

INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Revilla (524)

ACRES (NFS): 30,941

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Inside Passage Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 17

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** The area is located on the southwest quarter of Revillagigedo Island (also known as Revilla Island). The cities of Ketchikan, with regularly scheduled air flights and on the Alaska Marine Highway, and Saxman border the area to the southwest. Non-National Forest System lands also border the area to the southeast and much of the north. Non-National Forest System lands generally separate the Revilla Roadless Area from the surrounding saltwater, with one exception in the northeast where the area is bordered by George Inlet. Areas developed for timber management border the area to the north and northwest. The area is surrounded by developments on all sides, the majority of which are on non-National Forest System lands. These roads provide access to the edge of this area. Several hiking trails lead into the area and allow relatively easy access by foot. Access may also be via boat or float plane on saltwater from George Inlet. Access into the interior is by foot or helicopter. There are no places suitable for landing wheeled airplanes.

(2) **History:** This area has a rich history in the development of southern Southeast Alaska. The city of Ketchikan and its surroundings form the southern boundary of this roadless area. Consequently, much of the Revilla Roadless Area has been influenced in the past, and continues to be influenced, by human activity. The Ward Creek drainage was developed by the combination of early 1900s mining, Civilian Conservation Corps public works projects during the 1930s, and hydropower development further east in the Swan Lake area. In recent times, the State and Native corporations have made extensive land selections in the headwaters of Ward Creek, along George and Carroll Inlets, and along the south boundary of this roadless area. The State selections are for the express purpose of future community development. Prehistoric and historic Alaska Native cultures used this roadless area. A number of prehistoric and historic sites have been identified through archeological surveys, oral history, and historic records.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The area is characterized by rugged terrain. Mountain slopes are steep, causing deeply incised drainages. Elevations rise to over 3,000 feet. There are about 4,929 acres of alpine and 706 acres of rock terrain in the area. The area also includes approximately 5 miles of saltwater shoreline and approximately 1,591 acres of lakes. The area contains two islands totaling 123 acres.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is part of the Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula Province. This province is characterized by a variable climate with wet conditions predominating on land nearest the outer coast, with much colder conditions near the mainland. Revilla Island has many exceptional estuaries and is influenced by human activities, none of them, however are in this roadless area.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Revilla Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247E). Within this area there are two ecological subsections (see table below). Except for a small portion in the northwest, the majority of the Revilla Roadless Area is composed of the Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics Ecological Subsection. The unique composition (low silica, high

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calcium, iron, and magnesium content) and relative impermeability of mafic rock have produced a precipitous landscape. Peaks up to 3,000 feet elevation arise from the coast. Exceptional plant communities are found on mafic soils, but the steep topography and soil chemistry are not favorable to forests (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Inside Passage Fjordlands	Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics	98%
	Traitors Cove Metasediments	2%

(b) Soils: These highly organic, low clay content soils are generally formed over bedrock and are typically about 40 inches deep.

(c) Vegetation: This area is typical Southeast Alaska coastal temperate rain forest. The forest is primarily western hemlock and Sitka spruce with a large cedar component, however, much of this roadless area is non-forested. There are 4,929 acres of alpine vegetation mapped in the Revilla Roadless Area. Less than 100 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 22,127 acres mapped as forestland, of which 10,340 acres or 47 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 5,539 acres or 54 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 1,420 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There is 88 acres of second growth in this area.

(d) Fish Resources: There is very little anadromous fish habitat in this area; however, some major fish producing streams, such as the White River and Ward Creek, are fed by waters from this area. Species that can be found in these waters include pink, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon; steelhead and cutthroat trout; and Dolly Varden char.

(e) Wildlife Resources: This area has populations of Sitka black-tailed deer, black bear, mountain goat, wolves, river otter, marten, mink, loon, bald eagle, trumpeter swans, Canada goose, and common waterfowl. Moose do not inhabit Revilla Island. Brown bears are not known to inhabit this area and are rarely found on Revilla Island (MacDonald and Cook, 1999).

(5) Management Direction and Current Uses: This roadless area was allocated to six different Land Use Designations (LUDs) in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These six LUDs are Timber Production, Scenic Viewshed, Semi-remote Recreation, Municipal Watershed, Special Interest Area (SIA), and Old-growth Habitat.

LUD	Acres
Timber Production	2,744
Scenic Viewshed	1,986
Semi-remote Recreation	9,273
Municipal Watershed	6,995
Special Interest Area	5,113
Old-growth Habitat	4,830

Approximately 15 percent of this roadless area was allocated to a development LUD (Timber Production, Scenic Viewshed). The Timber Production LUD was assigned to approximately 9 percent of the roadless area. Approximately 6 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Scenic Viewshed LUD, primarily located northwest of Mahoney Lake.

Approximately 85 percent of the roadless area was allocated to a non-development LUD (Semi-remote Recreation, Municipal Watershed, Special Interest Area, Old-growth Habitat). Approximately 30 percent of the area was allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation LUD. In the Ketchikan Lakes area, approximately 23 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Municipal Watershed LUD to serve the Ketchikan community. Approximately 17

percent of this roadless area was allocated to the Special Interest Area LUD. This SIA is known as the Ward Lake Recreation Area. The Old-growth Habitat LUD was assigned to approximately 16 percent of the roadless area.

There are three Forest Service campgrounds, several picnic areas, and a day use trail at Ward Lake, which borders the Revilla Roadless Area to the west, and restroom and day use site at Silvis Lake on the east side of the area. The Revilla Roadless Area includes a number of trails, the most prominent being the Deer Mountain Trail, which is designated as a National Recreation Trail. There are several new trails that are in various stages of construction within the area. The Dude Mt. Trail was completed in 2000, the Ward Creek Trail and Salvage Trail Extension was completed in 2002, the Minerva Mountain Trail (phase 1) is scheduled to be completed by 2003, The Achilles Mt. Trail is scheduled for 2004/2005, and there are two additional trails through private land where easements are being negotiated. This includes the Minerva Mt. Trail (Phase 2) and the Carlanna Lake Trail. These new trail projects join existing trails together and provide great opportunities to access alpine areas. The area also includes a Public Recreation Cabin (Deer Mountain Cabin). The Ward Lake drainage receives heavy summer recreation activity. Many locals use this area for hiking and camping. Some winter recreation opportunities exist. When snow conditions allow, people ice skate, snowmobile, snowboard and cross-country ski. Snowmobiling along the mountain ridges is becoming very popular. Parts of this roadless area are used by off-road vehicles during the winter for recreation and trapping. One outfitter/guide operated helicopter landing tours in this area in 2000, reporting a total of 1,205 service days. Some subsistence use occurs in the area. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) indicated that two of the four VCUs partially located within this area are subsistence use areas with a high sensitivity to disturbance. Several Recreation Events (special running events, club events) take place within this area. There is one recreation residence on Jag Lake. There are several outfitter/guide operators who have proposed additional use on trails within this roadless area.

This roadless area is the source of Ketchikan's domestic water supply. The Beaver Falls hydropower plant is located outside the roadless area at George Inlet, the dam itself is located within the roadless area. Ketchikan Lakes has an existing dam, hydropower facility and road. Three hydroelectric power related facilities are proposed for this area at Connell Lake, Whitman Lake, and Upper Mahoney Lake. The Upper Mahoney Lake project has been licensed by the FERC. The Mahoney Lake license, P-11393, allows for the construction of ROW for electrical transmission line to connect the Mahoney Lake project to the Beaver Falls project.

(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness): This area appears mostly natural, but does have evidence of human modification. These modifications include the recreation cabin, trail system, hydroelectric power facilities, recreation trails, and past mining activity. The area's close proximity to Ketchikan, its history of mineral exploration, its high recreation use, the external influences of roads and logging on adjacent lands, and other activities, all negatively affect the apparent naturalness of the area. However, the overall area displays natural characteristics when viewed from nearby Visual Priority Routes or Use Areas and forms a natural backdrop to Ketchikan. The cabin, trails, hydroelectric power facilities, and the community of Ketchikan and other developments in adjacent areas are visible from some locations in the area and affect the apparent naturalness of the area.

(7) Surroundings (External Influences): The entire southern boundary of this roadless area is influenced by the development associated with Ketchikan. There are also extensive over flights by fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters flying out of Ketchikan. State and private lands north of Ketchikan and along George Inlet form much of the boundary of this roadless area. These private lands are rapidly being developed.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: The main attraction of this area is its close proximity and accessibility to Ketchikan. It is the only National Forest System land area that is accessible by road from Ketchikan. The trail system is of interest because people can hike from Ketchikan to the alpine zone or take short day hikes at their leisure. Note, however, that the Ketchikan Lakes watershed is closed to public entry to protect the water supply.

This area includes part of the Ward Lake Recreation Area. This area includes all National Forest System lands that drain into the Ward Creek/Ward Lake watershed. This is a recreation Special Interest Area. Recreation use levels in the Ward Lake Area were estimated at 25,000 recreation visitor days at the time of the Forest Plan revision, with use expected to increase. This area contains 11 inventoried recreation places, which cover 19,832 acres, or 64 percent of

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the roadless area. There are campgrounds and many hiking trails within this roadless area and plans to build several more.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: The boundaries of this roadless area changed significantly between 1989 and 2003. In 1989, the area included a large roadless area located northwest, across Ward Lake Road, from the 2003 Revilla Roadless Area. The 1989 area also included another large area of land located east of George Inlet, as well as a third area located east of Carroll Inlet. These second two areas were both clearly separated from the area that comprises the 2003 Revilla Roadless Area by waterways, non-National Forest System lands, and, in the case of the third area, an area of forest roads and associated developments. The extent of the change in this area between 1989 and 2003 is illustrated by the area's decrease in size from 161,263 acres in 1989 to 30,941 acres in 2003. The majority of the areas that were formerly part of the Revilla Roadless Area are now part of the North Revilla Roadless Area (#526).

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: The cabin, trails, hydroelectric power facilities, and past mining activities within the area and the logging and urban development in adjacent areas are visible from some locations in the area and affect the apparent naturalness of the area. The area provides moderate natural integrity and high apparent naturalness.

(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: There is moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation within the area. All along the roadless area's southern edge, the noise of the Ketchikan area can be heard. There are extensive overflights by fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters flying out of Ketchikan.

The Revilla Roadless Area includes a number of trails, the most prominent being the Deer Mountain Trail, which is designated as a National Recreation Trail. The area also includes a Public Recreation Cabin (Deer Mountain Cabin). The Ward Lake Recreation Area, a Special Interest Area, receives heavy summer recreation activity and some winter recreation. It includes three campgrounds, several picnic areas, and several trails. Parts of this roadless area are used by snowmachines during the winter for recreation and trapping. One outfitter/guide operated helicopter landing tours in the area in 2000, reporting a total of 1,205 service days.

Due to the extensive human use of much of the area, the external influences of timber harvest on adjacent lands, the recreation cabin, existing trail system, hydroelectric power facilities, and other activities, the opportunities for primitive recreation are limited.

There are many recreation attractions in this area but most are in a semi-primitive setting. 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)	7,254	23%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	17,664	57%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	1,523	5%
Roaded Natural (RN)	2,153	7%
Roaded Motorized (RM)	1,909	6%
Rural (R)	429	1%

The area contains 11 inventoried recreation places, which cover 19,832 acres, or 64 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
P	1	7,254
SPNM	6	10,819
SPM	5	260
RN	2	959
RM	6	540
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.

(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 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 Revilla 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 17. This rating is reflective of the many ongoing activities and developments near and within the roadless area by residents and visitors of Ketchikan.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The Revilla Roadless Area is not part of a larger contiguous roadless area. The area is surrounded by roads on all sides, the majority of which are on non-National Forest System lands.

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) listed VCU 748, along George Inlet and only partially in the area as a primary salmon and sportfish producer. All the other VCUs were listed as secondary salmon producers.

There is very little anadromous fish habitat in this area; however, some major fish producing streams, such as the White River and Ward Creek are fed by waters from this area. Species that can be found in these waters include pink, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon; steelhead and cutthroat trout; and Dolly Varden char.

The White River has an estimated annual peak escapement of 82,800 pink salmon, and good coho smolt production capability. Ward Creek and Lake support all salmon species except chinook. Rainbow, steelhead, cutthroat, and eastern brook trout and Dolly Varden char are also present. The river system has an annual steelhead run of approximately 200 adult fish (USDA Forest Service, 1997). ADF&G surveys between 1998 and 2001 indicate that average peak escapement for Ward Creek was 9,900 pink and 500 coho salmon. The ADF&G lists Ward Creek among the 19 “high quality” watersheds in Southeast Alaska for fisheries values. Herring Cove and Beaver Falls Creeks have fairly short stretches of anadromous fish habitat supporting coho, pink, and chum salmon.

(b) Wildlife Resources: This area has populations of Sitka black-tailed deer, black bear, mountain goat, wolves, river otter, marten, mink, loon, bald eagle, Canada goose, and common waterfowl. Trumpeter swans use the major saltwater inlets and freshwater lakes as resting areas during their migration

Based on harvest data compiled from 1985 to 1995, one of the VCUs partially located in this area (VCU 748 along George Inlet) was ranked in the top 25 percent of black bear harvest areas on the Tongass (ADF&G, 1998).

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(c) Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species: The only federally listed threatened and 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. Four Forest Service Region 10 Sensitive Species are suspected or known to occur within the area: the trumpeter swan, osprey, Peale's peregrine falcon, and the Queen Charlotte goshawk. Trumpeter swans nest in the lowlands on small lakes and along major rivers and winter in ice-free areas throughout the Tongass. Present from April through September, ospreys are rare in southeast Alaska where they reach the northern extent of their nesting range. Feeding almost exclusively on fish, ospreys typically nest in large snags near lakes or the coast where fish are abundant. 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 Ketchikan Ranger District.

(d) Karst, Cave, and Other Geologic Resources: There are 97 acres, or less than one percent, of low vulnerability karst or cave resources mapped in this roadless area. There are no glaciers or unique geologic features.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: There are no known features of ecologic, geologic, scientific, or cultural significance. There are no Research Natural Areas in this roadless area. The area is adjacent to the cities of Ketchikan and Saxman and readily accessible to school-age children.

(6) Scenic Values: This roadless area is part of the Coastal Hills visual character type which is characterized by moderately steep landforms, predominantly rounded summits, elevations up to 4,500 feet, and flat-floored, U-shaped valleys. A variety of island groups are also common. The Revilla Roadless Area possesses some of the most rugged and diverse terrain in the character type.

Overall, the area displays natural characteristics when viewed from nearby Visual Priority Routes or Use Areas and forms a natural backdrop to Ketchikan. The cabin, trails, hydroelectric power facilities, and past mining activities within the area and the logging and urban development in adjacent areas are visible from some locations in the area and affect the apparent naturalness of the area. Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan that are within or adjacent to the area, include: Tongass Narrows (Alaska Marine Highway); George Inlet and Tongass Narrows (Saltwater Use Areas); Deer Mountain Cabin (Public Recreation Cabin); Ketchikan (Community); the mountain ranges and alpine area between Ketchikan, Ward Lake-Harriet Hunt Lake Road, and George Inlet (Dispersed Recreation Areas); Connell Lake Hiking Trail, Ward Lake Nature Trail, Silvis Lake Hiking Trail, and Deer Mountain Hiking Trail (Hiking Trails); and the new Dude Mt. Trail, Ward Creek Trail and Salvage Trail Extension, Minerva Mountain Trail (phase 1), Achilles Mt. Trail and the proposed Minerva Mt. Trail (Phase 2), and the Carlanna Lake Trail.

About 69 percent of the roadless area was inventoried as Variety Class A and possesses a level of landscape diversity that is unique for the character type. These Class A landscapes are primarily centered around the rugged terrain behind Ketchikan from Deer Mountain north to the White River drainage and George Inlet. This area exhibits diverse alpine terrain, vegetative patterns, rock formations, and many lake basins and waterfalls. Approximately 31 percent was rated as Variety Class B and possesses landscape diversity common for the character type.

About 95 percent of this area is in a Type I Existing Visual Condition where the natural landscape has remained unaltered by human activity. The remaining 4 percent is split evenly between EVC II, where the area appears to be untouched by human activity and EVC III, where the average person noticed changes in the landscape.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: This area has a rich history in the development of southern Southeast Alaska. The city of Ketchikan and its surroundings form the southern boundary of this roadless area. Consequently, much of the Revilla Roadless Area has been influenced in the past, and continues to be influenced, by human activity. The Ward Creek drainage was developed by the combination of early 1900s mining, Civilian Conservation Corps public works projects during the 1930s, and in support of hydropower development further east in the Swan Lake area. In recent times, the State and Native corporations have made extensive land selections in the headwaters of Ward Creek, along George and Carroll Inlets, and along the south boundary of this roadless area. The

State selections are for the express purpose of future community development. Prehistoric and historic Alaska Native cultures used the roadless area.

There are three Forest Service campgrounds, several picnic areas, and a day use trail at Ward Lake, which borders the Revilla Roadless Area to the west. The Revilla Roadless Area has a number of trails, the most prominent being the Deer Mountain Trail, which is designated as a National Recreation Trail. The area includes a Public Recreation Cabin (Deer Mountain Cabin). The Ward Lake drainage receives heavy winter recreation activity. Parts of this roadless area are used by snowmachines during the winter for recreation and trapping. One outfitter/guide operated helicopter landing tours in this area in 2000, reporting a total of 1,205 service days. Based on harvest data compiled from 1985 to 1995, one of the VCUs partially located in this area (VCU 748) was ranked in the top 25 percent of black bear harvest areas on the Tongass by VCU (ADF&G, 1998).

A small amount of subsistence use occurs in the area. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment listed two of the four VCUs partially located within this area (748 and 752 along George Inlet) among the VCUs with the highest sensitivity to disturbance of subsistence use areas. However, none of the VCUs in this area were included among the VCUs with the highest, second, or third most important community use values (ADF&G, 1998).

(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: The area is bordered to the southeast, southwest, and north (partially) by non-National Forest System lands. These boundaries are irregularly shaped and do not conform to natural topographic features. Given this and the area's proximity to Ketchikan, these boundaries would be difficult to define and manage. Parts of this roadless area are used by snowmachines during the winter for recreation and trapping. Prohibiting these uses would be very controversial. As would prohibiting current use by helicopter providers. Management as wilderness would be difficult.

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

(1) Recreation, including Tourism Potential: This roadless area has high potential for development of trails and other recreation opportunities which can accommodate the high number of potential users associated with Ketchikan.

This area includes part of Ward Lake Special Interest Area. This area includes all National Forest System lands that drain into the Ward Creek/Ward Lake watershed. This is a recreation Special Interest Area. Recreation use levels in the Ward Lake Area were estimated at 25,000 recreation visitor days at the time of the Forest Plan revision, with use expected to increase.

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

(3) Fish Resources: There is some potential for fish habitat improvement on streams within the area. However, the best opportunities are now within adjacent State- and private lands. There is a desire by ADF&G to improve access to and the quality of freshwater fishing in this roadless area. Information from the Tongass Land Management Plan Revision EIS (USDA Forest Service, 1997) indicates that there are several existing and planned fisheries enhancement projects for the Ward Creek and Lake system, which borders the Revilla Roadless Area to the west. These projects include placement of large woody debris and an on-going stocking program by ADF&G.

(4) Wildlife Resources: There are no wildlife enhancement projects planned for this area.

(5) Timber Resources: There are 10,340 acres mapped as productive old growth and 88 acres mapped as second growth due to harvest in the roadless area. Of these acres, 4,381 acres are categorized as tentatively suitable for timber production. Based on the Forest Plan LUDs assigned to this area (and estimated falldown and scheduling reduction factors), 585 acres or 2 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 233 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 20 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

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(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:** There are mining claims located on Mahoney Mountain, though the area has low potential for mineral extraction. The USGS estimates that the undiscovered mineral resource potential in this area might be less than \$4,000 per acre.

This area contains 3,212 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having low potential for experiencing mineral exploration and development of locatable minerals (Coldwell, 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991). In addition, this area contains an estimated 30,941 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991); these acres are considered to have low and very low potential for development.

(8) **Transportation and Utilities:** There are transportation and utility projects proposed for this area. Mahoney Lakes hydro facility would have a powerline along the coast from Mahoney Lake to Beaver Falls. The Mahoney Lakes Hydro Project FERC #P11393, has been licensed and would use and occupy 114 acres of this area.

Whitman Lakes Hydro Project is being pursued by Ketchikan Public Utilities at this time, FERC #11841. This project does not propose building roads on NFS lands.

(9) **Water Availability and Use:** Approximately 23 percent of the area was allocated to the Municipal Watershed LUD to service Ketchikan. The existing Ketchikan Lakes and Beaver Falls hydropower plants are located within this roadless area. There are also three new hydropower facilities proposed for this roadless area. These facilities are proposed for Connell Lake, Whitman Lake, and Upper Mahoney Lake.

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

(11) **Land Use Authorizations:** Special Use Permits include hydropower related permits at Ketchikan Lakes and Silvis Lakes, a permit for about 750 feet of private road to Cape Fox Corporation near Mahoney Lake. Mahoney Lakes hydro project has obtained FERC licenses and will construct on approximately 114 acres of NFS Land (85.6 acres for occupancy and 28.4 acres for transmission ROW).

(12) **Land Status:** All land within the roadless area is part of the National Forest System. The area is, however, bordered to the southeast, southwest, and north (partially) by non-National Forest System lands. These boundaries are irregularly shaped and do not conform to natural topographic features. Most of the roadless area in the north and east are encumbered.

IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

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

(a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** The area receives significant local use for recreation.

(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 Revilla Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 identified the area as a proposed LUD II addition. It also proposed that the road corridor leading to the Silvis Lakes be designated a restoration area. This corridor extends into but is not part of the Revilla Roadless Area.

(c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revision and Appeals:** This area was specifically addressed in public input received during the Forest Plan revision. Several commenters (including the Tongass Conservation Society) asked for the protection of natural values, especially roadless recreation in several areas including George Inlet. Others felt that better road systems on Revilla Island would benefit Ketchikan residents by creating more recreation opportunities. A petition signed by over 700 Ketchikan residents recommended that existing recreation opportunities on lands near Ketchikan be increased by expanding the existing road system to connect with existing roads in George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne

Arm. A few other commenters opposed expansion of the road system. Timber industry representatives wanted timber harvest emphasized in certain areas or throughout the island.

The appeal filed by Susan Walsh states that the Forest Service has failed to consider the cumulative impacts resulting from clearcutting on private and public lands in the Ketchikan area. Ketchikan relies heavily on tourism and fishing along with timber as an economic base. “Continued harvest will likely discourage tourists from visiting this area.”

(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: Part of the Revilla Roadless Area was in the project area for the Shelter Cove Final EIS (USDA Forest Service, 1991). The Proposed Action identified in this document did not include harvest in the Revilla Roadless Area. Comments on this EIS supported roaded recreation in the Shelter Cove project area and a tie-through road from Ketchikan to North Revilla Island.

(f) Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process: SEACC recommended this area for LUD II designation. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Area 524 for permanent protection as LUD II.

Some individuals recommended the area between Moser Bay and Naha for protection.

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: The Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness is located approximately 13 miles east of the Revilla Roadless Area. The South Prince of Wales Wilderness is located approximately 30 miles to the west.

The North Revilla Roadless Area (#526) is located north and west of the area. The two areas are separated by Ward Lake Road and a relatively narrow area of timber harvest units at their closest point. The South Revilla Roadless Area (#523) and the Carroll Roadless Area (#535) are located directly east across George Inlet from the area. The Gravina Roadless Area (#522) is located to the west.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	225	245
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	0	10
Wrangell (Pop.2,308)	75	100
Petersburg (Pop. 3,324)	110	125

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The Revilla Roadless Area is located on the southwest quarter of Revillagigedo Island (also known as Revilla Island). The cities of Ketchikan and Saxman border the area to the southwest. Non-National Forest System lands also border the area to the southeast and much of the north. Non-National Forest System lands generally separate the Revilla Roadless Area from the surrounding saltwater, with one exception in the northeast where the area is bordered by George Inlet. Areas developed for timber management border the area to the north and northwest. The area is surrounded by developments on all sides, the majority of which are on non-National Forest System lands. The Revilla Roadless Area is characterized by rugged terrain. Mountain slopes are steep, causing deeply incised drainages. Elevations rise to over 3,000 feet.

The area itself is mostly unmodified and natural appearing. However, it is heavily influenced by ongoing developments and activities on all sides. The roadless area has moderate natural integrity and high apparent naturalness. The opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation is moderate.

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The Revilla Roadless Area has moderate to high scenic quality; approximately 69 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive from a scenery perspective. The area has rich historic values, and includes the Ward Lake Special Interest Area, which emphasizes recreational uses.

The roadless area includes about 5,539 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, approximately 1,420 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Revilla Roadless Area is classified as being in the Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula Biogeographic Province and makes up about 2 percent of the province. It is one of 12 inventoried roadless areas found within the province which make up about 60 percent of the province. Part of the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness is located in this province and makes up about 18 percent of the province. The province also includes two Congressionally designated LUD II areas (Naha and Anan) which make up about 5 percent of the province.

The Revilla Roadless Area lies completely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section and represents 2 percent of the ecological section. Approximately 20 percent of the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section is in existing wilderness, 2 percent is in existing LUD II, and 30 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs.

The vast majority (98 percent) of the roadless area is in the Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics Ecological Subsection; this portion represents 62 percent of the entire ecological subsection, none of which is in existing wilderness or LUD II, but 46 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs. The remaining 2 percent of the roadless area is in the Traitors Cove Metasediments Ecological Subsection; this portion represents 0.2 percent of the entire ecological subsection, 10 percent of which is protected in existing LUD II and 26 percent in other existing non-development LUDs.

The Revilla 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 93rd from the highest (along with four other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is both local and national support for managing this area in an unroaded condition, but little support for designation of this area as wilderness. Designation would create a wilderness with very high public use including the Ward Lake Special Interest Area. Nearly all the larger lakes in the roadless area are used for hydroelectric or municipal water. 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 Revilla Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 is implemented. Approximately 85 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur within the remaining 15 percent of the roadless area. The land in the development LUDs includes an estimated 585 acres that are suitable for timber production (1 percent of the suitable acres on the Ketchikan/Misty Fjords Ranger District). Approximately 20 of the suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. This area contains approximately 3,212 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having low potential for experiencing mineral exploration and development of locatable minerals. In addition, this area contains an estimated 30,941 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources; these acres are considered to have low and very low potential for development. The recreation, minerals, and special use programs would continue. Timber harvest planning in the area would continue. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area are mostly protected by the Forest Plan. The exception is the ongoing developments in the northeastern portion of the roadless area that are allowed by the Forest Plan. The historic and scenic values are protected by the Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 6, the entire area would be converted to Recommended LUD II. The ongoing recreation, special uses, and minerals programs would continue similar to current conditions. No timber harvest would be allowed. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the historic and scenic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II.

Appendix C

Under Alternative 8, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness LUD. No timber harvest would be allowed. The ongoing recreational use, special uses, and mineral management 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, including the historic and scenic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 524 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness								30,941
Wilderness								
Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.								
Wilderness National Monument								
Non-wilderness National Monument								
Research Natural Area								
Special Interest Area	5,113	5,113	5,113	5,113	5,113		5,113	
Remote Recreation								
Enacted Municipal Watershed	6,995	6,995	6,995	6,995	6,995		6,995	
Old-growth Habitat	4,830	4,830	4,830	4,830	4,830		4,830	
Semi-remote Recreation	9,273	9,273	9,273	9,273	9,273		9,273	
Recommended LUD II						30,941		
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	1,986	1,986	1,986	1,986	1,986		1,986	
Modified Landscape								
Timber production	2,744	2,744	2,744	2,744	2,744		2,744	
TOTAL	30,941	30,941	30,941	30,941	30,941	30,941	30,941	30,941
Suitable Timber Lands	585	585	585	585	585	0	585	0