

# Appendix C

## INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

**ROADLESS AREA NAME:** Douglas Island (310)

**ACRES (NFS):** 25,008

**BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:** Northern Coast Range

**ECOLOGICAL SECTION:** Kootznoowoo Fjordlands

**2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING:** 17

### **I. Overview and Description**

(1) **Location and Access:** Douglas Island is located directly across Gastineau Channel from the city of Juneau. The Douglas Island Roadless Area includes only a portion of this island but is completely within the boundaries of the City and Borough of Juneau. City and Borough of Juneau lands border the area on all sides, except the west, which is bordered by private land. The North Douglas Highway borders the area to the north and east, extending along the shoreline from Mount Meek to Treadwell. There is a “doughnut hole” of City and Borough lands which comprise the Eagle Crest Ski area in the center of the island. These non-National Forest System lands are accessed via Fish Creek Road from the north. The ski area, access road, and associated corridor are excluded from the roadless area.

Juneau is 2 to 5 miles east of the area and has regularly scheduled flights and is on the Alaska Marine Highway. The Douglas Island Roadless Area may be accessed from the Juneau-Douglas road system or by using several trails that enter or border the area. There are no places suitable for landing wheeled airplanes. Access into the interior is by foot or helicopter. Snowmobiles and back-country skis are used during winter months to access the area.

(2) **History:** Douglas Island is directly across Gastineau Channel from Juneau, the capitol city of Alaska. The history of Douglas Island has been linked to that of Juneau since the discovery of gold in the area in the 1860s. Historical remains found in this area include the Treadwell Ditch and ditch tenders’ cabin. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified extensive aboriginal uses, including berrying, hunting or trapping, gardens, and trolling for king salmon. They also identified a village, a cemetery, a smokehouse or cabin, and a former camp. More recent history from the 1930s includes remains from a ski tow and two cabins, one of which, the Dan Moller Cabin, has been restored and is in the public recreation cabin reservation system.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The area is generally characterized by rounded landforms and moderately significant geologic features. Elevations range from several hundred feet to over three thousand feet.

The area contains 9 miles of shoreline on saltwater on the southeast side of the island. This area also includes 505 acres of alpine and 460 acres of rock but no ice or snow features. Eight small islands account for less than one acre.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is classified as being in the Northern Coast Range Biogeographic Province. This province is generally characterized by rugged and glaciated topography. This province has little maritime influence. Yellow-cedar plant associations occur in this province.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Douglas Island Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Inside Kootznoowoo Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247D). This area is represented by two ecological subsections (see table below). The Stephens Passage Volcanics Ecological Subsection covers the vast majority of the roadless area and is underlain by ancient volcanic rock and ash. Metamorphosed slates, schists, and phyllites are found on the eastern side of the island only. The mountains of Douglas Island are

rounded with steep, deeply incised slopes. High elevations are vegetated by alpine meadows, barrens, and stunted krummholz forests. The well-drained soils of the mid- and lower slopes support productive forests of western hemlock and Sitka spruce. Landslide and avalanche chutes are common. The poorly drained soils of the lowlands support wetlands on about a fifth of the island’s area. The Stephens Passage Glaciomarine Terraces Ecological Subsection covers about 4 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 (Nowacki et al., 2001).

| <b>Ecological Section</b> | <b>Ecological Subsection</b>           | <b>Percent of Roadless Area</b> |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Kootznoowoo Fjordlands    | Stephens Passage Volcanics             | 96%                             |
|                           | Stephens Passage Glaciomarine Terraces | 4%                              |

**(b) Soils:** Alpine portions of this area consist of shallow to bedrock soils, primarily of organic and mineral origin. The majority of the area’s soils range from well-developed, deep, colluvial soils on moderate to steep slopes, and poorly drained, mineral and/or organic soils on benches and moderate slopes. Occurrences of muskegs with reduced productivity occur on these benches. The entire area has been overridden by glaciers, with a predominance of glacial till throughout the island, especially on mid- to lower slopes.

**(c) Vegetation:** The area is characterized by a moderately varied vegetative pattern of typical spruce/hemlock forest. Natural forest openings occur in the form of small, frequent muskegs. However, due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult and none have been mapped in this area.

There are approximately 21,408 acres mapped as forest land, of which 13,557 acres or 63 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 5,295 acres or 39 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 759 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There is no second growth due to harvesting 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. One VCU partially located in this area (VCU 34) was rated highly for both sport and commercial fish. None of the VCUs that comprise the area were inventoried as highly valued for estuaries. In addition, none of these VCUs were listed as primary salmon or sportfish producers by the Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998). One VCU (VCU 37) was identified as a non-producer of salmon, while the other VCUs that comprise the area were identified as secondary producers.

Streams in this area provide habitat for chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon, cutthroat and steelhead trout, and Dolly Varden char. The Anadromous Waters Catalogue (ADF&G, 2000) identifies Fish Creek, Peterson Creek, Hilda Creek, and Grant Creek as major fish producers.

**(e) Wildlife Resources:** Larger mammals in this area include black bear, wolves, and Sitka black-tailed deer. Furbearers include river otter, marten, marmot, mink, and ermine (MacDonald and Cook, 1999).

**(5) Management Direction and Current Uses:** The Douglas Island Roadless Area was allocated to three Land Use Designations (LUD) in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These three LUDs are Minerals, Transportation and Utility System (TUS), and Semi-remote Recreation. The Minerals and TUS LUDs are secondary LUDs, which overlays the other land uses.

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| <u>LUD</u>                        | <u>Acres</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Minerals*                         | 1,035*       |
| Transportation and Utility System | NA           |
| Semi-remote Recreation            | 25,008       |

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

This roadless area was allocated to two overlay development LUD overlays, Minerals and Transportation and Utility System. The Minerals LUD overlay accounts for approximately 4 percent of the roadless area. The Transportation and Utility System LUD includes an existing power transmission corridor that runs just south of the area's north border and a potential power transmission corridor that follows part of the west border.

All of the land within this roadless area was allocated to one non-development LUD, Semi-remote Recreation. The area, with its immediate proximity to Juneau and Douglas, receives heavy use. Hunting is popular, as are hiking, camping, climbing, berry picking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Much of the area is bordered by roads and trails. A number of trails extend into the area and there is a centrally located recreation cabin (Dan Moller). The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) indicated that with the exception of VCUs 35 and 37, the Douglas Island Roadless Area is typically not used for subsistence. VCUs 35 and 37 were identified as subsistence use areas with a low sensitivity to disturbance.

There are two Special Use Permits for recreation cabins on the south side of the island.

**(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness):** The area has high scenic value and is essentially unmodified except in the area of the trails and cabin. The "ski bowl" around the cabin contains remains of the old downhill ski tow. The area retains a natural landscape that can be seen from Stephens Passage and Fritz Cove. From northeast Gastineau Channel, the area provides a natural backdrop to the visible development on the adjacent roaded area.

**(7) Surroundings (External Influences):** Many external activities influence this area because of its proximity to Juneau and Douglas. The City and Borough of Juneau operate a downhill ski operation in the "doughnut hole" in the center of the Douglas Island Roadless Area. Access to this ski area is provided by Fish Creek Road. Downtown Juneau is located directly across Gastineau Channel from this roadless area. As a result, it is possible to view residential and business buildings, cruise ships, numerous boats, and frequent air traffic by both floatplanes, jets, and helicopters from the ridges within the area. The south and west sides of the island are popular hunting and fishing areas, and boat traffic is common. The roadless area is surrounded by land owned by the State, Native Corporations, or private entities.

**(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest:** The primary attractions of this area are good hunting, hiking, beautiful scenery, high alpine meadows, and relatively easy access. The area contains three inventoried recreation places, which cover 19,468 acres, or 78 percent of the roadless area. There are two improved trails, the Treadwell Ditch and Dan Moller Trails, in the area and one public recreation cabin. The cabin is popular year-round. Winter sports such as cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are important uses of this area to local residents. Historic remains such as the Treadwell Ditch are also attractions of interest.

**(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary:** The roadless area boundaries have not changed significantly between 1989 and 2003.

### II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

**(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness:** The majority of the area retains a high natural integrity and a moderate apparent naturalness. Existing modifications to the area include two trails, a recreation cabin, and evidence of past use. The area is also affected by its close proximity to roads and an urban environment. While the area appears natural and appropriate for wilderness, the surrounding developed and urban land uses suggest that managing this area as wilderness would be difficult.

**(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation:** There is moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, especially on the western sides of the area. Other users, floatplanes, helicopters, boats, cruise ships, snowmobiles, and traffic noise all contribute to the lack of a sense of solitude, primarily on the east side of the island.

There is one public recreation cabin and two trails in the area. The area almost completely surrounds the Eagle Crest Ski Area and the road corridor which leads to the ski area. Much of the use in the Douglas Island Roadless Area occurs along the coastline or public trails and, as a result, visitors are generally not outside of the sights and sounds of other human activity. There was no outfitter/guide use identified in this area in 1999.

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 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) | 16,201 | 65%                  |
| Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)      | 6,746  | 27%                  |
| Roaded Natural (RN)                 | 1,778  | 7%                   |
| Roaded Motorized (RM)               | 243    | 1%                   |
| Rural (R)                           | 32     | 0%                   |

The area contains three inventoried recreation places, which cover 19,468 acres, or 78 percent of the roadless area

| ROS Class | # of Rec. Places* | Total Acres |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| SPNM      | 1                 | 16,041      |
| SPM       | 1                 | 3,184       |
| RN        | 1                 | 0           |
| RM        | 2                 | 242         |
| R         | 0                 | 0           |

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

The roadless area surrounds the Eaglecrest Ski Area, which offers winter sporting opportunities.

**(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 process (referred to as RARE II). 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).

The inventoried roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest were rated according to this system in 1989 for the Analysis of the Management Situation developed in support of the Forest Plan Revision. At that time, the Douglas Islands Roadless Area was given a rating of 18 out of 28 possible points. The rating was re-evaluated for this updated version of the Analysis of the Management Situation. Based on this re-evaluation, the area was given a rating of 17. This rating reflects the high level of developments and activities associated with the urban area of Juneau.

**(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values:** This roadless area is located on Douglas Island. Lower slopes are generally densely forested, but sometimes exhibit a combination of muskeg openings, brush, and scattered tree cover up to approximately 2,500 feet in elevation. Upper slopes and summits appear barren from a distance, but usually offer a variety of alpine vegetation, as well as numerous rock outcroppings.

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**(a) Fish Resources:** None of these VCUs were listed as primary salmon or sportfish producers by the Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998). One VCU (VCU 37) was identified as a non-producer of salmon, while the other VCU that comprise the area were identified as secondary producers.

Streams in this area provide habitat for chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon; cutthroat and steelhead trout; and Dolly Varden char. Fish Creek provides habitat for chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon, as well as Dolly Varden char. Peterson and Hilda Creeks are inhabited by coho, pink, and chum salmon; cutthroat trout; and Dolly Varden char. In addition, Hilda Creek provides habitat for steelhead trout. Coho salmon are found in Grant Creek (ADF&G, 2000).

**(b) Wildlife Resources:** Larger mammals in the area include black and brown bears, wolves, and Sitka black-tailed deer. Furbearers include river otter, marten, marmot, mink, and ermine (MacDonald and Cook, 1999).

**(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. Queen Charlotte goshawks have been found in this roadless area. These forest-dwelling hawks 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 are no known karst or cave resources in this roadless area. There are no glaciers or unique geologic features.

**(5) Scientific and Educational Values:** There are no Research Natural Areas in this roadless area. There is, however, high interest in providing recreational opportunities for the community of Juneau in this roadless area and on Douglas Island as a whole. Winter sports such as cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and recreation cabin use are all important to local residents. Historic remains such as the Treadwell Ditch are also attractions of interest.

**(6) Scenic Values:** The visual character type of this area is Admiralty-Chichagof. For the most part, landforms are generally rounded. Lower slopes are generally densely forested, but sometimes exhibit a combination of muskeg openings, brush, and scattered tree cover up to approximately 2,500 feet in elevation. Upper slopes and summits appear barren from a distance, but usually offer a variety of alpine vegetation as well as numerous rock outcroppings. The area has high scenic value and is essentially unmodified except in the area of the trails and cabin. The "ski bowl" around the cabin contains remains of the old downhill ski tow. The area retains a natural landscape that can be seen from Stephens Passage and Fritz Cove. From northeast Gastineau Channel, the area provides a natural backdrop to the visible development on the adjacent roaded area.

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); Peterson Creek, North Douglas Road, and Fish Creek Road (Public Use Roads); Stephens Passage and Gastineau Channel (Saltwater Use Areas); Stephens Passage, Gastineau Channel, and Fritz Cove (Small Boat Routes); Juneau and Douglas (Communities); Dan Moller (Public Recreation Cabin); Eaglecrest Ski Area (Private or Public Resort); Dan Moller Trail (Hiking Trail); and Gastineau Channel and Fritz Cove (Boat Anchorages).

The majority of this area (approximately 93 percent) was inventoried in Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type) with five percent inventoried in Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity). Approximately 2 percent of the area was not inventoried.

The majority of the area, approximately 98 percent, was inventoried in Existing Visual Condition (EVC) I. These areas appear to be untouched by human activity. The remaining 2 percent was not inventoried.

(7) **Social, Cultural, and Historical Values:** Douglas Island is located directly across Gastineau Channel from the City of Juneau. The history of Douglas Island has been linked to that of Juneau since the discovery of gold in the area in the 1860s. Historical remains found in this area include the Treadwell Ditch and ditch tenders' cabin. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified extensive aboriginal uses including berry picking, hunting or trapping, gardens, and trolling for king salmon. They also identified a village, a smokehouse or cabin, and a former camp. More recent history from the 1930s includes remains from a ski tow and two cabins, one of which (Dan Moller Cabin) has been restored and is in the public recreation cabin reservation system.

There is one public recreation cabin in the area. This area almost completely surrounds the Eagle Crest Ski Area. Much of the use in the Douglas Island Roadless Area occurs along the coastline or public trails and, as a result, visitors are generally not outside of the sights and sounds of other human activity. There was no outfitter/guide use identified in this area in 1999.

The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment indicated that with the exception of VCUs 35 and 37, the Douglas Island Roadless Area is typically not used for subsistence. No VCUs were listed among the VCUs with highest sensitivity to disturbance of subsistence use areas. The VCUs in this area were also not included among the highest, second, or third most important groups for community use values (ADF&G, 1998).

(8) **Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes:** With the exception of the relatively short length of coastline that borders the area to the southeast, the area's boundaries are all man-made and do not follow natural topographic features. Lands owned by the City and Borough of Juneau and Native Corporation lands border the area. In addition, there is a "doughnut ring" of non-National Forest System lands in the center of the area associated with a ski area. This roadless area would be difficult to manage as wilderness because of the mixed ownership of the island and the difficulties associated with defining area boundaries on the ground. Activities on the adjacent lands would not complement wilderness management.

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

(1) **Recreation, Including Tourism Potential:** The easily accessible alpine environment is perhaps the primary recreation attraction, and there is great potential for increased recreation opportunities in this area. Additional trails for hikers, cross-country skiers, and snowmobilers are possibilities. A trail/hut system in conjunction with a trail circumnavigating Douglas Island has also been considered.

The Shoreline Outfitter/Guide EIS, which is currently being prepared, may identify enclaves for future recreation activities along the western shoreline.

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

(3) **Fish Resource:** No fish enhancement projects are planned in this area.

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

(5) **Timber Resources:** There are approximately 13,557 acres mapped as productive old growth and no acres mapped as second growth due to harvest in the roadless area. Of these acres, 9,292 acres are categorized as tentatively suitable for timber production. Based on the Forest Plan LUD assigned to this area, the entire area is classified as unsuitable for timber production. Local residents depend on Douglas Island, to some extent, for firewood. 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:** Douglas Island has been identified as an area of potential mineral development. Currently, there are several claims in the southwest portion of the Douglas Island Roadless Area. This area was not, however, assigned to the Minerals LUD in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan.

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The roadless area contains 2,609 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having a high or moderate potential for expanding mineral exploration or development of locatable minerals (Coldwell, 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991). A total of 1,035 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 an estimated 6,490 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991) all of which are classified as having low potential.

**(8) Transportation and Utilities:** The area includes an existing power transmission corridor that runs just south of the area's north border and a potential power transmission corridor that follows part of the west border. The 1997 LUD map also identifies a proposed state road corridor along the west shoreline. This would represent an extension of the North Douglas Highway along the existing trail that presently borders the roadless area. Fish Creek Road passes through the north section of the area. This road and associated corridor are excluded from the roadless area. Designating the area wilderness would not likely affect these existing and potential transportation corridors.

**(9) Water Availability and Use:** The recreation cabin presents the only water demand within this area. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects within the roadless area.

**(10) Areas of Scientific Interest:** This roadless area contains no Research Natural Areas.

**(11) Land Use Authorizations:** There are Special Use Permits for two recreation cabins on the southern side of the island.

**(12) Land Status:** This roadless area comprises all National Forest System lands. This roadless area is adjacent to private lands, which are primarily located along the west coastline. A land exchange has been proposed for a small area within the Eagle Crest Road corridor.

### **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 either recreational or hunting uses by local users and residents. Snowmobilers are concerned that they will be prevented from using the area, and there is desire for a higher elevation access for them in the winter. Some local residents would like to see additional cabins built in the area or a hut/trail system built and implemented.

**(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 Douglas Island Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 proposed that the area be classified as a Congressionally Designated LUD II area and managed in an unroaded condition.

**(c) Public Input During Forest Plan Revision and Appeals:** Many letters received about the Juneau area opposed any timber harvest allocations, especially on Douglas Island. Commenters stated that this area is important locally for recreation, hunting, and food gathering and should be managed for semi-primitive recreation (at a minimum). Commenters also noted that Douglas Island is on the ferry and cruise ship routes and, therefore, an important tourist viewshed. Logging would not be appropriate in this area. The Goldbelt Corporation stated that how this area is managed influences management of their lands.

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.

The Shoreline Outfitter/Guide EIS, which is currently being prepared, may designate some sites as enclaves for future recreation use.

**(f) Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process:** SEACC recommended that this area, which is adjacent to the largest population center in Southeast Alaska, be designated LUD II. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Area 310 for permanent protection as LUD II

**(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses:** This area is located on Douglas Island and is not part of a larger unroaded landmass. The area is within City and Borough of Juneau jurisdiction and is surrounded by City and Borough of Juneau lands, Native Corporation lands, and the North Douglas Highway. The City and Borough-managed Eaglecrest Ski Area is located in the center of the roadless area.

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

| Community            | Air Miles | Water Miles |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Juneau (Pop. 30,711) | 5         | 10          |
| Stika (Pop. 8,835)   | 85        | 150         |
| Hoonah (Pop. 860)    | 30        | 60          |
| Angoon (Pop. 572)    | 50        | 80          |

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

**(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System:** Douglas Island is located directly across Gastineau Channel from the city of Juneau. The Douglas Island Roadless Area includes only a portion of this island but is completely within the boundaries of the City and Borough of Juneau. City and Borough of Juneau lands border the area on all sides except the west, which is bordered by private land. The North Douglas Highway borders the area to the north and east, extending along the shoreline from Mount Meek to Treadwell. There is a “doughnut hole” of City and Borough lands which comprise the Eagle Crest Ski area in the center of the island. These non-National Forest System lands are accessed via Fish Creek Road from the north. The ski area, access road, and associated corridor are excluded from the roadless area. The roadless area is generally characterized by rounded landforms and moderately significant geologic features. Elevations range from several hundred feet to over three thousand feet. Lower slopes are generally densely forested, but sometimes exhibit a combination of muskeg openings, brush, and scattered tree cover up to approximately 2,500 feet in elevation. Upper slopes and summits appear barren from a distance, but usually offer a variety of alpine vegetation as well as numerous rock outcroppings.

The majority of the area is natural appearing; however the area is heavily influenced by developments and activities in adjacent areas. The roadless area has moderate natural integrity and relatively high apparent naturalness. The opportunity for solitude is very low, and the opportunity for primitive recreation is low.

None of the landscape is considered distinctive from a scenery standpoint. A significant value of this roadless area is its relatively large size and mostly natural condition located basically in Juneau.

The roadless area includes about 5,295 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 759 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Douglas Island Roadless Area is classified as being in Northern Coast Range Biogeographic Province and makes up about 2 percent of the province. It is one of six inventoried roadless areas found in the province that

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collectively make up about 66 percent of the province. Portions of the Chuck River and Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wildernesses are within the province and make up about 23 percent of the province.

The Douglas Island 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 (96 percent) is within the Stephens Passage Volcanics Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 25 percent of the entire ecological subsection within the Tongass National Forest boundary. This ecological subsection is well represented in existing wilderness (58 percent) and other non-development LUDs (26 percent). The Stephens Passage Glaciomarine Terraces Ecological Subsection represents 4 percent of the Douglas Island Roadless Area. This portion of the roadless area represents 0.4 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which is well represented by existing wilderness and other non-development LUDs (36 and 31 percent, respectively) with an additional 5 percent in LUD II.

The Douglas Island Roadless Area was rated 17 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 93<sup>rd</sup> from the highest (along with four other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is considerable local and national support for management of the area in an unroaded condition, but little support for designation of the area as wilderness. Designation would create a wilderness with high public use and heavily influenced by ongoing developments and activities in adjacent areas. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be low.

### **V. Environmental Consequences**

The Douglas Island Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 is implemented. All of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs; 4 percent or 1,035 acres of the roadless area has a Mineral LUD overlay and there is an existing and a potential power transmission corridor in a Transportation and Utility System LUD overlay. The roadless area contains 2,609 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having a high or moderate potential for expanding mineral exploration or development of locatable minerals. In addition, the roadless area contains an estimated 6,490 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources, all of which are classified as having low potential. The recreation, mineral, and special use programs would continue. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area are protected under the Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 6, the entire area would be converted to Recommended LUD II. The ongoing recreation, mineral, and special use programs would continue similar to current conditions. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II.

Under Alternative 8, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness LUD. The ongoing recreational use, minerals, and special uses programs could be restricted. Mineral prospecting 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.

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| Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 310 (in acres) |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Land Use Designation   | Alt 1         | Alt 2         | Alt 3         | Alt 4         | Alt 5         | Alt 6         | Alt 7         | Alt 8         |
| Recommended Wilderness   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               | 25,008        |
| Wilderness   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Wilderness National Monument   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Nonwilderness National Monument  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Research Natural Area  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Special Interest Area  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Remote Recreation  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Enacted Municipal Watershed  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Old-growth Habitat   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Semi-remote Recreation   | 25,008        | 25,008        | 25,008        | 25,008        | 25,008        |               | 25,008        |               |
| Recommended LUD II   |               |               |               |               |               | 25,008        |               |               |
| LUD II   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Wild, Scenic, Recreational River   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Experimental Forest  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Scenic Viewshed  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Modified Landscape   |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Timber Production  |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>25,008</b> | <b>25,008</b> | <b>25,008</b> | <b>25,008</b> | <b>25,008</b> | <b>25,008</b> | <b>25,008</b> | <b>25,008</b> |
| Suitable Timber Lands  | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |