



Forest Service
Alaska Region

Tongass National Forest
Craig Ranger District
PO Box 500
Craig, AK 99921

Phone: (907) 826-3271

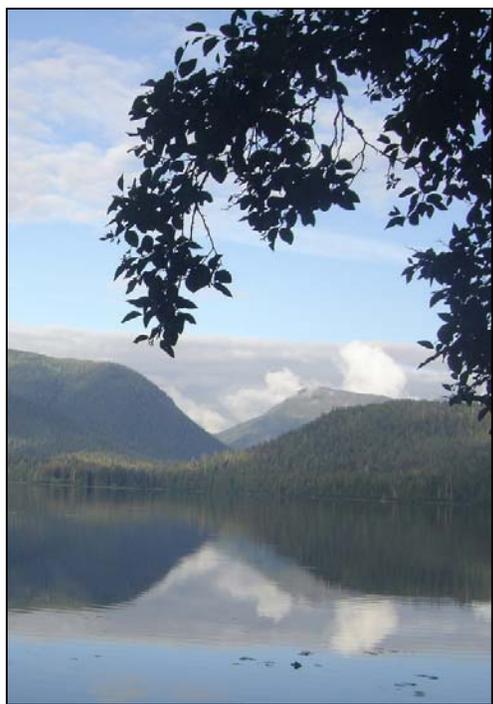
Fax: (907) 826-2792

www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass



Karta River Wilderness

In 1990, the United States Congress designated 39,894 acres as the Karta River Wilderness. Situated on the east-central side of Prince of Wales Island about 3 miles north of Hollis and 40 miles west of Ketchikan, this wilderness contains the Karta River drainage which empties into Karta Bay. After the initial travel by boat or floatplane, this wilderness can be then be experienced by foot. Embrace in the fact that Karta River Wilderness is strategically managed to continue the preservation of this undeveloped, enduring ecosystem for the enjoyment of present and future generations.



Wilderness Character

A three mile boat ride from Hollis brings you to the mouth of the Karta River where a fishing, hiking, and camping adventure through the wilderness can begin. A bountiful source of Dolly Vardon char, cutthroat, steelhead, and four species of salmon can be found in the river annually and provide a high-quality fishery for those who visit the area. Do not get too mesmerized by the spawning creatures or else you will lose sight of the trumpet swans that fly through the watershed. The v-shaped drainage is also home to several unique mining and trapping sites that remain as a testament to the intricate past of the local communities. Stand alongside several of the majestic falls and let the serenity of this wilderness transform you to the happenings of the past, the nature occurrences of the present, and the imaginations of the future.

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 outfitter 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, natural and untrammled for future use.

Facilities

Within the Karta River Wilderness sits three Forest Service recreation cabins and one 4.8 mile hiking trail that starts at the mouth of Karta River and connects all three cabins.



Wilderness Challenges

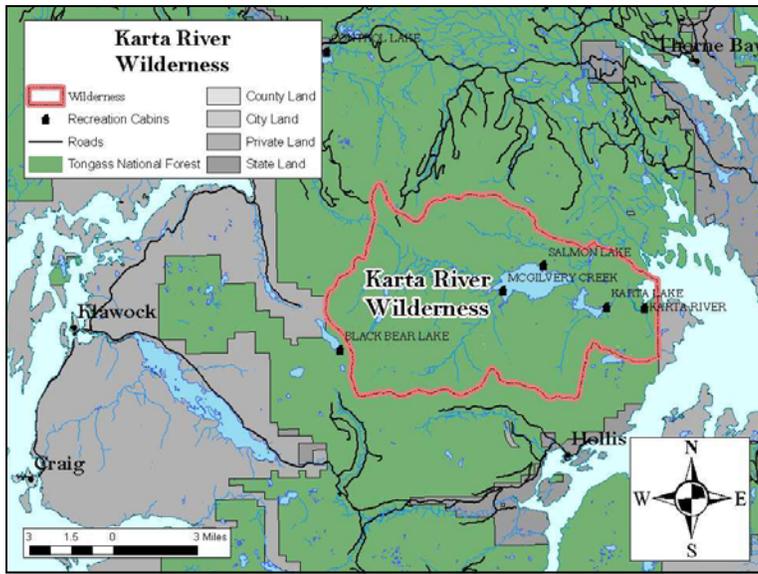
People are lured into Alaska for its beauty and excitement but remember it is also very unforgiving. Karta River Wilderness is within a temperate rainforest where the average summer temperatures are between 45-65°F. Be prepared with the appropriate clothing, safety equipment, shelter supplies, and water purifying devices for a cool and frequently overcast climate. This wilderness also contains black bears so store food and trash properly. During the summer months, be especially careful around salmon spawning streams.

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. Illegal outfitting and guiding on the Karta River, damaging of cultural and historical sites, recreational overuse between the three FS cabins, and resource damage by disturbing wildlife, spread of invasive species, and damaging riparian flora are the major threats to this wilderness. 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 1990, Karta River Wilderness will remain protected for future generations.

This flyer was printed with the help of recreation fee money. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Leave No Trace

Tongass National Forest is the largest, intact coastal rainforest in America. The Karta River Wilderness 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. If a cabin rental is not an option, disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails. Use the Karta River Trail when possible. Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.
- ◆ Dispose of waste properly. **Pack out** all trash, leftover food, and toilet paper. Use bathroom facilities when available. On the marine shore 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. Historically, Native Alaskans lived around the bay. Examine but do not touch cultural or historical structures or 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.