

FLASHBACK

A park we recently featured is getting a lot of new attention for its extractive resources. To learn more about the Ambler Mining District's potential impact on the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, we encourage you to watch this impressive short film or listen to this week's Field Trip podcast from the Washington Post.

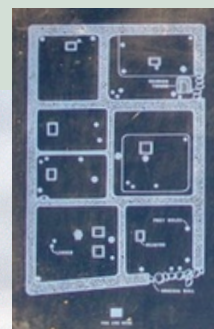
FEATURED PARK



Photos and facts of
your favorite parks,
one issue at a time

Historic Lake Scott State Park Kansas

FACT 1: Situated within Historic Lake Scott State Park are the ruins of the *northernmost* pueblo ever found in the country. Meaning "home far away," the seven-room **El Cuartelejo** pueblo was likely occupied by both Puebloan and Apache Native Americans.



FACT 2: El Cuartelejo was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964 but it has been repeatedly listed as having a vulnerable condition due to physical deterioration and site erosion.



PHOTO CREDIT: John Charlton/KGS

Nominate *your* favorite local, state, or national park here so our subscribers can learn about it.

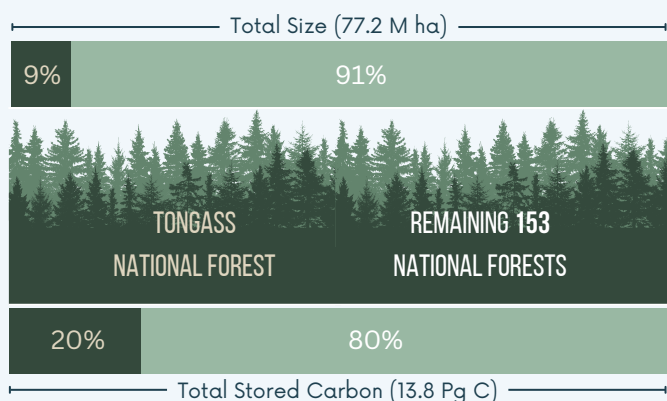


This week, we'll be journeying northwest to Alaska's Tongass National Forest. While the Tongass may not receive as much publicity as its more easily-accessible counterparts further south, an article published last year in the journal *Land* suggests it's no less important. Utilizing estimates of soil organic carbon and woody biomass carbon derived from existing datasets, the authors calculated carbon storage for the entirety of Tongass National Forest, assessing also its distribution by forest age.

At 6.7 million hectares, the Tongass is a physically immense forest, representing about 12% of the entire Pacific Northwest Coastal Rainforest bioregion. The study suggests its climate benefits are similarly outsized; the Tongass' total soil organic and woody biomass carbon storage was estimated at 2.7 gigatons, roughly 20% of forest carbon within the **entire national forest system**, or 1.5 times 2019 US greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, 92% of productive forestland (i.e. having commercial value) is old-growth, defined by the authors as at least 150 years old. Productive old-growth forest makes up 30% of the Tongass' land base but stores 48% of its total carbon.

Scale of US National Forests

Contributions of the Tongass National Forest



Containing an exceptional amount of environmentally crucial, but economically valuable, habitat, Tongass national forest faces major challenges in balancing preservation and resource use. While a transition to young-growth logging is currently planned, the future of the Tongass' old-growth forestland is not assured. Because of its ecological importance and role as a major carbon sink, the authors emphasize the importance of eliminating logging of old-growth stands.

What do you call a failed crypto exchange for pachyderms?

PLAY  GROUND

hefty-X