



Forest Service News Release

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# **CELEBRATE ALASKA'S FORESTS**

## **2011 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS CHUGACH & TONGASS**

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Date: March 1, 2011

Alaska's Forests—the Tongass and Chugach National Forests—are pleased to announce the kick-off of a year's worth of events and the release of a collectible poster series to commemorate the International Year of Forests (IYF), a United Nation's designation. The two Forests will be joining individuals, communities, agencies, and private groups across the globe in celebrations and events throughout 2011, highlighting the importance of sustainable management and conservation of the world's forests.

The Chugach and Tongass are the two largest national forests in the nation. Together, they encompass more than 22 million acres and provide a backyard experience for nearly two-thirds of Alaskans. From Anchorage to Juneau, Ketchikan to Cordova, Prince of Wales to Prince William Sound, Alaskans in 43 different communities recreate, make a living, and meet the subsistence needs of their families in and around Alaska's national forests.

In recognition of the strong connection Alaskans have with their national forests, the Alaska celebration is themed, Alaska's Forests: More Than A Place to Visit – It's Where We Live! Four beautiful, collectible posters bring this theme to life and speak to the role and importance of forests in our daily lives. The first one, making its debut today, is *Explore Your Backyard* – in the months ahead, it will be followed by *Celebrate Your Heritage*, *Cherish Your Inheritance* and *Find Your Inspiration*. The posters are free to the public and can be picked up at any Forest Service office in Alaska.

In addition to the poster series, several signature events planned throughout the year will highlight the strong ties among Alaska's forests and local, national, and international communities.

In April, the Tongass National Forest, in partnership with the National Forest Foundation, Alaska Wilderness League and Braided River, will co-sponsor the first of a 5-city exhibit tour of Amy Gullick's photographs from her book, "Salmon in the Trees." In May, the Chugach National Forest, in partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage, hosts the Classrooms for Climate conference, featuring keynote speaker Majora Carter.

These are by no means the only plans for the year—check out everything planned so far on the calendar at [www.myalaskaforests.com](http://www.myalaskaforests.com).

This year, International Year of Forests provides countless opportunities to take a fresh look at your Alaska National Forests.

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE ~ ALASKA REGION ~ MYALASKAFORESTS.COM**

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## **MORE THAN A PLACE TO VISIT ~ IT'S WHERE WE LIVE**

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