



United States Department of Agriculture

List of Proposed Species of Conservation Concern Report Draft

Tongass National Forest Plan Revision



Forest
Service

Alaska
Region

Tongass
National Forest

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Cover Photo: Mountain Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium montanum*), a species proposed as a Species of Conservation Concern for the Tongass National Forest. Photograph by Rosalee de la Forêt. CC-BY-SA-3.0.

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Proposed Species of Conservation Concern by Taxa Groups

Table 1. Proposed List of Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) for the Tongass National Forest. The list includes one aquatic (fish) species, seven terrestrial wildlife species (four birds and three mammals), and 24 botanical species (three ferns, 15 flowering plants, one fungus and three lichens). POW = Prince of Wales.

Taxa group / Sub-taxa group	Species	Common name	Basis for substantial concern
<u>Aquatic species</u>			
Fish	<i>Thaleichthys pacificus</i>	Eulachon or Hooligan smelt	-Significant threats include the synergistic effects of high mortality due to predation and harvest and intense anthropogenic sound sources. -They have declining populations in some areas on the Tongass. -Their overall range is restricted due to population declines, mostly outside the Tongass. -Some areas of the Tongass exhibit low populations.
<u>Terrestrial wildlife species</u>			
Birds	<i>Astur atricapillus laingi</i> ¹	Queen Charlotte goshawk	-Significant threats include timber harvest. -They have a historical downward trend in populations and suitable habitat for nesting. -Birds have low density and low productivity and higher mortality on the Tongass.
Birds	<i>Brachyrampus marmoratus</i>	Marbled murrelet	-Significant threats include timber harvest, warming ocean temperature, upwelling and acidification-mediated declines of prey, and bycatch-related mortality. -Low reproductive rate and generally low reproductive success.

¹ Previously classified as *Accipiter gentilis laingi*.

Taxa group / Sub-taxa group	Species	Common name	Basis for substantial concern
Birds	<i>Falciennis canadensis isleibi</i>	POW spruce grouse	-Habitat loss due to timber harvest, human-mediated mortality, reduced snow persistence and subnivium refugia and increases in storm frequency-related mortality. -Habitat is heavily fragmented. -Narrow endemic restricted to the Tongass. -Rare and low population estimate.
Birds	<i>Onychoprion aleuticus</i>	Aleutian tern	-Very vulnerable to warming ocean temperature, upwelling and acidification-mediated declines of prey effects. -Populations have decreased over 90% overall. -The Tongass is at the southern extent of their range. -Highly variable colony size across seasons, with periods of zero abundance and restricted ecological conditions. -Increased human activity along the coastline negatively affects the species.
Mammals	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus griseifrons</i>	POW flying squirrel	-Timber harvest is a significant threat. -Habitat declines may have caused population declines. -Endemic species restricted to the Tongass. -Low population connectivity due to habitat fragmentation.
Mammals	<i>Martes caurina</i>	Pacific marten	-Inbreeding depression and hybridization with American marten are significant threats. Moderately vulnerable to changes in snow accumulation, loss of subnivean refugia, and prey availability. -Significant downward population trends have been recorded. -Restricted to Admiralty and Kuiu islands on the Tongass. -Low population densities reported on Kuiu Island.
Mammals	<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>	Mountain goat	-Vulnerable to habitat loss from warming effects, increased frequency and magnitude of winter storms, landslides and avalanches, altered plant phenology, heat stress, significant threats from increased tourism and recreational activities and land use changes.

Taxa group / Sub-taxa group	Species	Common name	Basis for substantial concern
			-Significant downward trend has been recorded in localized studies. Habitat quality and quantity are also declining. -Locally uncommon, with low reproductive rate and high sensibility to natural and anthropogenic disturbances.
<u>Botanical species</u>			
<i>Ferns</i>	<i>Botrychium yaaxudakeit</i>	Yakutat moonwort	-Significant threats include off-road vehicle traffic, other recreation activities and invasive species. -Declining habitat trends. -Restricted to beach meadows in the Yakutat area on the Tongass. -Low population numbers reported and highly vulnerable habitat.
<i>Ferns</i>	<i>Polystichum kruckebergii</i>	Kruckeberg's swordfern	-Significant threats include habitat loss, upslope shift in elevation of tree line, increased woody vegetation and loss of Alpine community-associated vegetation. -Disjunct populations on the Tongass. -Low population numbers and restricted habitat.
<i>Ferns</i>	<i>Woodsia glabella</i>	Smooth Woodsia	-Mining explorations near established mine operations and drought stress and loss of snow pack pose a significant threat to known populations. -The species is described as locally rare, and only two occurrences are known on the Tongass. The species is considered rare in Southeast Alaska.
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Ambrosia chamissonis</i>	Silver bursage	- Significant threats include OHV use in some areas, invasive species, changes in temperature and precipitation, and sea-level rise. -Some known populations have been extirpated and known populations are being impacted by recreational activities. -The Tongass is the northern edge of their range.

Taxa group / Sub-taxa group	Species	Common name	Basis for substantial concern
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Arctophila fulva</i>	Pendantgrass	-Locally rare and found in rare habitat that is vulnerable to changing temperatures and precipitation, and sea-level rise. -Vulnerable to changes in water table, threatened by growing season water deficit and drought stress, and invasive species. -Timber harvest and road building may have caused negative impacts on known populations, and invasive plants are known to occur where the species is found. -Observed population decrease in wetlands in the northern parts of Alaska. -Known populations on the Tongass are at the southernmost edge of their range. -The species has low population numbers and restricted ecological conditions that are only found on the northern edge of the Tongass.
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Betula glandulosa</i>	Tundra dwarf birch	-Significant threats include invasive species, habitat destruction and changes in the water table. -Potentially declining habitat and population trends. -Known occurrence restricted to Chichagof Island and likely genetically isolated. -Low population numbers and restricted ecological conditions to limestone-influenced fen, which is a rare habitat on the Tongass.
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Crassula aquatica</i>	Water pygmyweed	-Significant threats include development nearby occupied habitat, invasive species, and potential changes in hydrology with increasing temperatures and decreases in precipitation. -Restricted to a developed geothermal location at Chief Shakes Hot Springs.
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Cypripedium montanum</i>	Mountain Lady's-slipper	-Significant threats include road construction and maintenance, timber harvest, invasive plants, herbicides, and disturbance from off-road vehicles.

Taxa group / Sub-taxa group	Species	Common name	Basis for substantial concern
			-Limited to one known population with suspected downward population trend on the Tongass, and across its range. -Disjunct population at the northern edge of its range. -Restricted to rare habitat type (limestone-influenced fen, rated as imperiled). -Slow growth rate and dependent on mycorrhizal fungi for germination.
Flowering plants	<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	Large Yellow Lady's-slipper	-Significant threats include road construction and maintenance, trampling, invasive species and increased evapotranspiration and growing season water deficits-mediated drought stress. -Restricted habitat to limestone-influenced fens, which is rated as imperiled. -Disjunct geographically and genetically from other occurrences across its range. -Small population sizes, low reproductive rates and dependent on mycorrhizal fungi for germination.
Flowering plants	<i>Diapensia lapponica</i>	Lapland diapensia	-Significant threats include reduced snowpack, altered interactions with pollinators and rising temperatures. -Habitat declines expected through woody vegetation encroachment. -Restricted to the northern edge of the Tongass, which is at the southern edge of the species' range. -Only one occurrence is known on the Tongass, the species is slow growing and unlikely resilient to disturbances.
Flowering plants	<i>Glehnia littoralis leiocarpa</i>	American silvertop	-Significant threats include OHV use in some areas, sea-level rise, intense storm surges and erosion, and invasive species. -Some populations have been negatively impacted by recreational use. -Disjunct population on the Tongass ~130 miles from other occurrences in its range.

Taxa group / Sub-taxa group	Species	Common name	Basis for substantial concern
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Papaver mcconnellii</i>	McConnell's poppy	-Restricted to rare habitat on the Tongass (sandy beaches) with likely low abundances. -Significant threats include invasive species and loss of snowpack by changes in warming and decreased precipitation. -Habitat availability may decrease due to woody vegetation encroachment. - Populations on the Tongass are peripheral and located in the southern edge of the species' range. -Low populations and restricted to rare habitat (calcareous alpine and sub-alpine), limited dispersal potential.
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Phyllodoce empetrifomis</i>	Pink Mountain-heath	-Significant threats include receding glaciers and reduced snowpack and precipitation. -Restricted distribution within the Tongass with only three estimated occurrences and sparse distribution. -Low abundance and rare with declining suitable habitat (alpine and sub-alpine)
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Platanthera unalascensis</i>	Alaska rein orchid	-Significant threats include timber harvest, development (roads, mining), recreation, invasive species and drought stress due to changes in precipitation and increasing temperatures. -Scarce or isolated populations on the Tongass are in the northern extent of the species' range, and it has a limited distribution outside the forest. -Considered rare, with low abundance. -Species requires specific mycorrhizal fungi for germination, restricting potential suitable habitat.
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Primula pumila</i>	Arctic primrose	-Significant threats include lower soil moisture availability, altered hydrology and habitat loss. -Suitable habitat is expected to decrease over time. -Narrow endemic, only known from Alaska, Yukon and Northwest Territories. Populations on the Tongass are at

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<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Ranunculus pallasii</i>	Pallas' buttercup	the southern edge of its range, where they occupy a relatively small area. -Significant threats include growing season water deficit, and changes in water table and species composition. -Disjunct population in the southernmost portion of the species' range ~250 miles away from nearest population. -There are only two estimated occurrences restricted to the northern edge of the Tongass with restricted habitat conditions.
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Romanzoffia unalaschcensis</i>	Alaska mistmaiden	-Significant threats include developments, stream and fisheries restoration projects, and increasing temperatures and shifts from snow to rain which reduces snowpack. -One of three known populations has been extirpated; suspected downward population trends. -Restricted to relatively small areas on the summit of Bald Mountain on Heceta Island. -Low population numbers and disjunct populations on the Tongass ~435 miles from other populations in its range.
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Saxifraga eschscholtzii</i>	Cushion saxifrage	-Significant threats include changes in precipitation from snow to rain which reduces snowpack, changes in species composition, decreased water availability, and changes in growing conditions. -Habitat is vulnerable to changes in precipitation and temperatures. -Disjunct populations on the Tongass ~425 miles from the nearest occurrence outside the forest resulting in limited dispersal and genetic exchange. -Only known from five occurrences on the Tongass.
<i>Flowering plants</i>	<i>Tanacetum camphoratum</i>	Dwarf dune tansy	-Significant threats include stream and coastal erosion. -There is only one known population on the Tongass, and it has declined by 75% since 2003. The population might be a single clone and might be limited to clonal reproduction, which implies reduced genetic diversity.

Taxa group / Sub-taxa group	Species	Common name	Basis for substantial concern
			-Restricted range within the Tongass and disjunct population ~250 miles from nearest population in its range. -Restricted to rare habitat (sandy beaches)
Flowering plants	<i>Therorhodon camtschaticum</i>	Kamchatka rhododendron	-Significant threats include increasing temperature and snowmelt, reduced water availability, habitat encroachment, altered interspecific interactions, invasive species, development and recreation. -Restricted range, known from four estimated occurrences only within the central and northern portions of the Tongass in SE Alaska; narrowly distributed outside the forest. -Low abundance with disjunct distribution, with one extirpated population. -Declines in suitable habitat (alpine).
Fungi	<i>Neolbatrellus subcaeruleoporus</i>	Little blue polypore	-Significant threats include timber harvest and drought, development (road maintenance). -Likely obligate mycorrhizal associate of western hemlock with limited reproductive success. -Rare across its range, including on the Tongass, where it has a single disjunct population ~400 miles from the closest known population outside the forest. -Low abundance with potentially restricted ecological conditions.
Lichens	<i>Acroscyphus sphaerophoroides</i>	Mountain crab eye lichen	-Significant threats include development (e.g., mining), and encroachments by woody vegetation due to changes in temperature and precipitation. -Declining habitats due to changes in temperature and precipitation-mediated encroachment. -Disjunct populations on the Tongass with nearest populations hundreds of miles away. - Rare on the Tongass; only two estimated occurrences are known in the forest restricted to Admiralty Island.

Taxa group / Sub-taxa group	Species	Common name	Basis for substantial concern
<i>Lichens</i>	<i>Nephroma occultum</i>	Cryptic paw lichen	-Significant threats include timber harvesting, changes in temperature and precipitation-mediated insect outbreaks, and invasive species. -Restricted to four estimated occurrences on the Tongass, and limited distribution outside the forest -Very limited dispersal ability, low reproductive rate and high mortality.
<i>Lichens</i>	<i>Peltigera gowardii</i>	Western waterfan lichen	-Significant threats include habitat encroachment by increases in woody vegetation due to changes in temperature and precipitation, reduced snow and changes in species composition. Considered critically imperiled in Alaska. -Localized reductions in population size observed, and the amount of suitable habitat is declining. -Restricted and disjunct range on the Tongass, with only two estimated occurrences reported, and nearest population outside the forest ~230 miles away. -Low abundances on the Tongass, long generation time, restricted habitat requirements and limited dispersal ability.

Note: The Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, population 5) of the King Salmon River run (Admiralty Island) was originally recommended as an SCC. However, because it is currently a candidate species under the ESA and is being evaluated for listing, it was removed from further consideration as SCC on the Tongass. If the species is not listed under the ESA, it will be reconsidered as an SCC.