A unique and irreplaceable treasure, the 17 million acre Tongass National Forest is the largest of America’s national forests and contains the largest remaining tract of coastal temperate rainforest in the world. However, over fifty years of industrial logging has left the Tongass riddled with logging roads and clear-cuts where ancient giants once stood. Despite the fact that only 4 percent of these ancient trees remain, the U.S. Forest Service continues to promote unsustainable subsidized logging practices in the Tongass at the taxpayers’ expense.

**Unequaled Habitat**

- Trees over 800 years old, 12 feet around, and over 200 feet tall still remain in the Tongass. The complexity found in these ancient stands is a result of the high stratification that has developed over time which provides just the right amount of light and space for the greatest diversity of species.

- The Tongass is home to unparalleled populations of wildlife, including the highest density of nesting Bald Eagles in the world. It is estimated that more than 7,000 eagles inhabit this region.

- There are at least 26 species of birds found in the Tongass that may be dependent on stands of intact old growth. One small seabird, the Marbled Murrelet, actually nests in the canopy of old-growth trees found in the Tongass.

- All 5 species of wild salmon return to the Tongass each year to spawn in their birth streams, feeding the region’s wildlife and providing unparalleled commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing opportunities.
Timber companies are actively targeting the largest, rarest, most ancient, and most ecologically valuable trees in the Tongass.

An Economic Dead End
Degrading the remaining intact watersheds in the Tongass would not only harm the fish, birds and other wildlife of this region, but it would also negatively impact the recreation, tourism, and fishing industries that depend on these intact ecosystems.

- According to the U.S Forest Service, recreation, tourism and the fishing industry account for 88 percent of all natural resource jobs in the Tongass.

- Tongass National Forest already has over 5,000 miles of logging roads, but instead of maintaining them, the Forest Service has poured millions into the construction of new roads.

- The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule protected the most pristine and untouched parts of our national forests, including 9.3 million acres in the Tongass.

- In 2003 the Bush administration, hoping to open public lands to logging and development, exempted the Tongass from the roadless rule and in 2005 attempted to reverse the rule in all our nations National Forests.

- Without roadless rule protection, the Forest Service is free to continue selling off some of the rarest, most biologically rich, and unique forests left in America.

- The Forest Service is subsidizing road building for timber companies at a loss to taxpayers, wildlife, and the world as it destroys one of the last ancient coastal temperate rainforests in the world.

With no Roadless Rule protection for the Tongass, the Forest Service continues to build logging roads for timber companies, wasting millions of taxpayer dollars and destroying irreplaceable forest habitat.