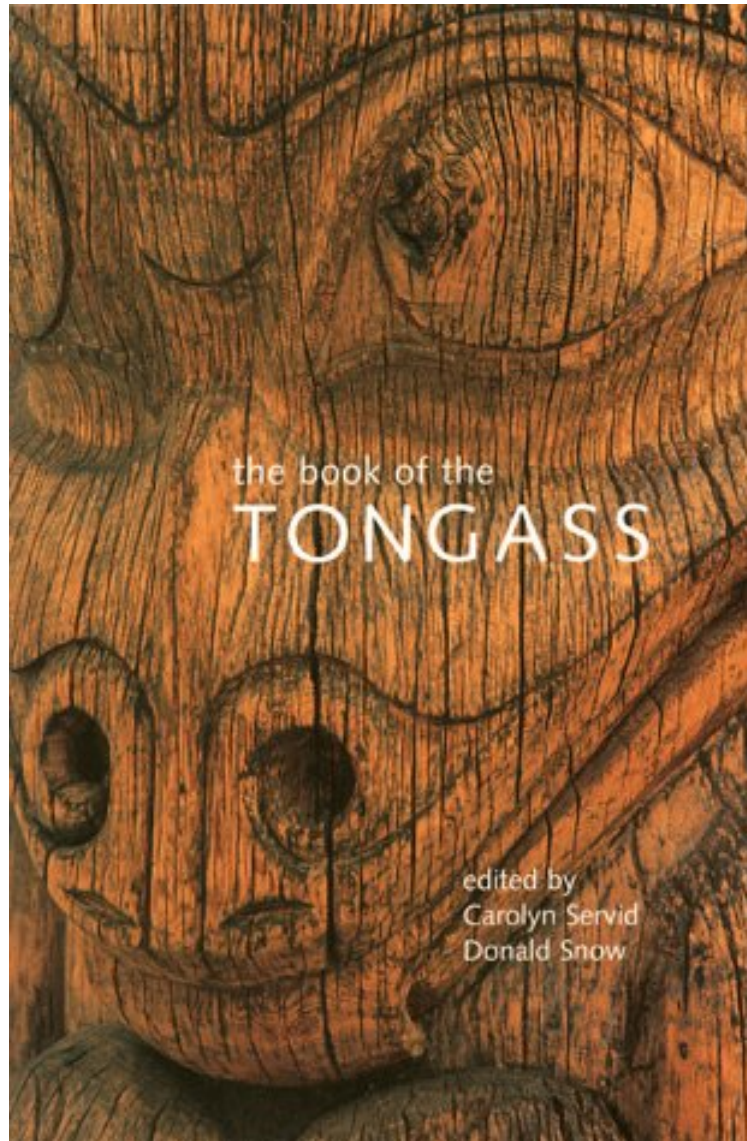


(Free) The Book of the Tongass (The World As Home)

The Book of the Tongass (The World As Home)

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From Brand: Milkweed Editions : The Book of the Tongass (The World As Home) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of the Tongass (The World As Home):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 1/400th and no more, + infinite domino-effects of clear cuttingBy JacobA bunch of different folks examining or explaining the plight and the status of a great forest ridiculously being clear cut, most often for pulp. If it takes 400 years for the trees in the forest we "harvest" to grow to what they are, then obviously the sustainable harvest rate is 1/400th per year. It is not an infinite supply any more than are the fishes of the

seas which man once thought were (perhaps before man began to look like an infinite supply but also is not).4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful collage of history and ecology of the TongassBy A CustomerFor those who would be more than casual visitors to this spectacular landscape, this collection of writings from various authors offers up pointed insight into man's relationship with the Tongass. From the best (and concise!) overview of the legal issue of subsistence in Alaska I've ever read to the quietly fantastical Tlingit story, the book contains the multi-faceted viewpoints of modern inhabitants and the issues shaping how we view this incredible place.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy pullrichVery good reading. Because it is a collection of essays, you can get lots from this book: natural history of the region, politics, sociocultural issues. Picking a nit, this gave the book a scattered feel. Also, some chapters far superior to others, I found myself skimming thru a few aimless chapters.

In the southeast corner of America's most rugged state lies the last contiguous expanse of temperate rain forest on the planet, much of it within the Tongass National Forest. With Glacier Bay at its northern end, the Tongass lies on a maze of islands and along a coastal strip protected by a range of mountains. The Tongass lives up to its state's reputation for wildness, natural beauty, and battles over how the land has been and will be used. In *The Book of the Tongass*, 13 Alaskans describe the region's spectacular forest and wildlife, its economic opportunities, and in two pieces by Tlingit storytellers, its oral history.

.com Lacing across the cold fjords and salmon streams of southeastern Alaska, the Tongass is America's largest national forest, larger than the state of West Virginia. It is also little known beyond the immediate region, and its obscurity has been of much use to the timber companies that, operating with the federal government's permission, have for years been clearing huge sections of the old-growth rainforest--and, it seems, for trivial ends. "Think of the stately Sitka spruce and you think of Chopin and sounding boards in the world's finest pianos," writes coeditor Don Snow, "but in the same thought you must also make room for the cellophane that wraps packages of cigarettes. Think of the soft-needled western hemlock and the strength it offers to hold a house together, but at the same time, consider rayon." It is possible, Snow and his fellow contributors maintain, to work this vast forest without wide-scale destruction, to log it in sustainable ways; so the native people of the Tongass have been doing for generations. But it is necessary, they add, to think of the Tongass and other old-growth forests for what they have to offer the future, as vast libraries of biological information, instead of a resource for short-term profits. This book takes readers deep inside the forest, giving an account of its natural wealth. It also guides them through the thickets of law and economics surrounding the public-lands forestry industry. Activists will find it of much value for its clear explication of the ongoing debate surrounding how the Tongass is to be used. --Gregory McNameeFrom Publishers WeeklyHome to immemorial beauty, ancient and valuable timber and longstanding environmental disputes, the southeast Alaskan forest region called the Tongass has attracted Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian tribes, lumber companies, eco-tourists and environmental activists. These 13 essays pay homage to its beauty and assess its controversies. In "Heart of the Forest," Juneau-based biogeographer Richard Carstensen coaxes clear accounts of the area's soil and flora from his journey through it. Ecologist Paul Alaback places the Tongass in the context of other rain forests, and describes how it rebounds after winds and fires, in "The Tongass Rain ForestAAAn Elusive Sense of Place and Time." Former fisherman Brad Matsen offers a fish's-eye view in "Salmon in the Trees." Lawyer David Avraham Voluck, in "First Peoples of the Tongass," explains Native peoples' "subsistence way of life," which is inadequately protected, he argues, by federal legislation that governs the region. In "Glacier Bay History," Tlingit storyteller Amy MarvinAone of two Native contributors, whose work is printed as verseAtells "how things happened to us/ at Glacier Bay." Daniel Henry presents the uncomfortable populace of Haines, Alaska, as the town's economy shifts from a past of logging to a hopeful future of tourism in "Allowable Cut." And PI/mystery writer John Straley (*The Angels Will Not Care*) explains with drama and sympathy, in "Love, Crime, and Joyriding on a Dead End Road," who commits crimes in southeast Alaska and why. Servid and Snow (editor of the magazine *Northern Lights*) have assembled a worthwhile book. Never dryly technical, rarely shrill, these original pieces often go no deeper than good daily newspaper journalism, but most will reward nonspecialists interested in Alaska's forests, foresters, fish, First Peoples and the eco-economic issues that affect them all. (Aug.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalThe Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska contains much of the last contiguous temperate rain forest left on earth. After decades of heavy clear-cutting and the subsequent closure of several large pulp mills, residents of the region are struggling to adapt to life without big timber companies and the jobs they provided. These 14 pieces, all written by Alaskans, represent a cross section of views on a variety of subjects, including natural history, legal and native issues, forest management, salmon and wildlife, and the mythology of the region. As a whole, the selections question our lack of connection with our environment and the desire to control nature for short-term gain, but they remain surprisingly upbeat about the future of the Tongass and the people who live there. A good companion to Robert Glenn Ketchum's heavily illustrated *The Tongass: Alaska's Vanishing Rain Forest* (Aperture, 1994); recommended for academic and larger public nature/environmental collections.ATim J. Markus, Evergreen State Coll. Lib., Olympia, WA Copyright

