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# Coronation Island and Warren Island Wilderness

In 1980, the United States Congress designated 19,232 as the Coronation Island Wilderness, and 11,181 acres as the Warren Island Wilderness. Warren Island is located 40 miles from Craig and 10 miles directly west lays Coronation Island Wilderness. Both of these wilderness areas can be accessed by boat or floatplane. Embrace in the fact that they are strategically managed to continue the preservation of the undeveloped, enduring ecosystems for the enjoyment of present and future generations.



## Wilderness Laws

The Wilderness Act, ANILCA, and the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan of 2008 (TLRMP) give direction to designated wilderness areas in the Tongass National Forest. The Wilderness Act, ANILCA and/or TLRMP **prohibit** the following:

- ◆ Commercial enterprise (except for outfitters and guides)
- ◆ Permanent and temporary roads
- ◆ Use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment (except snowmobiles, motorboats, and fixed wing airplanes)
- ◆ Mechanized form of transport (i.e. bicycles, wheelbarrows)
- ◆ Damaging of live trees
- ◆ Construction of structures and installations
- ◆ Landing of helicopters

Under ANILCA and TLRMP temporary structures are allowed but are limited to a 14-day stay at any one location. TLRMP also mandates a group size limit of no more than 12 persons for commercial **or** general public use within this wilderness. These regulations are established for the wilderness character to remain undeveloped, and natural for future use.

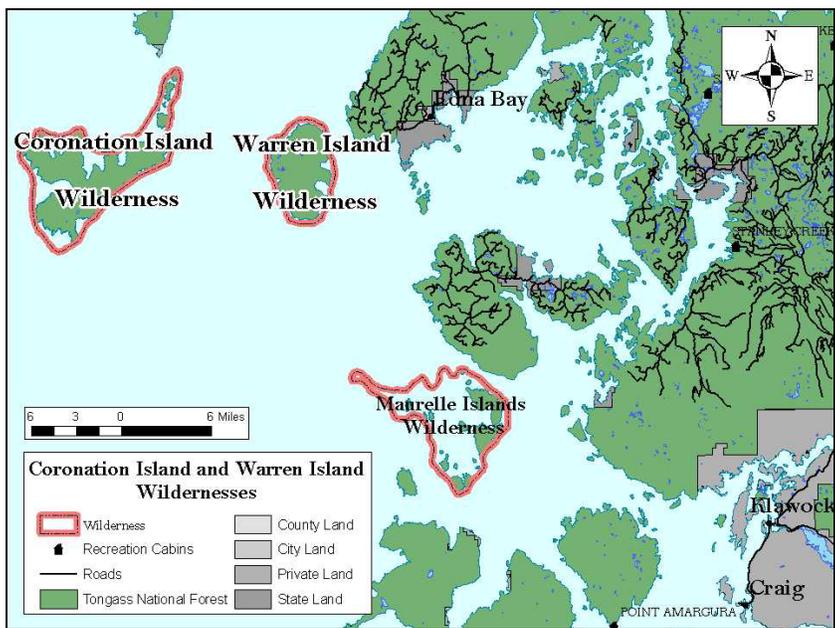
## Wilderness Character

Boat up to this island and be stunned by the raw, jagged, rocky cliffs of Coronation Island Wilderness. Its gothic cathedral like walls tower over the open ocean of the Pacific. Waves pound the western shoreline even on the calmest of days and on the leeward side protected coves and beaches are guarded by rocky shoals that make approaches risky. Warren Island Wilderness is closer inland and is a rounder, gentler island where nice beaches can be found on the southern end. It could be paddled to from Prince of Wales island, but most visitors come by motorboat. There are no outfitters or guides that are permitted for this wilderness island, so other than the occasional fisherman, it will be a retreat from humankind. Both wilderness areas should be treated with respect and caution, and admired for their uniqueness.

## Facilities

There are no established hiking trails or public recreation facilities in either of these wilderness areas, although due to the remoteness, these areas provide excellent opportunities for solitude and exploration.





## Wilderness Challenges

People are lured into Alaska for its beauty and excitement but remember it is also very unforgiving. Coronation Island and Warren Island Wildernesses are within a temperate rainforest where the average summer temperatures are between 45-65°F. Be prepared with the appropriate clothing, safety equipment, shelter supplies, and water purifying devices for a cool and frequently overcast climate. If traveling by boat to either wilderness area, be aware of the strong prevailing winds and rocky shorelines that can make anchoring difficult to almost impossible.

## Threats and Benefits

While designated wilderness areas have the most protections of any other public lands, there are still threats that degrade the wilderness resource. Damaging of cultural and historical sites, illegal outfitting and guiding, and resource damage by the spread of invasive species, and impacts to cave resources are the major human threats to these wilderness areas. Building awareness and a better understanding of designated wilderness areas is the key foundation to ensure that these areas stay wild.

Along with providing excellent recreational opportunities, designated wilderness areas protect natural ecosystems from being manipulated or developed. They provide us with clean air and clean water, and allow the natural processes to continue without the permanent presence of humans. As the current laws continue to give management direction, no wilderness on the Tongass will have a commercial timber harvest or construction of permanent roads. Due to the action of Congress in 1980, the Coronation Island Wilderness and the Warren Island Wilderness will remain protected for future generations.

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## Leave No Trace

Tongass National Forest is the largest, intact coastal rainforest in America. Coronation Island and Warren Island Wildernesses is a piece of this treasure and is set aside for all visitors – now and in the future. To insure that this area is left unimpaired for future use, practice the following Leave No Trace principles.

- ◆ Plan ahead and be prepared for extreme weather conditions, and emergencies.
- ◆ Travel and camp on durable surfaces. Coronation and Warren are both managed as pristine areas. Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails and avoid places where impacts are just beginning.
- ◆ Dispose of waste properly. **Pack out** all trash, leftover food, and toilet paper. At appropriate conditions dispose of human waste in the intertidal zone. If camping in upland forests dispose of solid waste by digging a cathole 6 to 8 inches deep located at least 200 feet from water or campsite.
- ◆ Leave what you find. There are a few historical sites and artifacts within this wilderness. Examine but do not touch cultural or historical structures and artifacts. Do not build structures or furniture with live trees.
- ◆ Minimize campfire impacts. Use a lightweight stove when possible. When a campfire is necessary, keep fires small. Build a fire below mean high tide, or when in a forested area, build a mound fire or use a fire pan to avoid damaging the ground vegetation. Stay away from boulders or tree bases to avoid long lasting black scars.
- ◆ Respect wildlife and other visitors in the surrounding area.

