Ecosystems, Planning and Budget Staff handles budget and financial duties for the regional office and supports the budget staffs on the Chugach and Tongass National Forests. Functions of these two groups include:

- Fiscal work resident in the field
- Strategic business planning
- Program evaluation
- Data quality assurance
- Access to accurate budgetary, cost and performance information
- Regional Budget Allocations and execution

Engineering and Information Management (EIM)

Engineering and Information Management consists of four programs in the Alaska Region. The engineering programs emphasize public safety, public health, employee safety, and employee health through risk identification and risk management. The mapping and geospatial programs emphasize resource management and recreational maps. The program areas are:

Environmental Engineering
Environmental Engineering provides pollution prevention funding, site assistance visits and training to eliminate or reduce the usage, storage, generation, or release of regulated materials within Forest Service facilities, on National Forest lands, and to surrounding communities. Environmental Engineering is a key player in developing the Environmental Management Systems program, which will ensure that hazardous materials are properly handled and stored for administrative, contract, and permitted sites.

The program includes the abandoned mine lands safety program to mitigate mine opening hazards, as well as ongoing inventory and characterization of legacy cannery sites in Prince William Sound. Agreements with the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration help leverage Forest Service funds with other agency funds to clean up Forest Service lands.

Facilities Engineering
The Forest Service owns or leases many types and sizes of administrative and recreation buildings in Alaska. Some of the more common types of administrative facilities are office spaces; barracks for seasonal field crews; family housing in remote communities where housing in the private sector is scarce, and markets limited; and shops and warehouses.

The facilities engineering program along with other engineering services such as structural engineering support recreation facilities, trails, dams and other owned or permitted infrastructure by providing technical oversight, and assistance in the planning, design, construction and management of infrastructure on the national forests.

Transportation Engineering
The land management plans for the national forests include corridors for highways and utilities known as Transportation and Utility System corridors, a land use designation. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has many new or improved highways proposed that will cross the National Forests in Alaska along existing or proposed Transportation and Utility System corridors. Their planning efforts are emphasizing more highways and lower cost ferry service to enhance transportation for local communities.

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is a cooperative venture managed by the Federal Highway Administration the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and the Forest Service. Roads developed with this Federal Highway Administration-funded program have assisted local communities by improving roads under the jurisdiction of communities, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and the Forest Service. Hundreds of miles of highway were constructed on Prince of Wales Island with this program. The Coffman Cove road and ferry terminal is a recent example of a project that will convert logging roads to a highway for improved access to communities and the Tongass National Forest.

In Alaska, the location of National Forest roads varies greatly by topography and many are isolated on islands or remote mainland systems. The Chugach National Forest has 90 miles while the Tongass National Forest has approximately 3,600 miles of road. Prince of Wales Island is the most-heavily roaded area in the region.

Roads provide access to National Forest land while utility corridors allow communities to connect to power, water, phones and other utilities. By carefully overseeing these forms of access, engineers and planners can ensure the best levels of service while minimizing the effects on the land. Roads are also maintained and improved by public works contracts for better access to forest resources, recreation sites, marine access facilities, and administrative sites.

Information Management
The Information Management staff within Engineering and Information Management provides oversight, support, technical development and services. Information management activities support region-wide and national system applications crossing many unit and staff areas within the Region. Focus areas include:

- Data stewardship and analysis
- Network improvements
- Mobile support
- National Resources Manager (NRM) application support
- Web and mobile geographic information systems (GIS)
- Global navigation satellite system/global positioning system (GNSS/GPS)
- Forest visitor maps, geographic names and cartographic products:
    - Orthoimagery
    - Elevation (LIDAR, IfSAR)
    - Hydrography (1:24k hydrography, shoreline modeling)
    - Vegetation mapping
- GeoTools and data management for silviculture and vertical integration
- Liaison to the Chief Information office (CIO)

Mackenzie Schultz

Fire, Fuels, and Aviation Management (FFAM)

Fire, Fuels, and Aviation Management is a coordinated effort between the Alaska Region 10 and Pacific Northwest Region 6. The Regions share a director and associated leadership including the State Office/Regional Office Fire Aviation Management staff in Portland, Oregon and the Fire Operations and Fuels Management positions in Anchorage. Regional staff work closely with other Federal, State, and Tribal partners in Alaska to manage fire suppression and fuels mitigation efforts across all jurisdictions effectively and efficiently.

Fire Management

Fire occurrence in Region 10 rarely results in large fire events, but lighting and human-caused fires are part of every summer and require a risk-managed response to ensure the safety of first responders as well as the public while protecting other values at risk. Both R10 forests are responsible for National Forest System lands within the greater forest boundaries as well as protection of other jurisdictional ownership within. These resources include engine modules, Incident Attack (IA) modules, prevention, a Type2 IA handcrew, single resources, boats, contracted aircraft and more. Managers are regularly challenged with the logistics and support required to provide suppression responses across a vast or remote landscape. Many R10 employees who are not hired for fire suppression are interested in and participate in "Militia" or various support functions when the season gets busy either in Alaska or in the Lower 48. We encourage those who are interested to visit with fire managers to find applicable training opportunities and assignments.

Fuels Management

The fuels management program in R10 focuses integrated active management in key areas, primarily the Wildland Urban Interface, to reduce wildfire risk to values. The program in R10 is considered small compared to other programs across the various USFS regions. The programs small stature does not diminish its importance to the Region and to Alaska. The Chugach National Forest is the primary focus for fuels management. Direct treatment of forest vegetation to reduce expected fire behavior occurs through mechanical activities or prescribed fire. Also maintaining a healthy, diverse, and productive forest provides a tenant of resource management integration that fuels strives for and is necessary for successful fuels management in Alaska ecosystems. Additionally, the fuels program is a cooperative endeavor, with strong partnerships and coordination across various entities including federal, state, borough and Tribal collaborators.

The fuels management program utilizes various internal and external opportunities to support and implement fuel reduction in those areas, despite ownership, that are most in need. Working on the national forest and across boundaries and jurisdiction through effective partnerships is key to reducing negative outcomes related to wildland fire.

Aviation Management

With all that is required in managing the Tongass and the Chugach National Forests, one might wonder how the employees of the Alaska Region get around doing their jobs. No roads connect Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Wrangell, Cordova, and others to the North American road system. Aviation is a key link in helping employees carry out the mission of the Forest Service in Alaska.

The Alaska Region uses fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft under contract and rental agreements with commercial aircraft operators. The Regional Aviation Group along with Forest Aviation Officers oversee the contracts, inspections, and oversight of aviation use while the dispatch offices track each flight and work with project leaders and flight managers to ensure all safety measures are in place prior to and during flight operation.

Utilization of Aviation does not come without risk. Employees are required to partake in Aviation Safety training with specific emphasis on the Alaskan environment prior to flying for work related activities. Opportunities for additional aviation training include Helicopter Crew Member/Manager as well as Fixed Wing Flight Manager. A constant emphasis on risk management and adhering to safety measures is key to continuing the legacy of the R10 aviation safety record.

Heath Whitacre

Forest Management (FM)

Forest managers work to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of Alaska's two National Forests, to meet the needs of present and future generations. In addition to providing fish and wildlife with a place to live, Alaska's national forests also supply human needs.

For many years, the forests provided Alaska Natives with plants, berries and trees used for everything from canoes to fish traps and basket weaving. They depended on trees for firewood and building materials for their shelters. Many people in rural areas continue this subsistence lifestyle. The timber sale program for the Tongass

National Forest is based on meeting direction in the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA). The act directs the Forest Service, to the extent consistent with providing for the multiple use and sustained yield of all renewable resources, to seek to provide a timber supply that meets the annual demand for Tongass timber and the demand for Tongass timber over the planning cycle.

An overriding objective of foresters and silviculturist involved in planning and carrying out timber sales includes ensuring that healthy new trees take the place of the ones that are harvested. After harvest, reforestation in Southeast Alaska occurs naturally most of the time; replanting after harvest is generally not needed.

Steven Anthony

Occupational Health and Safety Safety (Safety)

The mission of the Occupational Safety and Health Office is to support regional employees in accomplishment of regional priority work. This is done through a collaborative approach providing mentoring, training, auditing, assisting and advising the workforce on industry standards, and lessons learned developed over the years. Accomplishing work is why the Region is here, accomplishing work with the least cost in injuries and suffering is the goal of the Safety Office.

Risk Management

Risk management is the process used by the safety office and employees to identify and assess risk so mitigations can be developed to lower the exposure or severity of the risk. Risk in the remote areas of the Alaska Region is truly unique, and every job has some level of risk.

Workforce/Types of Work

The makeup of the workforce—permanent, seasonal, volunteers, partners, and contractors—range from young, inexperienced workers to seasoned workers with vast amounts of knowledge and experience.

This challenges supervisor and leaders to ensure a proper mix of skillsets in order to train less knowledgeable workers. Fulfilling our mission of caring for the land and serving people demands a wide array of job skills. While some workers sit in offices, others work in laboratories, at hazardous material sites, on wildfires, at rock blast sites, and on timber sales. Interpretive education programs take employees to visitor centers, marine ferries, wilderness areas, and bear viewing platforms. Employees are involved with work on trails, streams, and remote cabins.

Employees who work with minerals, geology, and mining are required to have an in-depth understanding of mining safety and health operations. Employees who maintain communication towers on mountaintops in support of field communications face risks. Boating, diving, and aviation programs along with their specific safety protocols require special training. Reducing the risks associated with such a variety of work programs can become quite complex.

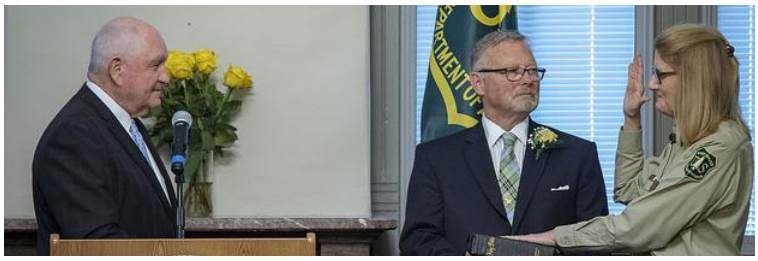
Work Locations/Conditions

Some employees travel great distances in aircraft or boats over ocean waters that, even in the peak of summer, have temperatures in the 50s. Weather conditions can deteriorate quickly, creating travel hazards. Chance encounters with bear or moose must be taken into consideration by employees traveling on foot or in vehicles over rough terrain.

Promoting a Safe Workplace

The Occupational Health and Safety Health Office promotes safety and awareness training programs to provide employees with the skills they need to face hazards and return to camp or home safely each night. The office works with various federal and state agencies to assure that appropriate processes are followed.

Our door is always open—we believe open communication promotes knowledge sharing and is essential for recognizing and mitigating risk. We strive to develop and maintain a culture that encourages all employees to be mindful of the risks, and how to best handle those risks. The result is a safer workplace for all.



Public Affairs & Strategic Communications (PAO)

The Alaska Region Communications Office consists of a diverse team of creative, innovative and forward-thinking communication experts who collaborate to produce exemplary results through the management of:

- Strategic Communications, Content Strategy and Issues Management
- Media Relations and Analysis
- Digital and Online Communications
- Visual Information and Publication
- Administrative Resources and Analytics

The communications team serves a diverse, but targeted audience that includes employees, key stakeholders, and the public who expect timely, transparent, and plain language communications.
Our communication objectives include:

- Advising Alaska Region Leadership
- Providing accurate, relevant, and timely information
- Sustaining a proactive posture
- Designating Subject Matter Experts as spokespeople
- Supporting Speakers Bureau requests
- Conducting consistent employee, media, and intergovernmental outreach
- Ensuring communications are all-inclusive
- Managing all VIP visits and tours

We are committed to maintaining these objectives through transparency, participation, collaboration, accountability, customer focus, professionalism and outcome-based results.

Karen Dillman

Recreation, Lands, and Minerals (RLM)

Recreation, Lands & Minerals manages a diverse roster of programs that help carry out the Agency's mission to care for the land and serve people. The primary programs are:

- Recreation
- Interpretation and Conservation Education
- Wilderness
- Heritage
- Lands
- Minerals and Geology
- Planning, Design and Construction of developed recreation sites
- Landscape Architecture
- Trails
- Partnerships

Nationally and locally, people value Alaska's National Forests for the chance to go camping, fishing, cross-country skiing, viewing spectacular scenery, and to enjoy other outdoor activities. Increasingly, the public sees outdoor recreation as one of the greatest values of the national forests.

The Alaska Region provides a wide range of recreational opportunities for all who visit its national forests. Whether visiting the forests by cruise ship or kayak; by mountain bike or scenic byway, forest visitors are greeted by well-maintained facilities, knowledgeable forest guides, and spectacular scenery.

Visitors and locals use trails, public recreation cabins, picnic areas and campgrounds in areas that range from urban to very remote. The Region maintains over 190 public recreation cabins, over 900 miles of hiking trails, 27 public campgrounds and 37 picnic grounds.

Heritage

Long before the tall buildings sprang up in Anchorage and Juneau and cruise ships brought visitors to Alaskan shores, people made their home and life among the bounty of Alaska's forests and sea.

Archaeologists know of more than 6,000 precontact and historic cultural resources on the Chugach and Tongass National Forests. These sites bear witness to more than 10,000 years of Alaska Native and 250 years of European and American settlement. The Alaska Region has four national historic landmarks and lists 64 sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Heritage program emphasizes a balance between gathering knowledge and ensuring compliance with environmental and historic preservation laws. It seeks to encourage site protection through public awareness and stewardship.

Lands

Alaska's National Forests, owned by the public and managed by the Forest Service, are the first and third largest forests in the United States. The Lands program is responsible for all aspects of land ownership, which includes acquisitions, land exchanges, administrative site disposals, and for coordination with the Bureau of Land Management regarding land entitlements for the State of Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act, Alaska Native Corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and individuals under the Alaska Native Allotment Act. The Lands program also implements special legislation as it relates to land ownership.

Minerals and Geology

Minerals development is as much a part of Alaska's future as it has been a part of its past. Alaska's National Forests have enormous potential as a future source of locatable minerals as well as some leasable mineral resources such as geothermal energy, and saleable mineral materials. Precious and base metals, uranium and rare earth elements, limestone and marble, and sand, gravel, and stone are among the mineral resources found in the Chugach and Tongass National Forests.

The minerals program in the Alaska Region administers and monitors mining operations on Alaska's national forests to ensure that present operators use environmentally sound methods. Minerals specialists also evaluate past mining activities for environmental damage and develop remediation plans.

Tongass NF cave guide emerging from the Twin Pits of El Capitan cave.

The geology program in the Alaska Region is unique in the Forest Service. It is primarily focused on the science and environmental issues of karst and cave management, glacial history, paleontology, and paleoecology. Research developments and discoveries of national and international significance are being made annually in these fields.

While seeking to balance environmental concerns, the minerals and geology programs provide local economic benefits and minerals of national economic, military and industrial importance, along with scientific knowledge and advances in the understanding of our specialized geologic setting.

Special Uses

Within the scope of this program, permits are issued to facilitate public use of National Forest System lands in Alaska. "Special Uses" are activities, structures, or other approved uses for private, educational, or commercial use. Some prevailing uses include: 321 outfitter-guide businesses, serving visitors from around the world and comprising a powerful economic force; 14 hydroelectric projects, providing renewable power to communities that have been historically dependent upon diesel-fueled power production; 36 commercial film permits for productions ranging from documentaries, movies and television series to product advertisement; 93 personal use cabins authorized by authority of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

State and Private Forestry (SPF)

In Alaska, State & Private Forestry is responsible for providing technical and financial forestry related assistance to state and local governments, forest industries, the National Forest System, other federal agencies and non-industrial private forest landowners. Team members offer a wide range of knowledge and skills to help state forestry agencies and other partners in their program efforts to sustain the forests of Alaska. Our mission is accomplished through three major programs:

Forest Health Protection (FHP)
Forest Health Protection addresses forest health needs on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests and across diverse land ownerships statewide. This program provides technical expertise to identify, monitor, and address forest health issues across the state. Staff are located in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks and deliver financial assistance to federal, state, and private forest managers, universities, tribes, and the public. Professional staff include Forest Entomologists, Forest Pathologists and Ecologists. Each year, FHP conducts aerial surveys for insect and disease damage covering 15 percent of Alaska's 127 million forested acres. Through partnerships, we deliver pest management information to the public. We use a variety of tools (site visits, community outreach events etc.) to transfer timely forest health information to the public. This program further addresses invasive plants by funding local weed management areas to treat invasive plants. Current forest health issues include; Spruce Beetle, Aspen Running Canker, Hemlock Sawfly, Elodea, Yellow-cedar Decline, and the on-going impact of climate and forest health.

Cooperative Forestry
The Cooperative Forestry Program provides a wide range of technical and financial services for communities, tribes, and landowners in Alaska. Forest Stewardship offers natural resource planning services to non-industrial private forest landowners and Alaska Native corporations. Native corporations own 99 percent of Alaska's 20 million acres of private forest land, of which three million acres are currently under a stewardship plan. Our Wood Energy Program continues to encourage the use of wood for energy and biofuels production for use by local communities. The village of Craig, Alaska began using wood to heat their schools and community aquatic center in the fall of 2007. The Alaska Community Forestry Program encourages and supports sound management of forest ecosystems in Alaskan communities. Six Tree Cities USA have been established and three utility companies have been recognized for protecting and enhancing urban forests.

Cooperative Fire Management
Through our Cooperative Fire Management Program, State & Private Forestry provides grants to train, equip, and organize state and volunteer fire departments. Federal excess personal property is loaned to the state of Alaska and to volunteer fire departments to support basic fire protection. About 50 percent of the state's fire vehicles have been obtained through the excess property program.

Tribal Government Relations (TR)

The Forest Service is recognized as a leader among Federal land management agencies in partnering appropriately and collaboratively with Alaska Native people, tribes, and Alaska Native corporations for mutually beneficial outcomes. We implement agency programs and activities in a manner that honors tribal rights, fulfills the agency's trust responsibilities, and respects each independent tribal nation and their cultures. Alaska Native people have stewarded and maintained their spiritual ownership and connection to the lands which are now the Tongass and Chugach National Forests since time immemorial.

The US Forest Service Alaska Region is committed to maintaining government-to-government relationships with tribes, acknowledging that these relationships are distinct from those with other interests or constituencies. The Region supports partnerships that integrate tribal perspectives on land management, recognizing that Alaska Natives are the land's first stewards, conservationists, and multiple users. The Region promotes tribal economic development by strengthening its employment and outreach efforts to tribes, building capacity through contracts and cooperative agreements, and improving economic diversity in tribal and rural communities.

Policy documents such as agency and USDA handbooks and manuals, outline our policies, protocols and standards with regards to consultation and coordination with Alaska Native Tribes. The policy documents guide the Alaska Region's emphasis on:

- Maintaining strong relationships with federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native corporations, and other entities
- Incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and values in our consultations, communications, and everyday management
- Collaboratively managing with tribes, the stewardship of the land and its natural resources

Tribal relations in the agency crosscuts all Forest Service deputy and mission areas. Every day our service to the Forest Service mission touches Alaska Native people and the resources, both natural and cultural, which are vital to them. It is the responsibility of every Forest Service employee to deliver the Forest Service's trust responsibilities to tribes. We strive to be good neighbors, and provide excellent customer service to strengthen and nurture relationships.

The Forest Service is recognized as a leader among Federal land management agencies in partnering appropriately and collaboratively with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments and communities for mutually beneficial outcomes.

William Schreck

Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watershed and Subsistence (WFEWS)

Wildlife

Wildlife thrives in the sheltering woodlands of Alaska's national forests—home to 70 species of mammals, 342 bird species, eight amphibian species, and uncounted thousands of invertebrate species. Animals rare elsewhere, such as brown bears, bald eagles and wolves, thrive in vast expanses of undisturbed habitat. On the Tongass National Forest, the distribution of wildlife species is uniquely influenced by a habitat that includes thousands of islands varying in size, shape, and distance from the mainland. The Chugach National Forest includes a premier wetland, the Copper River Delta, which supports millions of migrating shorebirds and is the only nesting ground of the dusky Canada goose.

Wildlife biologists in the Alaska Region conduct a variety of wildlife projects to inventory and monitor habitats and populations, restore and improve habitats, and provide opportunities for people to use, enjoy, and learn about wildlife. There are no threatened or endangered species in Alaska's National Forests.

Fisheries

Located along the fisheries-rich Gulf of Alaska, the Chugach and Tongass National Forests are among the world's great treasures of freshwater habitats for the five species of Pacific salmon. Rainfall averaging 120 inches per year feeds 32,000 miles of streams and 189,000 acres of lakes across the forests. These abundant waters provide major fisheries for subsistence, commercial and sport uses. As much as twenty-five percent of the state's salmon catch comes from fish produced in the waters of the national forests.

Fish habitat protection is a high priority. Forest plans provide standards for protecting habitat and fisheries values in forest management. Fish habitat restoration is a major part of the program. Working with partners, we complete instream habitat restoration projects and are currently working to restore fish migration issues caused by improperly designed road/stream crossing structures. In addition, fisheries biologists have completed numerous projects to improve fish habitat. For example, 58 fish ladders allow salmon to reach upstream habitats where previously no access existed. In the past fifty years, we have invested more than $30 million in over 400 fish projects.

Ecology

Ecology is the study of relationships among plants, animals, and the physical environment. These relationships are called ecosystems, each having characteristic processes and features that can be recognized on the landscape. For example, on the Tongass National Forest, coastal rainforest ecosystems are largely shaped by water and powerful winds. In contrast, the boreal forest ecosystems in the Kenai Peninsula of the Chugach National Forest are influenced primarily by fire.

An important focus of our botany program is identifying, monitoring, and managing rare plants. Plants are all around us, from high alpine meadows to shoreline sedge flats. Because of their huge size and variety of habitats, national forests in Alaska host a tremendous abundance and diversity of native plant life ranging from tiny lichens and mosses to showy wildflowers and towering Sitka spruce.

Other key components of the program include developing native plant seed sources for revegetating disturbed areas, and promoting appreciation and enjoyment of wild plants through special events. Botanists also work with other specialists to identify, locate and eradicate invasive plants.

Watershed & Air

Water is everywhere in Alaska's National Forests. The Tongass and Chugach national forests include millions of acres of wetlands, lakes, and glaciers, thousands of miles of streams and coastlines, and uncountable springs, ponds, caves and aquifers. Water originates as rainfall and melting snow and ice. As it moves through and under the forests, water sustains much of the wildlife diversity and scenic grandeur that makes Alaska's coastal rainforest a world treasure. Undisturbed soils, stable slopes, and natural water flow patterns are essential for healthy watersheds and, in turn, for maintaining water quality and vibrant ecosystems. Air quality in the Alaska Region is generally pristine as evidenced by thriving plant species sensitive to atmospheric degradation.

Specialists in the Alaska Region monitor, evaluate, and restore watershed function and conditions including erosion, stream habitat, and the quality and quantity of water. Hydrologists and soil scientists evaluate impacts of management activities, and develop and implement projects to protect, restore and enhance watersheds and streams. Chugach National Forest staff manages smoke impacts to air quality when planning and implementing prescribed burns, and monitors snowmobile emissions in high use areas. On the Tongass, ecologists monitor the impacts of cruise ship emissions on wilderness scenic values and sample lichen health and chemical uptake to assess atmospheric deposition from potentially worldwide emissions.

Subsistence

Subsistence is a way of life in Alaska. Many Alaskans use wild plants and animals, especially fish, to put food on the table. This reliance on nutritious wild foods, called "subsistence," is critical in rural areas where store-bought food may be unavailable or unaffordable. For Alaska Natives in particular, gathering, preparing, and sharing wild foods are integral to the history, culture, and health of individuals and communities.

The Forest Service and other federal agencies share responsibility for managing subsistence resources and uses on federal lands and waters throughout Alaska. The Alaska Region's subsistence management program includes a variety of cooperative projects including studying and monitoring subsistence resources, documenting customary and traditional uses, and enhancing opportunities for users to meet their needs.

Sustainable management of subsistence hunting and fishing requires accurate and timely information about the abundance, health, and distribution of fish and wildlife stocks. Much of this information is developed through service contracts with Alaska tribes and other Native organizations. In addition to providing essential biological data, these contracts create local jobs, build technical capacity, and involve subsistence users in meaningful stewardship roles.

RLT Partners

Human Resources (HR)

Human Resources Management provides HR services to all Forest Service employees across the country from the beginning of their career until they leave the agency. We are a national program. The majority of our employees are located in Albuquerque, NM at the Albuquerque Service Center; however, we have hundreds of employees located in field units at all levels of the agency.

Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI)

Law enforcement plays an integral role in the management of National Forest System lands. As a full partner with all management programs in the Alaska Region, the Law Enforcement and Investigations team strives to serve people, provide for public and employee safety, and protect the resources and property under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The law enforcement organization is a diverse workforce committed to integrity, professionalism, and exemplary public service.

Protecting the natural and cultural resources of this nation is no small task, and the challenges that the dedicated men and women in Alaska face every day are enormous. Law enforcement operations that are considered routine elsewhere in the U.S. take on a different level of complexity and danger in the remote and rugged Alaska frontier. Alaska officers face a range of challenging conditions including extensive travel by boat and plane, variable and extreme weather conditions, lack of improved roads and a scarcity of other law enforcement officers to back them up in remote areas.

Patrolling Forests

Patrol, usually by boat, and most recently with the use of an amphibious de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver, of the nearly 11,000-mile shoreline of the Tongass National Forest can be risky and difficult. Like the Tongass, extended boat and aircraft patrols are possible on the Chugach, however, the severe weather conditions associated with the Gulf of Alaska can make these perilous.

Staff must be prepared, well trained, use good common sense, and make sound judgments, in order to ensure their safety and complete their work. Forest Service officers engage in cooperative patrols with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Alaska State Troopers, local police departments, and at times, Canadian regulatory agencies in order to improve officer safety and achieve our common goals of law enforcement and public safety. Our officers are also commissioned Alaska State Peace Officers, offering them greater flexibility in accomplishing the overall law enforcement and public safety mission.

Evolving Responsibilities

Law Enforcement and Investigations personnel in Alaska enforce the same Forest Service regulations and federal laws as their counterparts in the Lower 48, with one very notable exception. In Alaska, this group is the single regulatory authority on National Forest Service lands relative to federal subsistence wildlife and fisheries enforcement. As mandated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Title VIII, the primary focus in subsistence management is to protect the customary and traditional harvesting of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, by qualified rural Alaskans. Since 1992, staff have been actively involved in fulfilling this mandate.

This broadening of responsibility added a new level of complexity to the duties of Forest Service law enforcement in Alaska. It brought about an exponential growth in workload as well as significant political and socioeconomic pressures to be proactive in protecting the subsistence priority.

The Office of General Counsel (OGC)

The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is an independent legal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). OGC provides legal advice and services to the Secretary of Agriculture and to all other officials and agencies of the Department with respect to all USDA programs and activities. All legal services are centralized within OGC and the General Counsel reports directly to the Secretary.

The General Counsel is the chief law officer of USDA and is responsible for providing legal services for all programs, operations, and activities of USDA. Two Deputy General Counsels, five Associate General Counsels, and four Regional Attorneys assist the General Counsel in managing the work of the office. A Senior Counselor also provides assistance in the Immediate Office of the General Counsel.

OGC provides legal services and legal oversight required by the Secretary of Agriculture and USDA to achieve the Department's mission and deliver programs and services to the American People.

M/V *Nissman* on patrol in Prince William Sound.

The Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station is a leader in the scientific study of natural resources. We generate and communicate impartial knowledge to help people understand and make informed choices about natural resource management and sustainability. The Station has 11 laboratories and research centers in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington as well as 12 active experimental forests, ranges, and watersheds.

The PNW Research Station is an integral component of USDA Forest Service Research and Development (R&D), which is the most extensive natural resources research organization in the world. Forest Service R&D is comprised of five regional research stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry. More information available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/

The Station is organized into Five Programs:

Ecological Process and Function Program advances and communicates knowledge of fundamental ecological processes and their interactions at multiple scales and develops applications that enable improved management of ecosystems and resources.

Goods, Services, and Values Program conducts and communicates research that advances understanding of relationships among people and forest and rangeland ecosystems. We examine how the public perceives and values ecological functions, goods, and services and how these factors influence people's use and management of landscapes.

Land and Watershed Management Program increases understanding of terrestrial, aquatic, and riparian ecosystems and their linkages to inform management and policy options and develops tools to enhance or maintain the production of desired goods and services.

Resource Monitoring and Assessment (RMA) program improves forest and range ecosystems by developing and applying inventory and monitoring methodology to maintain current comprehensive inventories and conduct multiscale assessment of the status, trends, and future outlook for Pacific Northwest ecosystems.

Threat Characterization and Management Program generates knowledge about the nature, causes, and consequences of large, rapid, or significant changes to ecosystems that potentially threaten societal values. We use our knowledge to develop and deliver innovative and effective strategies, methods, and tools so that people can plan, manage, or mitigate changes and their causes and consequences.PNW Research Station also administers the **Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center** and the **Northwest Climate Hub**.

Alaska Research Emphases

Anchorage Lab

Anchorage Forestry Sciences Laboratory (Anchorage Lab) traces its roots to Juneau's Institute of Northern Forestry, where in the 1950s, forest surveys were led by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. The lab moved to Anchorage in the 1970s as the National Forest System ramped up partnerships with Anchorage-based partners. By 1979, the "Alaska Forest Inventory Program" was up and running at Anchorage lab.

Scientists and staff churned out air photos and other survey data in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state agencies.

Unique challenges of the "last frontier" pushed new frontiers in forest inventory methods at the Anchorage Lab. The sheer scale of the Alaskan wilderness led to increased reliance on remote sensing data, like high-altitude aerial photography. Leadership in collecting forest survey data from earth-orbiting satellites, such as Landsat, arose from partnerships with the USGS Alaska Field Office. Innovation continues with sample designs and protocols geared towards large-scale inventory challenges in logistics, communications, terrain, and vegetation. Techniques to measure vegetation and downed woody debris developed at the lab are used across the United States. Science tools like G-LiHT (Goddard's LiDAR, Hyperspectral & Thermal Imager), developed jointly with NASA and other partners, permit forest surveyors nationwide to measure soil carbon and other key inventory data, then link observations to remotely sensed images.

Juneau Lab

The Juneau Forestry Sciences Lab traces its roots to the Alaska Forest Research Center, established at Juneau in 1948 and was reorganized as the "Northern Forest Experiment Station" in 1961. This station lasted six years before being assigned to the Pacific Northwest Research Station as its "Institute of Northern Forestry" in 1966. A Forestry Science Lab was established the following year, in 1967. The lab housed Alaska's Forest Inventory and Analysis unit through 1978. The Juneau lab was reorganized in 1984 to research how timber harvests fit multi-resource management goals mandated by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Research involved six PNW Research Work Units outside of Alaska: Recreation, Utilization, Forest Engineering, Production Economics, Foreign Trade, and Resource Management Impacts.

The Alaska Coastal Rain Forest Center (ACRC) is co-located with the Juneau lab. The Center is geared towards research on temperate rainforests. Research station scientists investigate climate science, fisheries, vegetation, and watershed management. Timber management strategies related to young forest growth, old growth, and forest health and disease are also research strengths.

Weather station in Héen Latinee Experimental Forest in Southeast Alaska.

Richard Edwards

Forest Inventory and Analysis Interior Alaska

Interior FIA Crew

Fairbanks Boreal Ecology Cooperative Research Unit

The Boreal Ecology Cooperative Research Unit (BECRU) works to understand the structure and function of the dynamic boreal forest. It is the northernmost outpost of the USDA Forest Service. The 12,486-acre Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest is about 20 miles southwest of Fairbanks. The unit's goals are to conduct research designed to understand interactions between climate, disturbance, and ecosystems in central and northern Alaska, develop conceptual and real models of multiple spatial and temporal scales of pattern in Alaska vegetation, and lead cooperative research at the Bonanza Creek Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) site. The majority of research at Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest is done under the auspices of the Long-Term Ecological Research program. LTER research is organized around three themes: (1) forest dynamics, (2) the changing boreal carbon cycle, and (3) regional and landscape controls over disturbance ecological resilience through a combination of long-term monitoring of control sites, modeling, geographic information system analysis, and experimental studies.

Alaska Wood Utilization Research and Development Center

The Alaska Wood Utilization Research and Development Center (AWURDC) was established in 1999 to "unify and enhance opportunities for economic assistance to workers, families, businesses, and communities affected by the changing timber industry in Southeast Alaska" (former Department of Agriculture Secretary, Dan Glickman). AWURDC provides research, tools, and new ideas for improving economic growth in southeast Alaska communities. Research highlights include exploring feasibility of using wood for power generation, optimizing kiln-drying methods, and work to create a durable wood products industry in Alaska. Wood products research ranges from consumer preferences for consumer goods to supply chain dynamics and wood energy markets.

Alaska Region

709 West 9th Street
P. O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628
(907) 586-8806

Chugach National Forest

Supervisor's Office
161 E. First Ave., Door 8
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 743-9500

Cordova Ranger District
612 2nd Street
P. O. Box 280
Cordova, AK 99874-0280
(907) 424-7661

Glacier Ranger District
145 Forest Station Road
P. O. Box 129
Girdwood, AK 99587-0129
(907) 783-3242

Seward Ranger District
33599 Ranger Station Spur
(mile marker 23.5)
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 288-3178

Tongass National Forest

Supervisor's Office
648 Mission Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901-6591
(907) 225-3101

Admiralty Island National Monument
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801-8041
(907) 586-8800

Craig Ranger District
P.O. Box 500
Craig, AK 99921-0500
(907) 828-3271

Hoonah Ranger District
P.O. Box 135
Hoonah, AK 99829-0135
(907) 945-3631

Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801-8041
(907) 586-8800

Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District
3031 Tongass Avenue
Ketchikan, AK 99901-5743
(907) 225-2148

Petersburg Ranger District
P.O. Box 1328
Petersburg, AK 99833-1328
(907) 772-3871

Sitka Ranger District
2108 Halibut Point Road
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6671

Thorne Bay Ranger District
P.O. Box 19001
Thorne Bay, AK 99919-0001
(907) 828-3304

Wrangell Ranger District
P.O. Box 51
Wrangell, AK 99929-0051
(907) 874-2323

Yakutat Ranger District
P.O. Box 327
Yakutat, AK 99689-0327
(907) 784-3359

Social Media

Regional Office

https://www.fs.usda.gov/r10
https://twitter.com/AKForestService

Chugach National Forest

https://www.fs.usda.gov/chugach
https://www.facebook.com/ChugachNF
https://twitter.com/ChugachForestAK

Tongass National Forest

https://www.fs.usda.gov/tongass
https://www.facebook.com/TongassNF
https://twitter.com/TongassNF

Tongass National Forest Public Affairs and Partnerships Staff Officer Paul A. Robbins Jr., interviews forest visitors for a social media broadcast called Forester on the Street *during the time he worked in the Pacific Southwest Region regional office.*

Janelle Lopez