

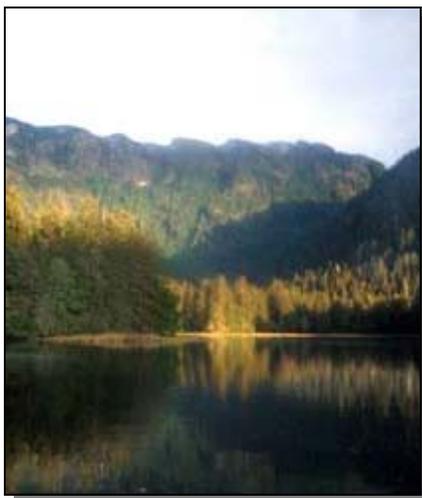


Forest Service
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Tebenkof Bay Wilderness and Kuiu Wilderness

The United States Congress designated 66,812 acres as the Tebenkof Bay Wilderness in 1980 and in 1990 designated 60,581 acres as Kuiu Wilderness. Located 15 miles from the community of Port Alexander, 10 miles from the communities of Port Baker and Port Protection on Prince of Wales Island, and 60 miles from Petersburg, these wilderness areas can be accessed by floatplane, motorboat, or paddleboat. They are strategically managed to continue the preservation of this undeveloped, enduring ecosystem for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Wilderness Laws

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

- ◆ Commercial enterprise (except for outfitters and guides)
- ◆ Permanent and temporary roads
- ◆ Use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment (except 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 TLMP temporary structures are allowed but are limited to a 14-day stay at any one location. TLMP 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 untrammeled for future use.

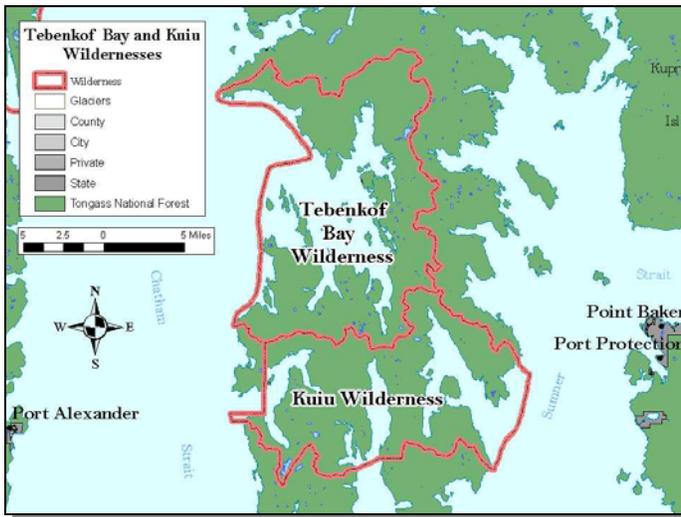
Facilities

There are no established hiking trails or public recreation facilities in these wilderness areas. There is one primitive portage trail that goes through both wilderness areas. Maps of paddling routes are available at the Petersburg Ranger District.

Wilderness Character

Coho, pink, sockeye and chum salmon along with Dungeness and tanner crabs, halibut and shrimp thrive around these wilderness waters. You can not help but wonder if this is a coincidence or does this designated protection go beyond the lands edge? Could the amount of water pollution be less because there are no developments or roads to cause heavy metal runoff into the streams and bays? Are the natural processes and ecosystems allowed to thrive without the manipulation of a human hand? Or could it be both? Either way, people who work and recreate in these surrounding waters not only reap the benefit from the abundance of fishing opportunities but also stay protected by the complex systems of bays, islands, and coves when extreme weather arises. If you lose your sea legs and take to the land, explore the various historical native villages that contain gardens and burial grounds but remember to respect the area and leave what you find.





Leave No Trace

Tongass National Forest is the largest, intact coastal rainforest in America. The Tebenkof Bay and Kuiu Wilderness areas are 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 like uplifted gravel or sand beaches. If forested areas need to be used, 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. During 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. A few historical sites and artifacts are 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.

Wilderness Challenges

People are lured into Alaska for its beauty and excitement but remember it is also very unforgiving. These two wilderness areas are remote and far from assistance 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. These areas also contain black bears so store food and trash properly. During the summer months, be especially careful around salmon spawning streams. When traveling by boat, be aware of the weather conditions coming from Chatham Strait.

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. Trash pollution from visitors, heritage resource damage, loss of solitude resulting from the increase of visitors, and resource damage by littering, spread of invasive species and damaged flora 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 where humans remain only as visitors. 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 and 1990, Tebenkof Bay Wilderness and Kuiu 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.