

News Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebration of Tongass National Forest in Wrangell in Conjunction with Bearfest

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, the National Forest Foundation, and Bearfest are pleased to announce a series of events and exhibitions 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: Opening reception and presentation on July 27, 2011 at the Nolan Center. The reception starts at 5:30 p.m. with the presentation to follow at 7:00 p.m. Wine provided by Bear Flag Wine and appetizers provided by Alaska Wilderness League. Families are welcome. Exhibition of Amy Gulick's photographs will run from July 25 through August 16, 2011 at the Nolan Center.

Where: Nolan Center, 296 Campbell Drive, Wrangell, Alaska 99929

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.

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 Wrangell resident Brenda Schwartz-Yeager, owner of Alaska Charters and Adventures, which specializes in small-group tours so visitors can have a genuine Alaska experience. The book also includes essays from renowned conservationists, scientists, and journalists.

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 Book 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.