

News Release

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE • ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE
BRAIDED RIVER • NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION • THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2011

Gwen Dobbs, Alaska Wilderness League, (202) 266-0418 or Gwen@Alaskawild.org
Wendy Zirngibl, Tongass National Forest, (907) 789-6272 or wmzirngibl@fs.fed.us

Celebration of Tongass National Forest in Craig in Conjunction with Prince of Wales Restoration Celebration

Presentation, Exhibit of Nature Photography Book, *Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska's Tongass Rain Forest*

Who: United States Forest Service, Alaska Wilderness League, Braided River, National Forest Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy are pleased to announce a public event and exhibition featuring the stunning photographs of acclaimed photographer Amy Gulick.

What: Multimedia presentation and photo exhibition of *Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska's Tongass Rain Forest* to celebrate the Tongass National Forest, U.N. International Year of Forests, and the people of Southeast Alaska.

When: **Presentation and exhibit opening on August 25, 2011 at Craig High School;** Prince of Wales Restoration Celebration dinner and awards ceremony at 5:00 p.m. followed by Klawock Heenya Dancers performance and a slide presentation by Amy Gulick. Photo exhibition runs through September 19. The entire event is free and open to the public.

Where: Craig High School, Craig, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.

More information: Please visit www.salmoninthetrees.org and www.myalaskaforests.com. Photographs from the book, DVD, and b-roll of the Tongass National Forest are available upon request. For more information about the exhibition as well as the Prince of Wales Restoration Celebration, contact the Tongass National Forest, Craig Ranger District at (907) 826-3271.

Salmon in the Trees: Life in Alaska's Tongass Rain Forest tells the story of the Tongass rain forest, where life interconnects in unexpected ways. In this biologically rich coastal ecosystem, humpback whales, orcas and sea lions cruise the forested shorelines. Millions of wild salmon swim upstream into the forest, feeding bears, bald eagles and local communities.

The book features the stories and contributions of Alaskans who live in and are dependent upon the forest, including well-known Prince of Wales residents Jim Baichtal, Jon Rowan Jr., and Cherilyn Holter. Jim Baichtal, a geologist with the U.S. Forest Service and Thorne Bay resident, is known for discovering the Beaver Falls and designing the Beaver Falls Karst Trail on Prince of Wales Island. Jon Rowan Jr., Tlingit Eagle of the *Shank'Weidi* Wolf Clan, is a carver and teacher who is currently overseeing a twenty-one pole project for his village of Klawock on Prince of Wales Island. Cherilyn Holter of Hydaburg is a Haida Eagle of the *Kaachaadii* Clan who was raised on Prince of Wales by her grandparents, who taught her to gather traditional foods, weave baskets, and prepare and smoke fish.

Holter produced a two-volume Haida dictionary with linguist Jordan Lachler and teaches K – 12 students language and other cultural practices.

At 17 million acres, about the size of West Virginia, the Tongass is America's largest national forest, and contains nearly one-third of the world's remaining old-growth temperate rain forest. With some of the highest densities of bears and bald eagles on Earth, it is teeming with life and adventure. The region is also home to the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian, whose cultures are deeply connected on a local level to this forest of global significance.

For two years, writer and photographer Gulick paddled and trekked among the bears, islands and salmon streams to document the Tongass National Forest. Join her on an unforgettable journey to one of the rarest ecosystems on Earth – one where Alaskans recreate, make a living, and meet the subsistence needs of their families in and around Alaska's national forests. This book is your story and celebrates your heritage. The *Salmon in the Trees* exhibition pairs with International Year of Forests to provide Alaskans a golden opportunity to take a fresh look at the Tongass and celebrate this heritage.

Salmon in the Trees was chosen to receive a 2011 Nautilus award, which recognizes books that promote spiritual growth, conscious living, and positive social change as well as a 2010 IPPY award, an independent publisher book award.