

Appendix C

INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Greens Creek (307)

ACRES (NFS): 19,959

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Admiralty Island

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Kootznoowoo Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 19/22

I. Overview and Description

(1) Location and Access: The Greens Creek Roadless Area is located on the north end of Admiralty Island. The south part of the area consists of Admiralty Island National Monument and the Greens Creek Mine. This Non-wilderness National Monument designation is intended to facilitate the development of mineral resources. Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness borders the area to the south and east. Young Bay and the Greens Creek Mine access road border the area to the north and separate the area from the Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area. The Greens Creek Mine access road also borders the area to the west. The City of Juneau is located approximately 15 miles northeast of the area.

The Greens Creek Roadless Area is accessed primarily by private boats and private or chartered aircraft. Juneau has regularly scheduled air service and is a stop in the Alaska Marine Highway. Regular service for employees of Greens Creek Mine has been provided by boat shuttle since 1987. There is no public transportation to the roadless area. The Greens Creek Mine access road borders the area to the west and provides access to the National Monument portion of the area. The Hawk Inlet Trail is located immediately north of the area. Access into the interior is by foot or helicopter. There are no places suitable for landing wheeled airplanes.

(2) History: Evidence of prehistoric and historic use of this roadless area is documented. Historically, Tlingit clans used the area as a seasonal subsistence procurement area, and seasonal camps and at least one village site have been noted. Trapper cabins have been found in the area, along with evidence of hunting and fishing camps. The remains of an old, fire-damaged cannery, built in 1911, are evident on the eastern shore of Hawk Inlet adjacent to this roadless area.

Greens Creek Mine is located south of the roadless area. The ore body was discovered in 1975. Exploration drilling began in 1978, initial mine development in 1987, and full production in 1989. The mine closed in 1993 due to low metal prices and reopened in 1996. The mine operation consists of an underground mine that delivers polymetallic (silver, zinc, gold, and lead) ore to a surface mill and concentrator. The operation also includes the Hawk Inlet Camp and concentrate loading facilities.

(3) Geography and Topography: The topography of the area ranges from hummocky and blocky landforms to complex terrain dominated by angular profiles and sharply defined crests. Geologic features range from minor peaks to prominent escarpments, craggy peaks, and rock outcrops that tend to dominate the view. Level plains and foothills along Young Bay include pocket clearings of meadows, muskegs, and lakes. There are 3 miles of shoreline on saltwater. About 1,552 acres are inventoried as alpine, 715 acres identified as rock, and no acres of ice or snow features.

(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 Greens Creek 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 a majority, 86 percent, 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, covering the remaining 14 percent 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 avalanches 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	North Admiralty Complex	86%
	Stephens Passage Glaciomarine Terraces	14%

(b) **Soils:** Soils in the area are largely a result of the movement of glaciers that covered the area 5,000 to 10,000 years ago, and from erosion of glacial deposits since then. Soil types vary considerably depending upon their distance from Hawk Inlet, major streams, and Young Bay. Bedrock underlies the entire area.

(c) **Vegetation:** The vegetation in this area is dominated by spruce/hemlock forest. The understory is composed of shrubs such as blueberry, huckleberry, rusty menziesia, and devil’s club. Common groundcover plants are trailing raspberry, bunchberry, foamflower, and twisted stalk. Various cryptogams carpet the forest floor; mosses are dominant but liverworts and lichens are also abundant. There are 1,552 acres of alpine vegetation mapped in this area

There are approximately 15,594 acres mapped as forest land, of which 12,464 acres or 80 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 6,856 acres or 55 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 3,628 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There is no second-growth forest resulting from timber harvest activities.

(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 the area were rated as highly valued for sport or commercial fish. VCU 144 (Greens Creek) was rated as a highly valued estuary. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) identified all three VCUs in the area as secondary salmon producers.

Admiralty Island streams are known to provide habitat for chinook, pink, chum, and silver salmon. Fowler Creek is the major fish-producing stream in the north portion of the area. The Anadromous Waters Catalogue (ADF&G, 2000) indicates that Fowler Creek provides habitat for coho, pink, and chum salmon. Two other unnamed Class I streams in the area provide habitat for coho salmon. Within the National Monument portion of the area, Greens Creek and two unnamed Class I streams provide habitat for coho, pink, and chum salmon and Dolly Varden char. A fishpass was completed on Greens Creek in 1988.

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(e) **Wildlife Resources:** Important populations of wildlife in this roadless area include brown bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, wolves, bald eagles, waterfowl/shorebirds, and furbearers, such as mink, marten, river otter, and beaver. Black bears are not present on Admiralty Island, and neither moose nor mountain goats have been reported in this area.

(5) **Management Direction and Current Uses:** The roadless area was allocated to four Land Use Designations (LUDs) under the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These four LUDs are Minerals, Non-wilderness National Monument, Experimental Forest, and Semi-remote Recreation. The Minerals LUD is a secondary LUD, which overlays the other land uses.

LUD	Acres
Minerals*	1,456*
Non-wilderness National Monument	8,449
Experimental Forest	6,544
Semi-remote Recreation	4,967

* Note that acres in the Minerals LUD are included in the Experimental Forest LUD acres.

Approximately 33 percent of the roadless area was allocated to a development LUD (Experimental Forest, Mineral). Approximately 33 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Experimental Forest LUD. The Young Bay Experimental Forest was originally selected for long-term hydrologic and fisheries monitoring. It also has an extensive terrace underlain by poorly drained marine silt. Timber harvest is consistent with the objectives of Experimental Forest. Approximately 7 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Minerals LUD overlay.

Approximately 67 percent of the roadless area was allocated to one of two non-development LUDs (Non-wilderness National Monument, Semi-remote Recreation). Most of this roadless area, approximately 42 percent, was allocated to the Non-wilderness National Monument LUD, which is intended to facilitate the development of significant mineral resources located within portions of Admiralty Island National Monument. This LUD is located in the south portion of the roadless area (VCU 144). The Semi-remote Recreation LUD was assigned to approximately 25 percent of the roadless area.

This general area, located approximately 15 miles southwest of Juneau, receives considerable use for hunting, fishing, and other recreational pursuits. Much of this use is, however, concentrated east of the roadless area in the vicinity of Admiralty Creek and Young Lake, and the public recreation cabins located in that area. Use levels in the roadless area are generally lower, especially away from the shoreline. There is some subsistence use in the area. The 1998 Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) indicated that subsistence use in the VCUs that comprise this area has a low sensitivity to disturbance. Greens Creek Mining operation located in VCU 144.

(6) **Appearance (Apparent Naturalness):** The area itself displays a natural landscape that can be seen from Young Bay and Stephens Passage. However, several activities and facilities adjacent to the area affect its apparent naturalness when viewed from certain locations. Greens Creek Mine, the Greens Creek access road, Hawk Inlet Camp and concentrate loading facilities, Hawk Inlet trail, and the fire-damaged cannery facility on Hawk Inlet all provide evidence of human alteration in the immediate vicinity of the area. The Greens Creek Roadless Area viewed from Hawk Inlet forms a natural background to the modifications adjacent to the area in the foreground.

(7) **Surroundings (External Influences):** The Greens Creek Roadless Area is located on Admiralty Island. Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness, which borders the area to the south and east, encompasses the majority of the island. The Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area is located directly north. Young Bay and the Greens Creek Mine access road border the area to the north. The Greens Creek Mine access road also borders the area to the west. Primary external influences on this roadless area include the Greens Creek Mine and associated activities, which include the access road, a surface mill, concentrator, and the Hawk Inlet Camp and concentrate loading facility. Other influences include aircraft passing over the roadless area, boats in Hawk Inlet and Young Bay, and firearms discharged by hunters.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: The natural features of the area, the scenery, and the opportunity to see and hunt wildlife are all considered attractions. High-quality fishing opportunities in the streams and lakes are also an attraction. A large portion of the area (6,544 acres) is managed under the Experimental Forest LUD to provide long-term opportunities for forest research and demonstration, which may be of interest to some. The area contains six inventoried recreation places, which cover 11,725 acres, or 59 percent of the roadless area.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: The main change in the area between 1989 and 2003 involves the east portion of the 1989 area (VCU 133). This area has been added to the Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness and is no longer part of the Greens Creek Roadless Area.

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: The area itself displays a natural landscape that can be seen from Young Bay and Stephens Passage. Several activities and facilities adjacent to the area affect its apparent naturalness when viewed from certain locations. Greens Creek Mine, the Greens Creek access road, Hawk Inlet Camp and concentrate loading facilities, Hawk Inlet trail, and the fire-damaged cannery facility on Hawk Inlet all provide evidence of human alteration in the immediate vicinity of the area. The Greens Creek Roadless Area viewed from Hawk Inlet forms a natural background to the modifications adjacent to the area in the foreground. However, as noted, the area itself appears natural and is bordered by wilderness on two sides. These factors suggest that the area is appropriate for wilderness. The area has a moderate natural integrity and apparent naturalness. The area on the Youngs Bay side of the area has higher natural integrity and apparent naturalness because it avoids developments and related land encumbrances.

(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are relatively high, especially when the adjacent roadless lands are factored in. Along the coastline, opportunities for solitude are relatively lower as a result of aircraft, pleasure boat, cruise ship, and Alaska State ferry traffic. Aircraft regularly pass over the area and vehicles using the adjacent mine access road are visible from some locations. Use away from the shoreline, Greens Creek Mine, and the mine access road is relatively low and the opportunity for solitude in these areas increases dramatically. There was no outfitter/guide use identified within the area in 1999. Outfitter/guide use was, however, reported in the adjacent Hawk Inlet, with 18 reported groups and a total of 38 clients either sightseeing or brown bear hunting.

The area provides primarily a semi-primitive recreation opportunity. 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)	91	0%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	18,349	92%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	116	1%
Roaded Natural (RN)	1,035	5%
Roaded Modified (RM)	366	2%

The area contains 6 inventoried recreation places, which cover 11,725 acres, or 59 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
P	0	0
SPNM	3	10,653
SPM	1	116
RN	3	850
RM	2	105

* Rec. Places may occur in more than one ROS Class; the sum of this column may exceed the total number of Rec. Places.

Three public recreation cabins are located approximately 4 miles to the east in the Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness Area.

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(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 Greens Creek Roadless Area was 21 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 given a rating of 19. A separate evaluation was done for the area along Young Bay, including the Flower Creek area, and it was rated 22.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The Greens Creek Roadless Area is located on Admiralty Island. Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness, which borders the area to the south and east, encompasses the majority of the island. Much of this roadless area is forested with areas of high-volume old growth concentrated along the drainage channels that flow through the area.

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment identified all three VCUs in the area as secondary salmon producers and no VCUs as primary sport fish producers (ADF&G, 1998).

Admiralty Island streams are known to provide habitat for chinook, pink, chum, and silver salmon. Fowler Creek is the major fish-producing stream in the north portion of the area. The Anadromous Waters Catalogue (ADF&G, 2000) indicates that Fowler Creek provides habitat for coho, pink, and chum salmon. Two other unnamed Class I streams in the area provide habitat for coho salmon. Within the National Monument portion of the area, two unnamed Class I streams provide habitat for coho, pink, and chum salmon and Dolly Varden char.

(b) Wildlife Resources: Important populations of wildlife in this roadless area include brown bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, wolves, bald eagles, waterfowl/shorebirds, and furbearers, such as mink, marten, river otter, 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. 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 is a very small area of high vulnerability karst in the southwest section of this roadless area, adjacent to the border of Admiralty Island National Monument. The mapped karst resources encompass 127 acres, or less than one percent of the roadless area. About 30 percent of the karst is mapped as high vulnerability. There are no known glaciers or unique geologic features.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: There are no Research Natural Areas in this roadless area. The east portion of the area (VCU 132) is assigned to the Experimental Forest LUD. The area is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Juneau and is, therefore, reasonably accessible to school-age children.

(6) Scenic Values: The visual character type of this roadless area is Admiralty-Chichagof. For the most part, landforms in this unit are generally rounded. Notable exceptions exist, however, especially on the northern portions of Admiralty Island, where mountainous terrain tends to be rugged and snow-covered most of the year. Numerous tidal meadows of varying sizes are found in this area and lower slopes are generally densely forested, but can exhibit a combination of muskeg openings, brush, and scattered tree cover up to approximately 2,500 feet in elevation. The area itself displays a natural landscape that can be seen from Young Bay and Stephens Passage. However, several activities and facilities adjacent to the area affect its apparent naturalness when viewed from certain locations. Hawk Inlet Trail, Greens Creek Mine, the Greens Creek access road, and the fire damaged cannery facility on Hawk Inlet all provide evidence of human alteration in the immediate vicinity of the area. The Greens Creek Roadless Area viewed from Hawk Inlet forms a natural background to the modifications adjacent to the area in the foreground.

Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan that are within or adjacent to the area, include Stephens Passage (Alaskan Marine Highway, Small Boat Route, and Tour Ship Route); Hawk Inlet (Small Boat Route); Young Bay (Dispersed Recreation Area); Young Bay, Hawk Inlet, and Hawk Inlet Cannery (Boat Anchorages); and the Hawk Inlet Trail (Hiking Trail).

Eight percent of this roadless area was inventoried in Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type), with 18 percent inventoried in Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type). The remaining 31 percent was inventoried in Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity). Approximately 43 percent was not inventoried and is within Admiralty National Monument.

The majority of this area (99 percent) is inventoried in EVC I. These areas appear to be untouched by human activity. Approximately 1 percent is inventoried in EVC III, where changes in the landscape are noticed by the average person but do not attract attention. The natural appearance of the landscape still remains dominant.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: Evidence of prehistoric and historic use of this roadless area is documented. Historically, Tlingit clans used the area as a seasonal subsistence procurement area, and seasonal camps and at least one village site have been noted. Trapper cabins have been found in the area, along with evidence of hunting and fishing camps. The remains of an old cannery, built in 1911, are evident on the eastern shore of Hawk Inlet adjacent to this roadless area.

Greens Creek Mine, located in the south portion of the area, currently employs about 250 workers. The ore body was discovered in 1975. Exploration drilling began in 1978, initial mine development in 1987, and full production in 1989. The mine closed in 1993 due to low metal prices, and reopened in 1996. The mine operation consists of an underground mine that delivers polymetallic (silver, zinc, gold, and lead) ore to a surface mill and concentrator. The operation also includes the Hawk Inlet Camp and concentrate loading facilities. The City of Juneau is located approximately 10 miles northeast of the area.

Recreational use in the area occurs mainly along the shoreline. Areas east and south of this roadless area are used more intensively for recreational activities. There is some subsistence use in the area. The 1998 Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment indicated that subsistence use in the VCUs that comprise this area has a low sensitivity to disturbance. None of the VCUs in this area were included among the highest value community use areas (ADF&G, 1998).

(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: The area is generally well defined by a combination of topographic features and existing roads. The feasibility of management of the north portion of this area in a roadless condition is relatively good. The Greens Creek Mine and access road are, however, located in the south portion of this roadless area. Activities associated with this mining operation, which include a surface mill, concentrator, and the Hawk Inlet Camp and concentrate loading facilities, could potentially affect the wilderness values of this portion of the area. The Greens Creek Roadless Area is bordered to the east and south by

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wilderness, which would be extended if the area were designated wilderness. The north portion of the area is bordered to the west 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. This existing road and potential transmission line corridor lead to the Greens Creek Mine and extend into the south part of the roadless area. Adjacent land to the north is allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation LUD.

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

- (1) **Recreation, Including Tourism Potential:** There is a possibility of developing public recreation cabins within the area. Outfitter and guide services could potentially increase in the future.
- (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 for this area.
- (4) **Wildlife Resources:** No wildlife enhancement projects are planned for this area.
- (5) **Timber Resources:** There are approximately 12,464 acres mapped as productive old growth and no acres mapped as second growth due to harvest in the roadless area. Of these acres, 3,435 acres are categorized as tentatively suitable for timber production. Based on the Forest Plan LUDs assigned to this area, none of this roadless area is classified as suitable for timber production. Designating this area wilderness would not affect timber harvest in adjacent areas because these areas are assigned to LUDs that classify forest land as unsuitable for timber production.
- (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 has a high mineral development potential. The Greens Creek Mine is located south of the roadless area. A 1996 land exchange provided the Kennecott Greens Creek Mining Company with access and mineral rights to an additional 7,500 acres surrounding the existing mine property and adjacent to this roadless area.

The roadless area contains 2,671 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 1,456 of these acres is 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 an estimated 18,901 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources that are considered to have very low potential for development (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991).
- (8) **Transportation and Utilities:** There are no transportation or utility projects proposed for this area. The north portion of the area is, however, bordered to the west 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. This existing road and potential transmission line corridor lead to the Greens Creek Mine.
- (9) **Water Availability and Use:** Water is used by the Greens Creek Mine, the associated mill, concentrator, and the Hawk Inlet Camp, and concentrate loading facilities. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects within this area.
- (10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** The east portion of the area (VCU 132) is the Young Bay Experimental Forest. Management as wilderness may restrict the research activities in the area. The mapped karst resources encompass approximately 127 acres or less than one percent of the roadless area.

- (11) **Land Use Authorizations:** There are no land use authorizations in this roadless area.
- (12) **Land Status:** This roadless area is all National Forest System lands. The State had nominated 841 acres near Young Bay for selection but did not propose selection of this parcel.

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 hunting, although camping, boating, fishing, and shellfish gathering are also important.

(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 Greens Creek Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 identified the north portion of this area (VCUs 131 and 132) as a proposed wilderness addition. The south portion of the area (VCU 144) was partially identified as designated wilderness or monument, with the area surrounding the mine identified as roaded and available for development.

(c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revisions and Appeals:** This area was not specifically addressed in public input received during the Forest Plan revision and appeal. More than 100 comments were, however, received about the Mansfield Peninsula located immediately north of the Greens Creek Roadless Area. The majority of people commenting on the 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). Some specific comments about the Mansfield Peninsula also included the Greens Creek Roadless Area, noting 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.

(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.

(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. They indicated that protection of this area would conserve valuable remaining undisturbed forested habitats on the island, particularly since it adjoins the Kootznoowoo Wilderness and Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area (#306).

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. 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. They commented that these additions would create a contiguous wilderness of just under 1 million acres.

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An individual of the Auk Kwaans asked that their traditional lands on Admiralty, including Mansfield Peninsula and Hawk Inlet, become Wilderness National Monument. Some individuals recommended the area for permanent protection.

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: The Greens Creek Roadless Area is part of a larger unroaded area. This larger area includes Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness and the Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area, which is located north across the Greens Creek Mine access road.

The three public recreation cabins on Admiralty Cove and Young Lake in the adjacent wilderness area are extremely popular and generally in use for much of the year. Use away from these developed facilities and the shoreline is much lower because much of the area is not accessible by boat or floatplane.

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

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

The closest Alaska Marine Highway ferry terminals to this roadless area are Auke Bay/Juneau, Hoonah, and Angoon.

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The Greens Creek Roadless Area is located on the north end of Admiralty Island. The south part of the area consists of Admiralty Island National Monument and the Greens Creek Mine. Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness borders the area to the south and east. Young Bay and the Greens Creek Mine access road border the area to the north and separate the area from the Mansfield Peninsula Roadless Area. The Greens Creek Mine access road also borders the area to the west. The topography of the area ranges from hummocky and blocky landforms to complex terrain dominated by angular profiles and sharply defined crests. Geologic features range from minor peaks to prominent escarpments, craggy peaks, and rock outcrops that tend to dominate the view. Level plains and foothills along Young Bay include pocket clearings of meadows, muskegs, and lakes.

The area is mostly unmodified; however, it is influenced by the mining-related development in the nearby area. The area has moderate natural integrity and apparent naturalness. A separate rating for the northern portion of the area was done and indicates that portion would have very high natural integrity and high apparent naturalness. The opportunity for solitude is high and the opportunity for primitive recreation is very high.

Approximately 8 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery standpoint. The east portion of the area was assigned to the Experimental Forest LUD and established for forest research and demonstration. The area has a small zone of karst in the southwest portion. The area has high mineralization and associated activities.

The roadless area includes about 6,856 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 3,628 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Greens Creek Roadless Area lies within the Admiralty Island Biogeographic Province and makes up about 2 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, which makes up the majority of Admiralty National Monument.

The Greens Creek Roadless Area lies completely within the Kootznoowoo Fjordlands Ecological Section and represents 2 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 (86 percent) is within the North Admiralty Complex Ecological Subsection. This portion of the roadless area represents 5 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 remainder of the Greens Creek Roadless Area is within the Stephens Passage Glaciomarine Terraces Ecological Subsection (14 percent). This portion of the roadless area represents 1 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 Greens Creek Roadless Area was rated at 19 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 70th from the highest (along with 13 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas. Another rating was done for the area that included the northern portion of the area, which resulted in a score of 22.

There is both local and national support for wilderness designation for the north portion of the area, and support for managing the area in an unroaded condition. Designation would create a wilderness that would include the Experimental Forest and areas in the vicinity of the Greens Creek mining property and ongoing operations. Mineralized areas within the roadless area would be included as well. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be low for the entire roadless area, and the relative contribution of the northern portion would be moderate.

V. Environmental Consequences

The Greens Creek Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 is implemented. Approximately 67 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development, consistent with the objectives of the Experimental Forest, could occur on the remaining 33 percent. No land is identified as suitable for timber production. This roadless area contains 2,671 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 an estimated 18,901 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources that are considered to have very low potential for development. Use of the area for an experimental forest, recreation, minerals activities, and special uses programs would continue. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area could be affected in the Experimental Forest portion of the area.

Under Alternatives 6 or 7, an 11,603-acre portion of the area, including the experimental forest, would be converted to Recommended Wilderness LUD. The potential for uses and development, including experimental forest, recreation, minerals and some special uses, could be restricted. There would be no area suitable for timber production as in Alternative 1. 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 Young Bay portion of the roadless area would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Under Alternative 8, the entire area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness LUD. The potential for uses and development, including experimental forest, 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 would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Appendix C

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 307 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness						11,603	11,603	19,959
Wilderness								
Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.								
Wilderness National Monument								
Nonwilderness National Monument	8,449	8,449	8,449	8,449	8,449	8,356	8,356	
Research Natural Area								
Special Interest Area								
Remote Recreation								
Enacted Municipal Watershed								
Old-growth Habitat								
Semi-remote Recreation	4,967	4,967	4,967	4,967	4,967			
Recommended LUD II								
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest	6,544	6,544	6,544	6,544	6,544			
Scenic Viewshed								
Modified Landscape								
Timber Production								
TOTAL	19,959	19,959	19,959	19,959	19,959	19,959	19,959	19,959
Suitable Timber Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0