

# Appendix C

## INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

**ROADLESS AREA NAME:** Mansfield Peninsula (306)

**ACRES (NFS):** 51,988

**BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:** Admiralty Island

**ECOLOGICAL SECTION:** Kootznoowoo Fjordlands

**2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING:** 20

### I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** This area is located on the Mansfield Peninsula, which is the northernmost portion of Admiralty Island. The area is bordered by saltwater to the north, east, west, and part of the south. Lynn Canal/Chatham Strait borders the area to the west. Funter Bay State Marine Park, an area of State-owned land on the west side of the peninsula, also borders the area to the west. Stephens Passage/Saginaw Channel borders the area to the east. The area is bordered to the south by Hawk Inlet and the Greens Creek Mine access road, which separates the area from the adjacent Greens Creek Roadless Area. It is approximately 3 miles from the eastern shore of the peninsula to the west side of Douglas Island and approximately 10 miles to Auke Bay/Juneau.

The area is accessed primarily by private boats and float planes and helicopters. There are no places suitable for landing wheeled airplanes, and there is no public transportation to the area. Juneau has regularly scheduled air service and is the closest stop on the Alaska Marine Highway. Several excellent anchorages are found adjacent to the peninsula, including Funter Bay, Hawk Inlet, and Barlow Cove. Access into the interior is by foot or helicopter. There are several trails used to access 11 isolated, privately owned hunter or recreation residence cabins located within the area. The area also includes Bear Creek Trail and part of the old Hawk Inlet Road, which is now being used as a trail.

(2) **History:** The Mansfield Peninsula has had a long history of use. Native use of the area focused on fishing and hunting. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified commercial fish traps along the west shore of the peninsula. They also identified hunting or trapping, a former camp, and a former village in the area. More recent history reveals the importance of mining in the area. Much of the peninsula contains evidence of active or historic mining claims. The remains of an old, fire-damaged cannery are evident on the eastern shore of Hawk Inlet adjacent to this roadless area. The cannery, built in 1911, burned in 1976. The remaining buildings are owned by the Bristol Bay Native Corporation.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The area is generally characterized by low-elevation, relatively flat topography with two rugged mountain peaks over 3,100 feet. The area contains 62 miles of shoreline on saltwater, as well as 76 acres of alpine and 1,637 acres of rock. The roadless area also contains one island totaling 58 acres.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is classified as being in the Admiralty Island Biogeographic Province. This province represents a modal environment, with relatively gentle topography and moderate rainfall. Winter conditions are moderated by the surrounding marine environment. All forest plant associations, except those in the Western red-cedar series, those found around large mainland rivers, and those occurring only on outer coastal areas, occur in this province. Forest productivity is high. Fresh and saltwater marshes in the numerous bays and inlets and bog communities are abundant.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Kootznoowoo Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247D). This area is represented by two ecological subsections (see table below). The Stephens Passage Glaciomarine Terraces Ecological Subsection covers about two-thirds of the roadless area. It contains glaciomarine terraces that grade into mountain slopes.

Estuaries and marshes can be found along the coastal areas of the terraces, while hemlock-spruce forests dominate the mountain slopes. The North Admiralty Complex Ecological Subsection, slightly larger than a third of the roadless area consists of a series of narrow ridges and mountains separated by steep U-shaped valleys. The soils are generally shallow and rocky and support vegetation communities such as subalpine barrens, meadows, and brushfields. Landslides and avalanche chutes are common in the forested areas of the lower slopes (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Kootznoowoo Fjordlands	Stephens Passage Glaciomarine Terraces	62%
	North Admiralty Complex	38%

**(b) Soils:** Much of the area's soils range from well-developed, deep colluvial soils on moderate to steep slopes, through shallow to bedrock colluvial soils that are well-drained and developed on very steep slopes, to poorly drained, mineral and/or organic soils on benches and moderate slopes. Muskegs with reduced productivity also occur in this area.

**(c) Vegetation:** Lower slopes are generally densely forested with typical spruce/hemlock forest, but sometimes exhibit a combination of muskeg openings, brush, and scattered tree cover up to approximately 2,500 feet in elevation. Approximately 1,878 acres of muskeg are mapped for the area; however, due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult.

There are approximately 47,426 acres mapped as forest land, of which 25,794 acres or 54 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 8,090 acres or 31 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 2,111 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There is no second growth due to timber harvest in this area.

**(d) Fish Resources:** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) rated fish resources as part of its Forest Habitat Integrity Program (1983). These ratings describe the value of VCUs for sport fish, commercial fish, and estuaries. None of the VCUs in this area were rated of high value for either sport or commercial fish. Two VCUs were, however, rated as high-value estuaries. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) listed one VCU as a primary sportfish producer and another as a non-producer. The remaining VCUs were identified as secondary producers.

Streams in this area provide habitat for coho, pink, and chum salmon, as well as steelhead trout and Dolly Varden char. The Anadromous Waters Catalogue and Atlas (ADF&G, 2000) shows 14 fish-bearing streams in this roadless area, the most productive being Bear and Funter Creeks.

**(e) Wildlife Resources:** The Mansfield Peninsula supports a large population of brown bear as well as Sitka black-tailed deer. Wolves may also be present (MacDonald and Cook, 1999). Smaller animals include furbearers such as mink, marten, and beaver. Black bears are not present on Admiralty Island, and neither moose nor mountain goats have been reported in this area.

**(f) Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species:** The area is not known to contain any threatened or endangered species. Goshawks, a sensitive species, are found in this area.

**(5) Management Direction and Current Uses:** This roadless area was allocated to two Land Use Designations (LUDs) under the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These two LUDs are Minerals and Semi-remote Recreation. The Minerals LUD is a secondary LUD, which overlays the other land use.

Semi-remote Recreation, a non-development LUD, covers 100 percent of the roadless area. Approximately 21 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Minerals development LUD overlay. The Minerals LUD overlay is located in stretch of land extending from Funter Bay to Hawk Inlet.

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<u>LUD</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Minerals*	11,074*
Semi-remote Recreation	51,988

\* Note that acres in the Minerals LUD are included in the Semi-remote Recreation LUD acres.

There are 11 isolated cabins or recreation residences under special use permit in this area, and most are accessed from the eastern shoreline, which is closest to Juneau. There are numerous active mining claims found within this roadless area. There is a private road from Funter Bay to the Admiralty-Alaska Mine. Hunting and mineral prospecting are the primary activities in the area. Several outfitter/guide companies have Special Use Permits to operate in this area.

There are no public recreation cabins but there are several trails used to access recreation residences, as well as Bear Creek Trail and part of the old Hawk Inlet mining road, which is now being used as a trail.

There is subsistence use in the area.

**(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness):** Although parts of the area have been modified by mining claims, access routes to these claims, and recreation residence cabins, the natural appearance of the landscape appears dominant. The area appears to be in a natural state when viewed from Lynn Canal, Saginaw Canal, Funter Bay State Marine Park, Barlow Cove, and the hiking trails within the area. Viewed from Hawk Inlet, the roadless area itself appears unmodified, but the Greens Creek Mine access road that partially borders the area to the south may affect the perceived naturalness of the landscape.

**(7) Surroundings (External Influences):** External influences include the Greens Creek Mine located south of the area. The Greens Creek Mine access road forms part of the south boundary of the Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area and traffic using this road is visible from a number of locations within the area. Land at the Point Retreat Lighthouse on the northern tip of the peninsula belongs to the Point Retreat Lighthouse Association. The Funter Bay State Marine Park is located to the west of this roadless area.

Stephens Passage and Lynn Canal/Chatham Strait, which border the area to the east and west, respectively, are both part of the Alaska Marine Highway. Ferries, cruise ships, and other boats traveling these and other surrounding waterways are also visible from locations within the area. In addition, commercial airline jets, helicopters, and small planes fly over Mansfield Peninsula on regular flight paths and often at low altitudes. The area is located approximately 10 miles west of Juneau and mainland development. Development on nearby Douglas Island may be visible from parts of the roadless area as well.

**(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest:** Primary attractions in this area include good anchorages and high-quality hunting and fishing opportunities in a location that is easily accessible from Juneau. The area contains seven inventoried recreation places, which cover 32,797 acres, or 63 percent of the roadless area. There are two trails in the area.

**(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary:** The primary change is the expected conveyance of 1,505 acres of land at the Point Retreat Lighthouse on the northern tip of the peninsula. Title to the land will be transferred to the Point Retreat Lighthouse Association. Also, several islands and private lands along the shore of the peninsula have been placed outside the roadless area boundary.

### II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

**(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness:** Although parts of the area have been modified by mining claims, access routes to these claims, and recreation residence cabins, the natural appearance of the landscape appears dominant. This suggests that the area's appearance is suitable for wilderness classification. The natural integrity of the area is very high and the apparent naturalness of the area is considered high.

**(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation:** There is moderate opportunity for solitude within the area because of the numerous floatplanes, helicopters, boats, ferries, and cruise ships traveling to, near, or over the peninsula. There is a relatively high opportunity for primitive recreation in the area.

The Funter Bay State Marine Park borders the area to the west. There are no public recreation cabins in the area but there are 11 isolated hunter or recreation residence cabins in the area. Several trails are used to access these recreation residences. Bear Creek Trail and part of the old Hawk Inlet Road are being used as trails in this area. Outfitter/guide use was reported at Hawk Inlet, Barlow Cove, and Funter Bay in 1999. Outfitter/guide use at Hawk Inlet included 18 reported groups and a total of 38 clients either sightseeing or brown bear hunting. Reported outfitter/guide use at Barlow Cove consisted of one group of 8 clients hiking. Outfitter/guide use at Funter Bay, which is located immediately west of the area, included 8 groups and a total of 22 clients hiking.

The area primarily provides semi-primitive recreation opportunities. The table below lists the acreage and percent of the various Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes that have been inventoried in the roadless area.

ROS Class	Acres	Percent of Total ROS
Primitive (P)	5,172	10%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	37,744	73%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	4,572	9%
Roaded Natural (RN)	4,321	8%
Roaded Motorized (RM)	134	0%

The area contains seven inventoried recreation places, which cover 32,797 acres, or 63 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
P	1	5,172
SPNM	2	18,908
SPM	2	4,572
RN	3	4,145
RM	1	1

Funter Bay State Park is adjacent to the roadless area and provides trail access from Funter Bay to the roadless area. The Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness Area is located just south of the roadless area across Hawk Inlet.

**(3) Wilderness Attribute Rating System:** In 1977, the Forest Service, along with public interest groups, developed the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS), which was used to inventory the wilderness characteristics of roadless areas during the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process. The purpose of WARS was to provide a measure of the area’s wilderness quality, based on the key attributes of wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act. It is largely based on the attributes described above in items 1 and 2 of this section (natural integrity, apparent naturalness, outstanding opportunity for solitude, and primitive recreation opportunities).

In 1979, during the RARE II process, the Tongass National Forest applied WARS for the first time and rated each unroaded VCU on the Tongass. In 1989, the inventoried roadless areas (which generally include more than one VCU) were rated according to this system for the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) developed in support of the Forest Plan Revision. This original version of the AMS (dated 1990) included both the individual VCU ratings done in 1979 and the composite rating that was done for each roadless area in 1989. The 1989 rating for the Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area was 20 out of 28 possible points. The 1989 rating was re-evaluated for this updated version of the AMS. Based on this re-evaluation, the area was also given a rating of 20.

**(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values:** The Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area is located on Admiralty Island. Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness, located south of the area, encompasses the majority of the island. The Mansfield Peninsula is the northernmost portion of Admiralty Island. Admiralty Island

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is entirely unroaded with the exception of the Greens Creek Mine access road and the private road from Funter Bay to the Admiralty-Alaska Mine on the Mansfield Peninsula.

**(a) Fish Resources:** The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment listed one VCU (VCU 129, Bear Creek) as a primary sportfish producer and another (VCU 127) as a non-producer. The remaining VCUs were identified as secondary salmon producers (ADF&G, 1998).

Streams in this area provide habitat for coho, pink, and chum salmon, as well as steelhead trout. The Anadromous Waters Catalogue and Atlas (ADF&G, 2000) shows 14 fish-bearing streams in this roadless area, the most productive being Bear and Funter Creeks. Bear Creek receives an estimated annual peak escapement of 5,400 pink salmon (ADF&G, 1998) and also provides habitat for coho and chum salmon, as well as steelhead trout. Other Class I streams identified in the Anadromous Waters Catalogue include Cordwood Creek, Barlow Head Creek, Hawk Inlet Head Creek, Jimmy Green Creek, Zinc Creek, Crab Cove Creek, and Coot Cove Creek. These streams provide habitat for coho, pink, and chum salmon.

**(b) Wildlife Resources:** The Mansfield Peninsula supports a large population of brown bear as well as Sitka black-tailed deer. Based on harvest data compiled from 1985 to 1995, VCU 128 (Hawk Inlet) was ranked in the third 25 percent of brown bear harvest areas on the Tongass (ADF&G, 1998). Wolves may also be present (MacDonald and Cook, 1999). Smaller animals include furbearers such as mink, marten, and beaver. Black bears are not present on Admiralty Island, and neither moose nor mountain goats have been reported in this area.

**(c) Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species:** The only federally listed threatened or endangered species likely to occur within or adjacent to the roadless area are the humpback whale (endangered) and the Steller sea lion (threatened). Both of these species are found in adjacent marine waters. Three Forest Service Region 10 Sensitive Species are suspected or known to occur within the area: the trumpeter swan, Peale's peregrine falcon, and the Queen Charlotte goshawk. Trumpeter swans nest in the lowlands on small lakes and along large rivers and winter in ice-free areas throughout the Tongass. Peale's peregrine falcons nest on cliff faces and islands and feed primarily on seabirds. Inhabitants of late seral forests, Queen Charlotte goshawks are closely associated with productive old growth, and have been sighted in this roadless area. In addition, eight sensitive plant species are known or suspected to occur in the Juneau Ranger District.

**(d) Karst, Cave, and Other Geologic Resources:** There are no known karst or cave resources in this roadless area. There are no glaciers or known unique geologic features.

**(5) Scientific and Educational Values:** No known special features exist in this roadless area. There are no Research Natural Areas in this area. The area is located approximately 10 miles west of Juneau and is, therefore, relatively accessible.

**(6) Scenic Values:** The visual character of this roadless area is Admiralty-Chichagof. For the most part, landforms are generally rounded. This forested peninsula is in a natural state overall. The area appears natural when viewed from Lynn Canal, Saginaw Canal, Funter Bay State Marine Park, Barlow Cove, and the hiking trails within the area. Viewed from Hawk Inlet, the roadless area itself appears unmodified, but the Greens Creek Mine access road that partially borders the area to the south affects the perceived naturalness of the landscape.

A number of Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan are within or adjacent to the area. Identified Visual Priority Routes include Lynn Canal, Stephens Passage, and Saginaw Channel (Alaska Marine Highway); Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage (Tourship Routes); and Stephens Passage, Lynn Canal, Barlow Cove, Saginaw Channel, Chatham Strait, Hawk Inlet, and Funter Bay (Small Boat Routes). Use Areas include Funter Bay (State Marine Park); Barlow Island and the west side of Mansfield Peninsula between Point Retreat and the Kittens (Saltwater Use Areas); Barlow Cove, Funter Bay, and the east side of Mansfield Peninsula from Lone Mountain to Young Bay (Dispersed Recreation Areas); Hawk Inlet (Hiking Trail); and Hawk Inlet, Hawk Inlet Cannery, Barlow Cove, and Young Bay (Boat Anchorages).

The majority (64 percent) of this roadless area is found in Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type), with 33 percent in Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity). Approximately 3 percent was inventoried as Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type).

The vast majority of the area, 99 percent, was inventoried in Existing Visual Condition (EVC) I; these areas appear to be untouched by human activity.

**(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values:** The Mansfield Peninsula has had a long history of use. Native use of the area focused on fishing and hunting. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified commercial fish traps along the west shore of the peninsula. They also identified hunting or trapping, a former camp, and a former village in the area. More recent history reveals the importance of mining in the area. Much of the peninsula contains evidence of active or historic mining claims. The remains of an old cannery, built in 1911, are evident on the eastern shore of Hawk Inlet adjacent to this roadless area. The city of Juneau is located approximately 7 miles east of the area.

Approximately 11 isolated hunter or recreation residence cabins are under special use permit in this area, and most are accessed from the eastern shoreline, which is closest to Juneau. There are numerous active mining claims and associated patented land located in this area. Hunting is the primary activity in the area, other than mining. There are no public recreation cabins but there are several trails used to access recreation residences, as well as Bear Creek Trail and part of the Hawk Inlet Trail. Outfitter/guide use was reported at Hawk Inlet, Barlow Cove, and Funter Bay in 1999. Based on harvest data compiled from 1985 to 1995, VCU 128 (Hawk Inlet) was ranked in the third 25 percent of brown bear harvest areas on the Tongass.

Subsistence use occurs in the area. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) identified two of the VCUs in this area (VCUs 125 at the northern tip and VCU 128 along Hawk Inlet) as subsistence use areas with a high sensitivity to disturbance. None of the VCUs in this area were included among the highest, second, or third group for community use values. (ADF&G, 1998).

**(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes:** The area is generally well defined by shorelines but may be difficult to manage in a wilderness condition because of the numerous existing mining claims in the area. In addition, the Funter Bay State Marine Park extends into the area along an unnamed stream. The area is partially bordered to the south by the Greens Creek Mine access road, which separates it from the Greens Creek Roadless Area. The Greens Creek Roadless Area is allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation, Experimental Forest, and Non-wilderness National Monument designations. The remainder of Admiralty Island forms the Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness. Activities associated with the Greens Creek Mine could potentially affect the suitability of the Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area for wilderness.

### **III. Availability for Management as Wilderness (including effects of wilderness designation on adjacent areas)**

**(1) Recreation, Including Tourism Potential:** Recreation potential for this peninsula is high because of its close proximity to a large population center. Public recreation cabins that can be accessed by saltwater are desired. In 1996, the Alaska Visitors Association (AVA) proposed the following developed recreation for the Mansfield Peninsula: heli-skiing and heli-hiking for 50 persons/day, a day-use recreation facility for 150 persons/day, a day-use wildlife observatory for 30 persons/day, and trails, paths and boardwalks.

The Shoreline Draft EIS identifies several enclave sites for future recreation and outfitter/guide activities on the Mansfield Peninsula (USDA Forest Service, 2002).

**(2) Subsistence Uses:** The existing patterns of subsistence activities in the area would not be affected by wilderness designation.

**(3) Fish Resources:** No fish habitat enhancement projects have been identified in this area.

**(4) Wildlife Resources:** No wildlife enhancement projects are planned in this area.

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(5) **Timber Resources:** There are approximately 25,794 acres mapped as productive old growth and no acres mapped as second growth due to harvest in the roadless area. Of these acres, 19,375 acres are categorized as tentatively suitable for timber production. Based on the Forest Plan LUD assigned to this area (Semi-remote Recreation), these forested lands are classified as unsuitable for timber production. Designating this area wilderness would not affect timber harvest in adjacent areas.

(6) **Fire, Insects, and Disease:** The area has no significant fire history. Endemic tree diseases common to Southeast Alaska are present. There are no known epidemic disease occurrences.

(7) **Minerals:** The area generally has a Priority 1 high mineral development potential rating, and there are currently numerous known claims within the area. The Minerals LUD was allocated to a stretch of land extending from Funter Bay to Hawk Inlet. Designating the area wilderness would withdraw the area from mineral entry, subject to valid existing rights.

The roadless area contains 11,134 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having a high potential for expanding mineral exploration or development of locatable minerals (Coldwell, 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991). A total of 11,074 of these acres are allocated to the Minerals LUD. The Minerals LUD is intended to encourage the prospecting, exploration, development, mining, and processing of locatable minerals in areas with the highest potential for minerals development. The Minerals LUD is also intended to ensure that minerals are developed in an environmentally sensitive manner, and that other high-valued resources are considered when minerals development occurs. In addition, the roadless area contains approximately 45,418 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources that are considered to have very low development potential (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991).

(8) **Transportation and Utilities:** There are no transportation or utility projects proposed for this area. The area is, however, partially bordered to the south by the Greens Creek Mine access road and an area allocated to the Transportation and Utility System LUD that was identified as a potential transmission line corridor in the 1997 Tongass Land Management Plan Revision. Designating the Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area Wilderness would not affect these existing and potential transportation and utility corridors.

(9) **Water Availability and Use:** Although there are no developed public recreation cabins or facilities in the area, there are approximately 11 isolated hunter or recreation residence cabins under special use permit that may create some demand for water. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects in the area.

(10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** There are no known areas of scientific interest in this roadless area.

(11) **Land Use Authorizations:** There are 11 isolated hunter cabins or recreation residences under special use permit in this area. There is a right-of-way for an old tractor trail to the Williams Mine departing from the south shore of Funter Bay. This area is private land not technically within the roadless area but it is an extension into it. There is another unauthorized road from Funter Bay to the Admiralty-Alaska Mine. There are two permitted communication sites in the area on top of Mt. Robert Baron. The Coast Guard, Temsco Helicopters, the FAA, and the State of Alaska are currently using these sites. The Forest Service is also planning to install communication equipment at this site.

There are two Special Use Permits for structures at the Point Retreat Lighthouse location. These permits will be closed when the transfer of the lighthouse reserve to private ownership is completed.

(12) **Land Status:** All land within the roadless area is part of the National Forest System. Encumbered lands within the roadless area are located near several islands and private lands along the east shore of the peninsula that are outside the roadless area boundary.

#### **IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)**

##### **(1) Public and Congressional Interest:**

**(a) Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** Most use of the area is associated with mining, hunting, and fishing:

**(b) Congressional Interest:** In 1989, U.S. House of Representatives Bill HR 987 proposed to designate 23 areas as wilderness on the Tongass National Forest. This bill did not include the Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 identified the area as a proposed wilderness addition.

**(c) Public Input During Forest Plan Revisions and Appeals:** More than 100 comments were received about the Mansfield Peninsula during the Forest Plan revision. The majority of people commenting on the Mansfield Peninsula (including several local conservation groups, the National Audubon Society, and the Friends of Mansfield Peninsula) asked that it be assigned to non-logging LUDs, citing its importance for recreation and tourism (proximity to Juneau and being on the ferry route), scenic viewing, and as fish and wildlife habitat (deer and brown bear habitat in particular). Many also felt that the subsistence and recreation values far outweighed the timber values. Commenters noted that protection of the Mansfield Peninsula would “complete protection for all public land on Admiralty Island.” Timber industry comments requested that Mansfield Peninsula be developed for timber and roaded recreation, with a road system tying to the Greens Creek Mine access road. Another commenter requested that the Minerals LUD be expanded to cover all areas on the Mansfield Peninsula with active claims. The AVA proposed the following developed recreation for the Mansfield Peninsula: heli-skiing and heli-hiking for 50 persons/day; a day-use recreation facility for 150 persons/day; a day-use wildlife observatory for 30 persons/day; and trails, paths, and boardwalks. This area was not specifically identified in any of the Forest Plan appeals.

**(d) Public Input During Roadless Area Conservation Rule and Road Management Policy Review:** This area was not specifically identified in the comments received on the Roadless Area Conservation Rule or Road Management Policy Review. However, some commenters wanted all unroaded lands in the Tongass to be protected from development.

**(e) Public Input Expressed for Project-level EISs and Other Input:** This area is not within the study area of any recently completed project-level EISs and no project-level comments have been identified

**(f) Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process:** The U.S. Department of the Interior identified this roadless area as having important fish and wildlife habitat and populations; although not a top priority for protection, it ranked in their top third among all roadless areas.

SEACC recommended that the Mansfield Peninsula and Greens Creek areas, which are adjacent to the existing Admiralty Island National Monument and Wilderness, be protected through designation as wilderness. These additions would create a contiguous wilderness of just under 1 million acres. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Areas 306 and 307 for permanent protection as wilderness and as an addition to the Admiralty Island National Monument and Wilderness to create a contiguous wilderness of just under 1 million acres.

A Juneau Area Assemblyman recommended Mansfield Peninsula for designation as wilderness and addition to the National Monument.

An individual of the Auk Kwaans asked that their traditional lands on Admiralty, including Mansfield Peninsula and Hawk Inlet, become Wilderness National Monument.

An individual noted that the Mansfield Peninsula is premiere grizzly bear habitat and should be protected. A number of individual commenters identified the Mansfield Peninsula as an area in need of protection.

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(2) **Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses:** The area is partially bordered to the south by the Greens Creek Mine access road, which separates it from the Greens Creek Roadless Area (307). The remainder of Admiralty Island forms the Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness. The islands that comprise the Juneau Islands Roadless Area (309) are located immediately north of the area. The Douglas Island (310) and Juneau Urban (305) Roadless Areas are located on the mainland to the east. The Chilkat-West Lynn Canal Roadless Area is located on the mainland to the west.

(3) **Distance From Population Centers (Accessibility):** Approximate distances from population centers are as follows:

<b>Community</b>	<b>Air Miles</b>	<b>Water Miles</b>
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	10	15
Stika (Pop. 8,835)	75	115
Hoonah (Pop. 860)	20	25
Angoon (Pop. 572)	40	45

The nearest stop on the Alaska Marine Highway is Auke Bay/Juneau.

(4) **Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System:** The Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area is located on the Mansfield Peninsula, which is the northernmost portion of Admiralty Island. The area is bordered by saltwater to the north, east, west, and part of the south. Lynn Canal/Chatham Strait borders the area to the west. Funter Bay State Marine Park borders the area to the west. Stephens Passage/Saginaw Channel borders the area to the east. The area is bordered to the south by Hawk Inlet and the Greens Creek Mine access road, which separates the area from the adjacent Greens Creek Roadless Area. The area is generally characterized by low-elevation, relatively flat topography with two rugged mountain peaks over 3,100 feet.

Although parts of the area have been modified by mining claims, access routes to these claims, and residential cabins, the natural appearance of the landscape appears dominant. The area has very high natural integrity and high apparent naturalness. The opportunity for solitude is moderate and the opportunity for primitive recreation is high.

Approximately 3 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery standpoint. The area has good historic and cultural values. The historic values are mostly related to the high mineralization of the area. Good anchorages and the proximity of the area to Juneau relate to the relatively high public use of the area.

The roadless area includes about 8,090 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 2,111 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area lies within the Admiralty Island Biogeographic Province and makes up about 5 percent of the province. It is one of two inventoried roadless areas found in the province that collectively make up about 7 percent of the province. Approximately 89 percent of the province is made up of the Kootznoowoo Wilderness, all of which make up the majority of Admiralty National Monument.

The Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area lies completely within the Kootznoowoo Fjordlands Ecological Section and represents 4 percent of the entire ecological section. This ecological section is well represented by existing wilderness (78 percent) and other existing non-development LUDs (12 percent, including 1 percent in LUD II).

The majority of this roadless area (62 percent) is within the Stephens Passage Glaciomarine Terraces Ecological Subsection. This portion of the roadless area represents 11 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which is well represented in existing wilderness (36 percent), with an additional 5 percent in LUD II and 31 percent in other non-development LUDs. The North Admiralty Complex Ecological Subsection represents 38 percent of the Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area. This portion of the roadless area represents 6 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which is well represented in existing wilderness (82 percent), with an additional 8 percent protected in other non-development LUDs.

The Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area was rated at 20 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 53rd from the highest (along with 16 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is both local and national support for wilderness designation of the area. Others prefer that it be managed in an unroaded condition. Designation would create a wilderness with relatively high use for recreation and minerals and their associated effects. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be moderate to low.

### **V. Environmental Consequences**

The Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 is implemented. All of the roadless area would be managed under the Semi-remote Recreation non-development LUD. This area contains 11,134 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having a high potential for expanding mineral exploration or development of locatable minerals. In addition, this area contains approximately 45,418 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources that are considered to have very low development potential. Recreation, minerals, and special uses programs would continue. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the cultural and historic values, are protected by the Forest Plan.

Under Alternatives 6, 7, or 8, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. This would not affect timber sale projects because this area is currently allocated to a non-development LUD. The potential for other uses and development, including recreation, minerals, and some special uses, could be restricted. Mineral prospecting and development would be allowed up to the time that the area is actually designated as wilderness by Congress. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the cultural and historic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

<b>Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 306 (in acres)</b>								
<b>Land Use Designation</b>	<b>Alt 1</b>	<b>Alt 2</b>	<b>Alt 3</b>	<b>Alt 4</b>	<b>Alt 5</b>	<b>Alt 6</b>	<b>Alt 7</b>	<b>Alt 8</b>
<b>Recommended Wilderness</b>						51,988	51,988	51,988
<b>Wilderness</b>								
<b>Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.</b>								
<b>Wilderness National Monument</b>								
<b>Non-wilderness National Monument</b>								
<b>Research Natural Area</b>								
<b>Special Interest Area</b>								
<b>Remote Recreation</b>								
<b>Enacted Municipal Watershed</b>								
<b>Old-growth Habitat</b>								
<b>Semi-remote Recreation</b>	51,988	51,988	51,988	51,988	51,988			
<b>Recommended LUD II</b>								
<b>LUD II</b>								
<b>Wild, Scenic, Recreational River</b>								
<b>Experimental Forest</b>								
<b>Scenic Viewshed</b>								
<b>Modified Landscape</b>								
<b>Timber Production</b>								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51,988</b>	<b>51,988</b>	<b>51,988</b>	<b>51,988</b>	<b>51,988</b>	<b>51,988</b>	<b>51,988</b>	<b>51,988</b>
<b>Suitable Timber Lands</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0