

SALMON STRONGHOLDS

Protect Wild Salmon and their Forest Watersheds

Salmon Strongholds of Tenakee Inlet

Saltery Bay, Crab Bay, Seal Bay, Long Bay, Goose Flats and Tenakee Head – are uniquely productive habitats for salmon that nourish people, wildlife, economies, and cultures Alaska and beyond. Yet they are continually threatened by misguided proposals from clear-cut logging to industrial-scale cruise ship tourism.

The Chichagof Conservation Council urges Congress to protect the south shore watersheds of upper Tenakee Inlet, from their headwaters to the sea, by designating them “Salmon Strongholds.” Continued Forest Service management in a Salmon Stronghold would be similar to Legislated LUD II status. All currently permitted activities would continue but activities harmful to salmon spawning and rearing habitat, (such as road construction, logging, and mining) would be prohibited.



A Rare and Priceless Resource

The intact salmon-producing rivers of Tenakee are incalculably valuable on every level, from local to global. Tenakee Inlet salmon provide food security to local communities through subsistence, sport, and commercial fishing. Salmon also nourish some of Alaska’s most remarkable wild animals: brown bears, bald eagles, river otters, harbor

seals, sea lions and killer whales.

Tenakee’s salmon rivers contribute to region-wide salmon fisheries that supply food to businesses and consumers around the world. As the world warms, longer-lasting snow packs and other characteristics make Tenakee Inlet watersheds truly salmon strongholds, uniquely resilient during the climate

change-driven episodes of hot, dry weather that are becoming more and more common.

Of immense value in a dangerously over-heated world, intact Tongass forestlands have global importance as massive carbon sinks that help mitigate the impacts of climate change.



Take Action

In 1990, when the old-growth forests and salmon of the lower Tenakee Inlet watersheds of Trap Bay and Kadashan Bay were threatened by large-scale, clear-cut logging, the U.S. Congress passed the Tongass Timber Reform Act that protected them as Legislative LUD II roadless areas. Now the watersheds of the upper Inlet must also be protected. The Chichagof Conservation Council urges Congress to enact legislation protecting the salmon watersheds of Upper Tenakee Inlet as Salmon Strongholds or equivalent protection.

“ We are grateful every day to live in this place, the traditional home of the Tlingit people. To balance the privilege of living here, it is our responsibility to take care of the place and protect it for future generations. That is why CCC exists. ”