

# Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas

## Calder Roadless Area, El Capitan Roadless Area, & Salmon Bay Roadless Area on North Prince of Wales Island



Photo: John Schoen







These three roadless areas are located on the northern end of Prince of Wales Island in the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass of Southeast Alaska has many Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs). These protected areas have high biological value, meaning they provides important habitat to one or more species, like the Prince of Wales flying squirrel.

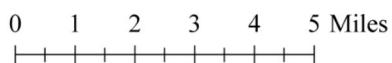


# Calder, El Capitan and Salmon Bay Roadless Areas



## Key to Symbols

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  Roads          |  Salmon streams |  Core Areas of Biological Value   |
|  Past Clearcuts |  Other streams  |  Large Inventoried Roadless Areas |



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community







### Local Resident Spotlight

Prince of Wales Flying Squirrel

There are three roadless areas on North Prince of Wales that still boast impressive stands of large old-growth forests: **Calder Roadless Area**, **El Capitan Roadless Area**, and **Salmon Bay Roadless Area**. These areas grow ancient trees in part due to the rich, karst limestone cave systems found beneath their soils. The karst limestone provides rich soil nutrients for the trees, which grow particularly large wherever these soils and caves are found on the Tongass. The limestone caves here are the longest known cave networks in Alaska. These roadless areas are also home to the endemic Prince of Wales flying squirrel, a subspecies of the Northern flying squirrel found only on Prince of Wales Island. Prince of Wales flying squirrels prefer living in forests of big old trees, where they can easily find broken tops and holes in which to raise their young and forage for mushrooms, truffles, and lichen found in these ancient forests that grow above ancient caves. By protecting these roadless areas you are helping to protect the flying squirrels' homes.

Photo: Bob Armstrong

## Facts on the Tongass National Forest

- There are **16.7 million** acres of Tongass National Forest lands in Southeast Alaska.
- There are **9.3 million** acres of roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest.
- **168** breeding bird species, **82** land mammal species & **5** salmon species use the forests and habitats of Southeast Alaska.
- Industries reliant on fish and wildlife populations and healthy forest ecosystems employ **over 30 times more people** in Southeast Alaska than the timber industry.
- **1.5 million** people visit Southeast Alaska annually with **~600,000** participating in wildlife viewing and bird watching.
- **109** named roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest (2001).
- Up to **12%** of the country's stored carbon found within national forests is captured in the Tongass.
- It costs about **\$160,000–\$500,000** per mile to construct new roads on the Tongass.
- There is a **\$68 million** maintenance backlog for existing Tongass logging roads.
- **5,000 miles** of logging roads already exist on the Tongass.

## The importance of the Roadless Rule

The 2001 Roadless Rule protects wild places in our National Forests across the country. Roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska have exceptional wilderness value and areas of high biological value. About half of the big old trees on the Tongass have already been felled for logging, but the Roadless Rule helps protect about half of what is left. Roadless areas are home to salmon, spruce grouse, goshawks, bears, wolves, and many other birds and wildlife. Roadless areas provide humans with opportunities for fishing, hunting, bird-watching, backpacking, and wilderness solitude.

The Roadless Rule operates on the Tongass to protect these roadless areas and others from roadbuilding and logging. But efforts to chip away at these protections are underway, and the Tongass roadless areas are threatened by a rollback that specifically targets the big old trees that wildlife call home. Join us in advocating for protecting the flying squirrel's home and use this map and factsheet to write specific comments when the time comes. Stay tuned for an action alert in your inbox, or go to [ak.audubon.org/take-action](http://ak.audubon.org/take-action) to find out how to sign up.

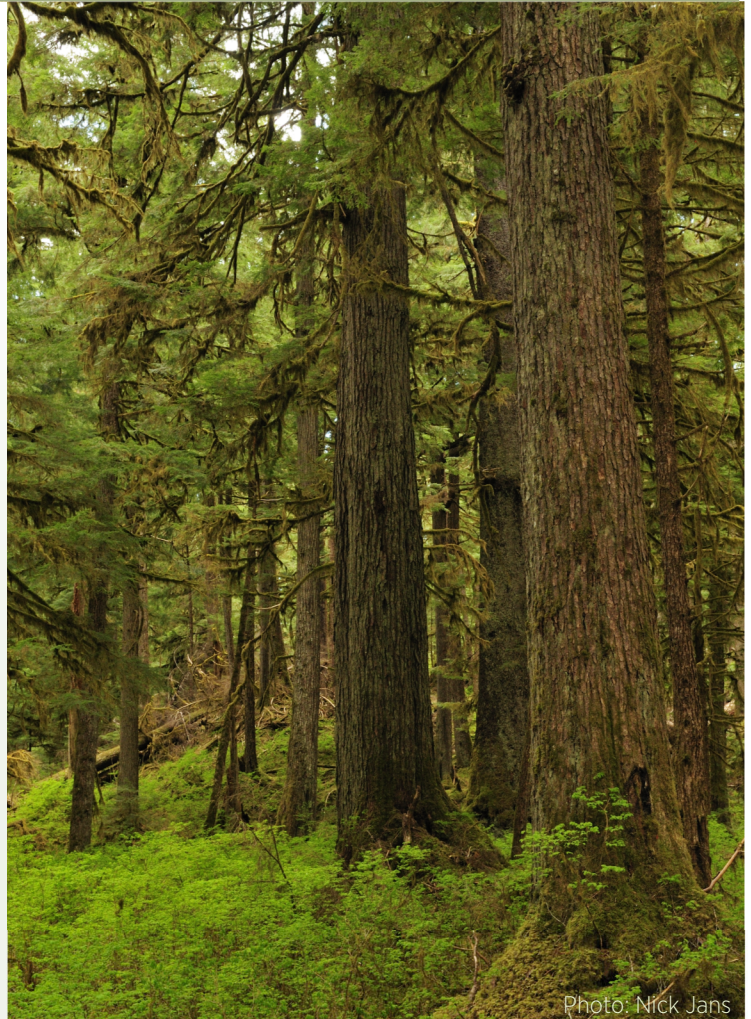
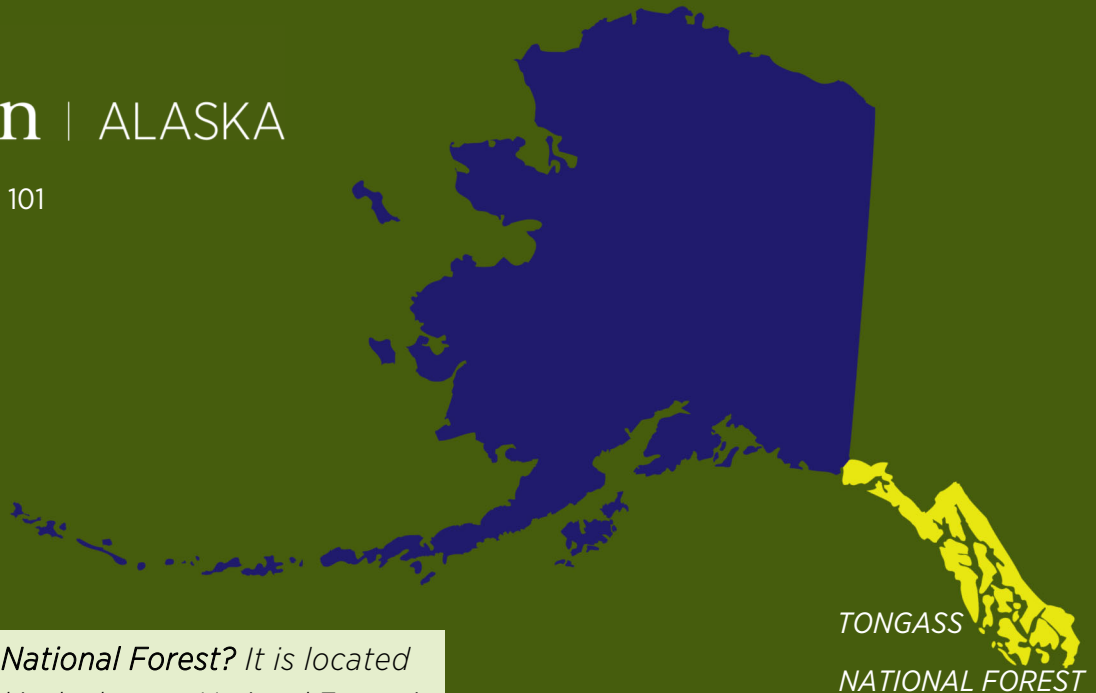


Photo: Nick Jans



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*Where is the Tongass National Forest? It is located in Southeast Alaska and is the largest National Forest in the United States. It is also the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in the world.*