

# Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas

## North Kuiu Roadless Area and Security Roadless Area on Kuiu Island



Photo: John Schoen

These roadless areas are located on Kuiu Island in the Tongass National Forest of Southeast Alaska. The Tongass has many Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs). These protected areas have high biological value, meaning they provide important habitat to one or more species, like the Pacific marten.









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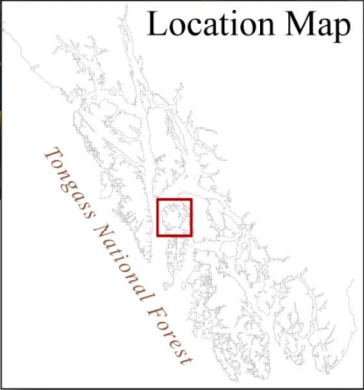


# North Kuiu Roadless Area



## Key to Symbols

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







### *Local resident spotlight*

#### Pacific Marten

In the **North Kuiu Roadless Area** and the **Security Roadless Area** on Kuiu Island, the connections between land and sea are everywhere. These roadless areas are home to the rare Pacific marten, a forest-dwelling weasel that relies on forests for denning and resting habitat, as well as access to ocean resources for seasonal food. Marten feed on the rich silver salmon runs in these roadless areas. These important salmon runs also feed one of the largest known densities of black bears found in the world, and provide nutrients to the northernmost red cedars on the Tongass National Forest. Moose have recently colonized this island illustrating the constantly changing nature of island life. The **Security IRA** has been important for people for countless generations, and the nearby Kake Tribe of the Tlingit Indigenous Peoples of southeast Alaska have long used the many coves, bays, and estuaries within these roadless areas for traditional activities.

Photo: Natalie Dawson

## 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 Pacific marten'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](https://ak.audubon.org/take-action) to sign up.

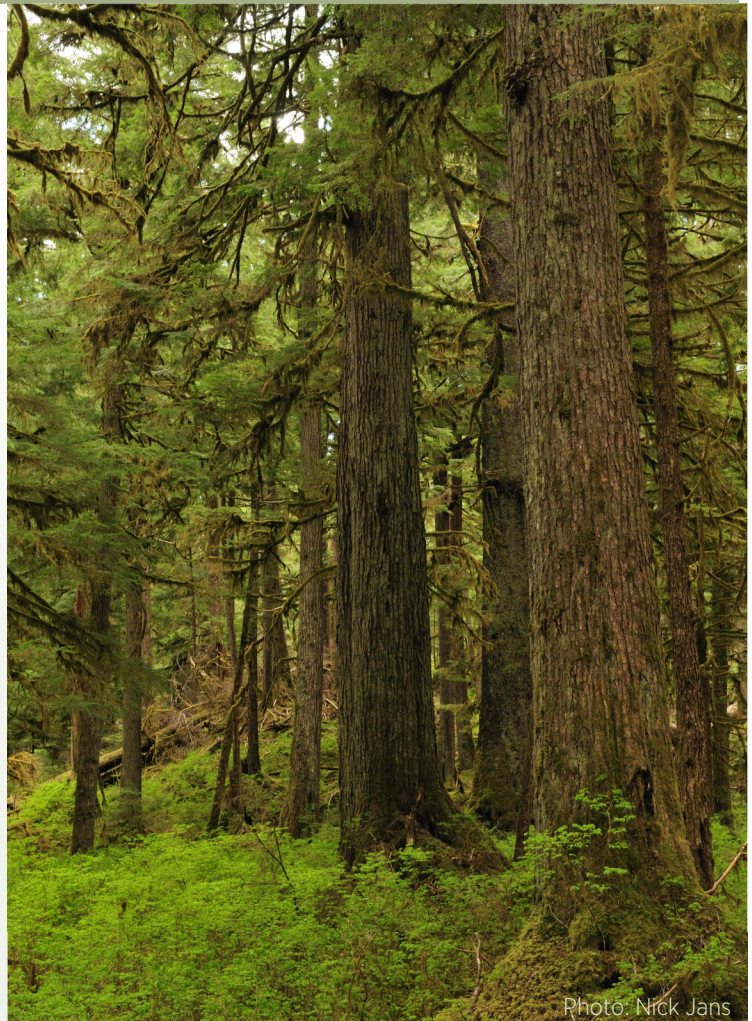
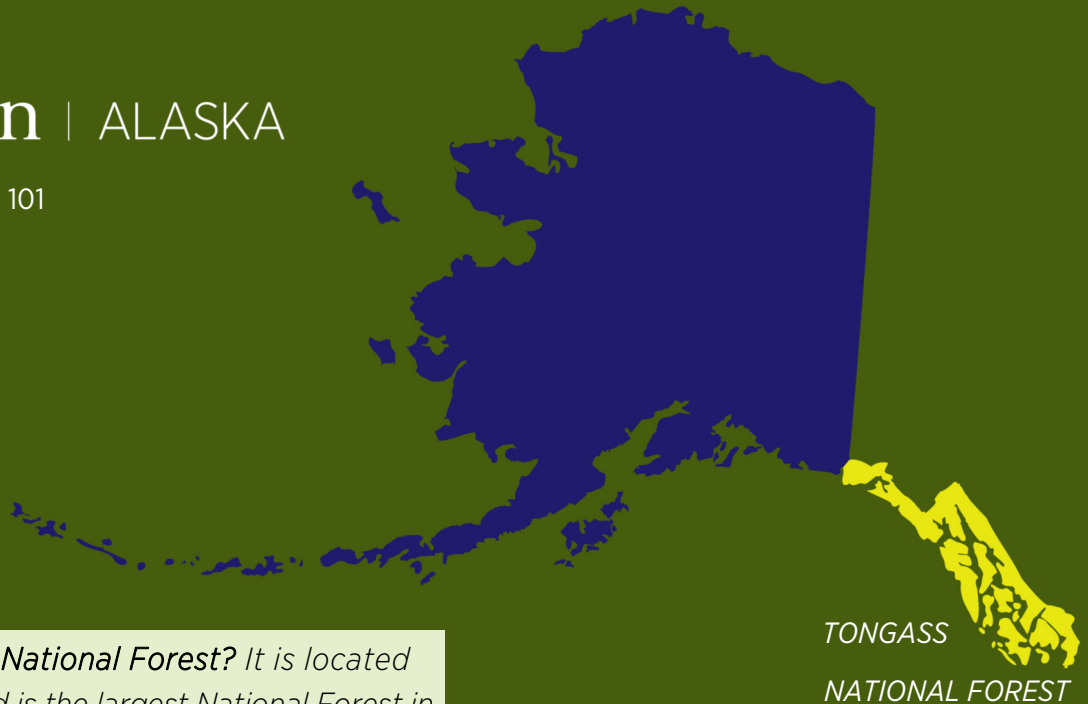


Photo: Nick Jans



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TONGASS  
NATIONAL FOREST

*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.*