

Appendix C

INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Cleveland (528)

ACRES (NFS): 191,477

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Inside Passage Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 25

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** The area is located on the southern end of Cleveland Peninsula on the mainland. Clarence Strait, Behm Canal, and Ernest Sound generally border the area to the south, east, and west, respectively. Several areas of non-National Forest System lands also border the area to the west. The area is bordered to the north by the Frosty (#210) and North Cleveland (#529) Roadless Areas. The city of Ketchikan is located approximately 15 miles southeast of the area. The city of Thorne Bay is located about 10 miles to the west across Clarence Strait. Ketchikan is on the Alaska Marine Highway and has regularly scheduled air service.

Access is by boat or floatplane through the major bays. This part of the peninsula is the major land area between Revillagigedo (Revilla) Island and Prince of Wales Island. A trail extends from Myers Chuck that provides access to some of the area. Access into the interior is by foot or helicopter. There are no places suitable for landing wheeled airplanes.

(2) **History:** A large number of prehistoric and historical sites have been identified through archeological surveys and historical documents. Early settler history in this area centers on the fishing industry. The community of Meyers Chuck on the west shore of the area was founded as a base for the fishing fleet and a cannery. Other cannery sites were located on the east side of the Cleveland Peninsula. A fox farm was located on Square Island within Spacious Bay. During the early 1900's there was extensive exploration for valuable minerals in Helm Bay resulting in several patented claims. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified commercial fish traps along the shorelines of this roadless area, as well as a former camp on Union Bay. They also noted that hunting/trapping and fishing for halibut or king salmon took place in the general vicinity of Union Bay and Vixen Inlet. Helm Bay is the traditional origin place of the Kiksudi clans from Wrangell and Sitka. Port Stewart is the traditional origin place of the Gonoxaidi clan of the Stikinkwan.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** This roadless area is located on the Cleveland Peninsula, which extends south from the mainland. The area is characterized by a combination of gently rolling topography to moderately rugged mountains. Elevations range from sea level to just over 3,000 feet. Many of the drainages are broad, flat areas. There are a number of streams and lakes within the area.

The area includes 178 miles of shoreline on saltwater, approximately 633 acres of alpine tundra, and 687 acres classified as rock. The area also includes 1,786 acres of lakes and 142 islands and islets (7 of which are greater than 10 acres) totaling 275 acres of islands.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is in the Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula Biogeographic Province. This area has a variable climate with warm and wet conditions predominating on the land on the outer coast and much cooler conditions near the mainland.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Cleveland Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247E). Within this area there are five ecological subsections (see table below). The Traitors Cove Metasediments Ecological Subsection, composed mostly of glacially carved sedimentary rock, covers much of the northeastern portion of the Cleveland Roadless Area (34%). Steep slopes give way to deeply incised valleys. Landslides are a common occurrence. Productive hemlock and Sitka spruce forests grow on well-drained soils on slopes. Forested wetlands are found in poorly drained soils along the valley floors. The Clarence Strait Volcanics Ecological Subsection is the other subsection of significant areal extent (31%), consisting of volcanic peaks bordering the east side of Clarence Strait in a southwesterly or northeasterly direction. Glaciers have smoothed the topography and left a legacy of broad valleys, steep slopes, alpine lakes, hanging valleys, and coastal lowlands. Plant cover is dependent on soil permeability and much of the Clarence Strait Volcanics Ecological Subsection is not forested. Productive hemlock or hemlock-spruce forests are limited to well-drained slopes. The Vixen Inlet Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection is found in the northwest portion of the Cleveland Roadless Area (14% of roadless area). Glacially deposited till, covered with poorly drained soils, forms a low isthmus across the Cleveland Peninsula. Productive forests are restricted to more porous soils on slopes and near incised streams. Found along the eastern edge of the roadless area, the Zimovia Strait Complex Ecological Subsection is typified by broad glacial valleys and rounded hills (11% of roadless area). Roughly half of the subsection is productive hemlock forest which may include cedar or Sitka spruce. Stratified sedimentary rock and volcanic intrusions are found beneath mineral soils. The remainder of the Cleveland Roadless Area, between Union Bay and Vixen Inlet, is composed of the Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics Ecological Subsection (10% of roadless area). The unique composition (low silica, high 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	Traitors Cove Metasediments	34%
	Clarence Strait Volcanics	31%
	Vixen Inlet Till Lowlands	14%
	Zimovia Strait Complex	11%
	Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics	10%

(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. There are numerous interspersed areas of the muskeg. Approximately 4,321 acres of muskeg are mapped for the area; however, due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult. Approximately 633 acres of alpine vegetation are mapped for the area.

There are approximately 182,596 acres mapped as forest land, of which 98,657 acres or 54 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 45,439 acres or 46 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 5,070 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The area also includes 1,215 acres of second growth where beach timber harvest has occurred in the past.

(d) Fish Resources: Streams in the area provide habitat for pink, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon, as well as steelhead, resident cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden char. On the Cleveland Peninsula, the majority of salmonid habitat and production occurs in the Vixen, Port Stewart, Black Bear, and Wasta watersheds.

(e) Wildlife Resources: This area has a population of Sitka black-tailed deer, black bear, wolves, otter, marten, mink, loons, and common waterfowl. There is also a small population of brown bear. Mountain goats have been reported throughout this area. A cougar was observed in Meyers Chuck in 1998.

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Marbled murrelets, northern goshawks, American Peregrine falcon, and harlequin ducks may be found in this roadless area. Trumpeter swans use the major saltwater inlets and freshwater lakes as resting areas during their migrations. Moose do not inhabit this area.

(5) Management Direction and Current Uses: This roadless area was allocated to seven Land Use Designations (LUDs) in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These seven LUDs are Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Minerals, Transportation and Utility System (TUS), Semi-remote Recreation, Old-growth Habitat, and Remote Recreation. Both the TUS and Minerals LUDs are secondary LUDs, which overlay the other land uses.

LUD	Acres
Timber Production	63,329
Modified Landscape	13,989
Minerals*	17,462
Transportation and Utility System	NA
Semi-remote Recreation	75,196
Old-growth Habitat	38,938
Remote Recreation	25

* Note that acres in the Minerals LUD are included in the Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Old-growth Habitat, and Semi-remote Recreation LUD acres.

Approximately 40 percent of this area (not including the LUD overlays) was allocated to a development LUD (Timber Production, Modified Landscape). Approximately 33 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Timber Production LUD. The Modified Landscape LUD was assigned to approximately 7 percent of the roadless area. Approximately 9 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Minerals LUD overlay, primarily in the Mt. Burnett area. A potential power transmission corridor travels through this roadless area, which is a part of the Transportation and Utility System LUD overlay.

Most of this roadless area, approximately 60 percent, was allocated to a non-development LUD (Semi-remote Recreation, Old-growth Habitat, Remote Recreation). Approximately 39 percent of this roadless area was allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation LUD. Small islands associated with the roadless area are allocated to Semi-remote Recreation LUD as well. In the Behm Canal, Wasta Creek, and Upper Cleveland Peninsula areas, approximately 20 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Old-growth Habitat LUD.

Most of the Cleveland Roadless Area was historically included in the contingency area for the Ketchikan Pulp Company (KPC) Long-term Timber Sale. The Emerald Bay Timber Sale FEIS (USDA Forest Service, 2001) will harvest approximately 11 million board feet (MMBF) from 625 acres of National Forest System lands located within the Cleveland Roadless Area. This would require 3.8 miles of low-impact temporary road construction. Logs would be transferred to a new log transfer facility in Emerald Bay. The timber would be sold in one sale, originally scheduled to begin in 2001. This proposed timber sale is identified in the Forest Service's 10-Year Action Plan and scheduled for 2003.

This area contains one tract of mineral exploration activity at Union Bay. The 17,462-acre Union Bay tract currently has ongoing iron exploration. Helm Bay has a 7,204 acre abandoned mining tract. There are rights-of-way for a waterline and a powerline, an electronics site, and several Coast Guard reservations for navigation aids in this roadless area.

The outstanding saltwater fishing in the major bays is a major attraction to this area. Other recreation activities pursued in the area include boating, hiking, and camping. There are three Public Recreation Cabins (Rainbow Lake, Helm Creek, and Helm Bay) located in the area. The cabins located within Helm Bay also have mooring buoys associated with them. One freshwater fishing outfitter/guide operated in the area for 3 service days in 2000. One big game outfitter/guide operated in the area for two goat hunts in 2000. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) indicated that eight of the VCU's located within this area are subsistence use areas with a high sensitivity to disturbance. Residents of Myers Chuck use this area for subsistence use.

(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness): The Cleveland Roadless Area has remained generally unaltered by human activity, with the exception of several areas where beach logging has occurred on the east side of the area and mining activity in Helm Bay. Timber harvest using a helicopter has occurred in the Helm Bay area on patented mining claims. The other exceptions include the three Public Recreation Cabins and hiking trail located in the area. The area also includes an electronics site. The area generally displays natural characteristics when viewed from nearby water travel routes and when inside the area.

(7) Surroundings (External Influences): There are few external influences in this roadless area. The most significant influence is a Ketchikan Pulp Company-owned parcel of land in the Granite Creek and Helm Bay drainages surrounded by the roadless area. This parcel (previous patented mining claim) of land was logged in 1998 by KPC utilizing helicopter loggings systems. No roads were built to harvest this timber. Sealaska Native Cooperation owns land in the southwest peninsula, which they manage for timber harvest. The settlement of Meyers Chuck, located on State and private land, borders part of the area to the west. Residents of and visitors to Meyers Chuck venture into the roadless area. The State of Alaska owns lands in southern portion of Spacious Bay and Square Island as well as land around Union Bay and Vixen Harbor.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: The main attraction to the area is the outstanding saltwater fishing in the major bays. Other areas of special interest are the large tidal flats at the ends of the bays, and the upland lakes between Helm Bay and Clarence Strait. The area contains 28 inventoried recreation places, which cover 91,038 acres, or 48 percent of the roadless area.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: The boundaries of this roadless area did not change significantly between 1989 and 2003.

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: The area is largely unmodified and is generally not fragmented by land ownership or land use patterns. Because it is surrounded by large saltwater passages or other large roadless areas, it has a high degree of natural integrity. Overall, the area has very high natural integrity and apparent naturalness and is suitable for wilderness classification.

(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: There is very high to outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation in the area. With the exception of the Helm Bay, Myers Chuck, Port Stewart, and Smugglers Cove areas, a person is not likely to encounter other people when boating, hiking, or camping within this roadless area. One freshwater fishing outfitter/guide operated in the area for 3 service days in 2000. One big game outfitter/guide operated in the area for 2 goat hunts in 2000. There are three Public Recreation Cabins (Rainbow Lake, Helm Creek, and Helm Bay) located in the area, as well as a hiking trail.

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

ROS Class	Acres	Percent of Total ROS
Primitive (P)	171,694	90%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	2	0%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	18,327	10%
Roaded Natural (RN)	1,128	1%
Roaded (R)	261	0%

The area contains 28 inventoried recreation places, which cover 91,038 acres, or 48 percent of the roadless area.

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ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
P	19	72,537
SPNM	0	0
SPM	8	17,113
RN	1	1,128
R	2	261

* 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 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).

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 Cleveland Roadless Area Roadless Area was 23 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 25. This rating is more reflective of the large size of the area and its ability to absorb the various developments and activities associated with the area.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The Cleveland Roadless Area is part of a much larger roadless land area that includes all of Cleveland Peninsula through the Misty-Fiord National Monument Wilderness Area and north through the Stikine Leconte Wilderness Area. The other eight roadless areas that comprise this larger area are Frosty (#210), North Cleveland (#529), Anan (#209), Bradfield (#208), Harding (#207), Cone (#206), Aaron (#205), and Madan (#204).

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) identified two VCUs (VCU 709 by Union Bay and 722 by Spacious Bay) as primary salmon producers. The rest of the VCUs are listed as secondary salmon producers. No VCUs are listed as primary sport fish producers (ADF&G, 1998).

Streams in the area provide habitat for pink, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon, as well as steelhead, resident cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden char. On the Cleveland Peninsula, the majority of salmonid habitat and production occurs in the Vixen, Port Stewart, Black Bear, and Wasta watersheds (Emerald Bay EIS, USDA Forest Service, 2000). The Anadromous Waters Catalogue (ADF&G, 2000) also identified Meyers Stream and Cannery, Falls, and Granite Creeks as fish-bearing streams in this area. Black Bear Creek receives an estimated annual peak escapement of 61,400 pink salmon, while Wasta Creek receives an estimated 52,600 pink salmon. Wasta Creek also has good coho salmon smolt production capability (ADF&G, 1998).

(b) Wildlife Resources: This area has a high population of Sitka black-tailed deer, black bear, wolves, otter, marten, mink, loons, and common waterfowl. There is also a population of brown bears on the island and mountain goats have been reported throughout this area. A cougar was observed in Meyers Chuck in 1998. Marbled murrelets, northern goshawks, and harlequin ducks may be found here. The American Peregrine falcon, a federally listed threatened species, may migrate through the area. Trumpeter swans use the major saltwater inlets and freshwater lakes as resting areas during their migrations. Moose do not inhabit this area.

(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: The mapped karst resources encompass approximately 22 acres or far less than one percent of the roadless area. There are no known karst or cave resources in this roadless area. There are no glaciers or unique geologic features in this area.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: There are no known features of ecologic, geologic, scientific, or cultural significance. There are no existing or proposed Research Natural Areas in this roadless area. The city of Ketchikan is located approximately 15 miles southeast of the area.

(6) Scenic Values: This 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. This roadless area is very representative of this character type, particularly because of the rolling, but steep terrain and wide valleys.

The Cleveland Roadless Area has remained generally unaltered by human activity, with the exception of several areas where beach logging has occurred on the east side of the area and the harvest of timber from Granite Creek located on KPC land. Historic mining has taken place in Union Bay and Helm Bay. Other exceptions include the three Public Recreation Cabins, mooring buoys, dispersed recreation sites and hiking trail located in the area. The area also includes an electronics site. The area generally displays natural characteristics when viewed from nearby water travel routes and when inside the area. Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan, that are within or adjacent to the area, include: Clarence Strait (Alaska Marine Highway and Tour Ship Route); Spacious Bay, Vixen Inlet, Union Bay, Helm Bay, Port Stewart, Smugglers Cove, Bond Bay, and west Behm Canal (Saltwater Use Areas); Meyers Chuck (Community); Vixen Harbor (Boat Anchorage); Rainbow Lake, Helm Lake, and Helm Bay (Public Recreation Cabins); and Meyers Chuck Trail (Hiking Trail).

Most of this area (approximately 84 percent) is rated a Variety Class B and possesses a degree of landscape diversity that is common to the character type. About 6 percent of the area is rated as Variety Class A (possesses landscape diversity that is unique for the character type). This Variety Class applies to the more scenic landscapes found in the rugged terrain around Rainbow Lake, and in the area around Mount Burnett and Vixen Harbor. About 10 percent of the area is rated Variety Class C, which possesses a low degree of landscape diversity.

Approximately 98 percent of the Cleveland Roadless Area was inventoried as Type I Existing Visual Condition (EVC), where the landscape has remained essentially unaltered by human activity with the exception of logging and mining in Helm Bay. Another 2 percent is EVC Type III, in which the average person notices changes in the landscape, but they do not attract significant attention.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: A large number of prehistoric and historical sites have been identified through archeological surveys and historical documents. Early settler history in this area centers on the fishing industry and mining. The community of Meyers Chuck on the west shore of the area was founded as a base for the fishing fleet and a cannery. Other cannery sites were located on the east side of the Cleveland Peninsula. A fox farm was located on Square Island within Spacious Bay. During the early 1900's there was extensive exploration for valuable minerals in Helm Bay resulting in several patented claims. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified commercial fish traps along the shorelines of this roadless area, as well as a former camp on Union Bay. They also noted that hunting/trapping and trolling for halibut or King Salmon took place in the general vicinity of Union Bay and Vixen Inlet. Helm Bay is the traditional origin place of the Kiksudi clans from Wrangell and Sitka. Port Stewart is the traditional origin place of the Gonoxaidi clan of the Stikinkwan.

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The outstanding saltwater fishing in the major bays is a major attraction to this area. Other recreation activities pursued in this area include boating, hiking, and camping. There are three Public Recreation Cabins (Rainbow Lake, Helm Creek, and Helm Bay) located in the area and three mooring buoys. There is one short trail leading out of Meyers Chuck. One freshwater fishing outfitter/guide operated in the area for 3 service days in 2000. Meyers Chuck residents use the area for subsistence. Residents of Ketchikan use the area for personal use fisheries, especially for sockeye salmon. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment indicated that eight of the VCUs (VCUs 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 720, and 721 along Clarence Strait and Ernest Sound) are listed among the VCUs with highest sensitivity to disturbance of subsistence use areas. Five of the VCUs in this area (715, 716, 718, 719, and 722 mostly along Behm Canal) were included among the VCUs with highest community use values. Two other VCUs (713, 714, and 720 at the tip of the peninsula) were identified in the third tier of highest value community use areas (ADF&G, 1998).

The Emerald Bay Timber Sale FEIS (USDA Forest Service, 2001) proposed to harvest approximately 11 million board feet (MMBF) from 625 acres of National Forest System land located within the Cleveland Roadless Area. This would require 3.8 miles of low-impact road construction. Logs would be transferred to a new log transfer facility in Emerald Bay. The timber would be sold in one sale, originally scheduled to begin in 2001. This timber sale is identified in the Forest Service's 10-Year Action Plan and scheduled for 2003.

(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: The area and its boundaries could easily be managed for wilderness objectives.

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

(1) Recreation, including Tourism Potential: The long-term recreation potential of the area centers on continued management of the cabin system and additional trails for dispersed recreation activity. Outfitter and guide operations could 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 considerable potential for fish habitat improvement and fish pass construction on the several streams in the area; however, no fish habitat enhancement projects are currently planned for this roadless area.

(4) Wildlife Resources: No wildlife enhancement projects are planned for this roadless area.

(5) Timber Resources: There are 98,657 acres mapped as productive old growth and 1,215 acres mapped as second growth due to harvest in the roadless area. Of these acres, 69,948 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), 15,556 acres or 8 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 7,197 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 767 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Emerald Bay Timber Sale FEIS (USDA Forest Service, 2001) proposes to harvest approximately 11 million board feet (MMBF) from 625 acres of National Forest System land located within the Cleveland Roadless Area. This would require 3.8 miles of low-impact road construction. Logs would be transferred to a new log transfer facility in Emerald Bay. The timber would be sold in one sale, originally scheduled to begin in 2001. This proposed timber sale is identified in the Forest Service's 10-Year Action Plan and scheduled for 2003

(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 several located and patented claims within this roadless area and moderate potential for mineral development. These claims include Union Bay and Helm Bay. The 17,492-acre Union Bay tract currently has ongoing iron exploration. An abandoned gold mine is located on the 7,204 acre Helm Bay tract. There is also minor potential for copper and lead exploration (USGS Mineral Resources Data website, 2001). An area around Mount Burnett was assigned to the Minerals LUD in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan.

This area contains 25,243 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract. Approximately 7,768 acres are identified as having a high potential and 17,475 as having low potential for expanding mineral exploration or development of locatable minerals (Coldwell, 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991). A total of 17,462 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. It incorporates standards and guidelines to insure that minerals are developed in an environmentally sensitive manner, and that other high-valued resources are considered when minerals developments occur. In addition, this area contains an estimated 37,146 of undiscovered locatable mineral resources (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991); 36,932 acres are considered to have moderate potential for development.

(8) **Transportation and Utilities:** Two potential power transmission corridors were identified in this area in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. The potential corridor initially extends along the northwest shore of Helm Bay before branching into two corridors. One of these corridors continues northwest to Meyers Chuck. The other corridor extends north/northeast along the length of the Cleveland Peninsula and continues northeast to the Bradfield Canal and beyond. The State and Southeast Conference identify a potential transportation corridor from Spacious Bay north to Santa Anna Inlet for long-term needs.

(9) **Water Availability and Use:** There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects within the roadless area

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

(11) **Land Use Authorizations:** There are rights-of-way for a waterline and a powerline, a permitted residence on Square Island, an electronics site, and several Coast Guard reservations for navigation aids in this roadless area. Outfitter and guide permitting is expected to continue.

(12) **Land Status:** All land within the roadless area is part of the National Forest System. Encumbered lands within the roadless area are located just west of Spacious Bay. There are no Alaska Native land selections within the area boundary.

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 some subsistence and recreation activity.

(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 Cleveland Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 identified the area as a proposed LUD II addition. It also identified Black Bear Creek and the creek flowing north into Vixen Inlet for protection as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

(c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revision and Appeals:** This area was specifically addressed in public input received during the Forest Plan revision and appeal. Most comments on the 1991 and 1996 TLMP revision that addressed the Cleveland Peninsula asked for either no future logging, a deferral of logging plans, or less intensive logging than planned. The main reasons given were the protection or retention of roadless recreation opportunities (hunting, fishing, and scenic viewing) and old-growth wildlife habitat. The Tongass Conservation Society identified the Cleveland Peninsula as one of the last

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unfragmented old growth areas left with high wildlife values (deer range), important subsistence values, and importance for biodiversity. The proximity of the area to Ketchikan (roadless recreation and tourism) was another reason often mentioned. Many Meyers Chuck residents and the Meyers Chuck Community Association were concerned with water quality and development near them, and asked for no roads in the vicinity of Meyers Chuck, especially their watershed. Some commenters felt that timber harvest could occur as long as the coastal areas and lakes were not disturbed; others asked that logging go ahead on the peninsula. Some thought that roaded recreation (following timber sale development) would be good, others wanted the area kept roadless. Specific areas identified in the comments included Helm, Spacious, Port Stewart, and Union Bays, Helm Lake, and Bear Creek.

Over 1,500 letters were received on the DEIS in response to a National Wildlife Federation article, a Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) Alert newsletter, and Wilderness Society or Sierra Club articles or newsletters. All of these articles listed specific areas for the public to include in their comments, and the majority of writers did so. This list included the Cleveland Peninsula. Some publications just asked for “protection” of their identified areas, others asked that either Remote Recreation or Old-growth Habitat prescriptions be applied.

The area was also identified in a number of appeals that expressed concern that while the southwestern portion of the peninsula was fully protected, most of the northeastern peninsula is still open to logging and that the area from Spacious Bay to the southern tip at Camano Point be managed for Semi-remote Recreation and protected from logging and roading and that the Cleveland Peninsula be designated as wilderness recreation and that plans to enter the peninsula with roads and logging be aborted.

(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: The management of this area was the topic of discussion for the Cleveland Collaborative Stewardship Group. The Cleveland Roadless Area includes the project area for the Emerald Bay Timber Sale. Twenty-two agencies, organizations, and individuals submitted written comments on the Emerald Bay Draft EIS. Many respondents were apprehensive over the Forest Service’s proposals to build roads and harvest timber on the Cleveland Peninsula. They felt the roadless nature of the Cleveland Peninsula should be retained and referenced a letter from the governor of Alaska corroborating that statement. The Emerald Bay area was identified as important for subsistence, ecotourism, public recreation, hunting, and trapping. Commenters noted that building roads in this area would adversely affect these resources, as well as old growth areas. Concerns were also expressed that the Forest Service would be setting a precedent by proposing to build a road through a medium Old-Growth Reserve. The possible effects of the proposed action upon fish and wildlife resources were also cited as a concern. Four appeals were received on this decision with no resolution as of January 2002.

(f) Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process: The U.S. Department of the Interior identified this roadless area as one of the 13 roadless areas they considered to have outstanding fish and wildlife values. They noted that along with three other roadless areas that form the Cleveland Peninsula, it serves as a corridor for many mainland species to colonize the archipelago of Southeast Alaska. Wildlife habitat on the Cleveland Peninsula is naturally fragmented by large bays penetrating the peninsula from both sides, which create a number of “pinch points.” Some interior areas of the peninsula are connected by low elevation passes that are migration corridors for many wildlife species. They indicated that development in these areas is likely to inhibit movement of animals and restrict immigration and emigration, effectively isolating the peninsula from the mainland. The Peninsula is thought to serve as an important source of natural colonization of the southern and central islands of the Alexander Archipelago by mainland species such as moose and wolves. This is largely because the peninsula penetrates the archipelago much further than any other mainland peninsula in southeast Alaska. They indicated that there has been strong local and national support for managing these areas in a roadless

condition. They stated that the important wildlife values provided by this area warrant management that ensures the long-term integrity of its habitats, ecosystem processes, and ecological functions.

In comments relative to the 1997 Forest Plan, the Governor of Alaska recommended that logging and construction of logging roads be avoided in important public interest areas such as the Cleveland Peninsula (most of RA# 528, 529, 209, and 210). This comment was reiterated by the Governor in scoping comments regarding the SEIS and in comments by the Division of Governmental Coordination on the Draft SEIS.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommended permanent roadless status for the Cleveland Peninsula in their comments on the Draft SEIS.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game rated the Cleveland and North Cleveland roadless areas (VCUs 719, 710, 717, 718, 720, 721, 722, and 723) as the highest priorities for protection in the Ketchikan Area (outside of POW Island). This rating is based on the VCUs with the highest value fish and wildlife resources needing additional protection. VCUs are prioritized for their very high productivity, essential role in connectivity, and/or very high value as community use areas.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities noted that there is a corridor across Cleveland Peninsula that passes through this roadless area; it is identified in the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan under Long Term Actions and was not included in the SEIS. They indicated that this corridor is for a proposed highway that would link new ferry terminals on Spacious Bay and Santa Anna Inlet and would be a component of the Inside Passage Highway.

The city of Pelican passed a resolution stating that the important watersheds identified as areas of special interest in the 1999 ROD and HR 987 should given long-term protection.

SEACC identified the Cleveland roadless area as part of the Cleveland Peninsula, which includes Roadless Areas 209, 210, 528, and 529. They recommend this entire area, a 200,000-acre arm of the mainland, as LUD II. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) identified Roadless Areas 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 528, and 529 as a contiguous complex of roadless areas that should be considered one roadless area and recommended it for permanent protection as LUD II. The Tongass Conservation Society indicated that the Cleveland Peninsula has high wildlife, subsistence, and biodiversity and was especially important for brown bears. Audubon Alaska recommended that Cleveland Peninsula should be protected from logging and road building.

Many individual commenters identified the Cleveland Peninsula as an area in need of protection. Some individuals recommended this area for permanent protection as wilderness. Port Stewart and Helm Bay were identified as areas important for small boats from Ketchikan for deer hunting. It is considered by some to be the only intact area within easy skiff distance from Ketchikan for hunting deer and contains an important and somewhat unique mountain goat population.

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: South Etolin Island Wilderness is located northwest across Ernest Sound from the Cleveland Roadless Area, approximately 3 miles away at its closest point. Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness is located approximately 21 miles to the east. The area is bordered to the northeast by the Frosty (#210) and North Cleveland (#529) Roadless Areas. Other nearby roadless areas include Behm Islands (#525) and North Revilla (#526) located southeast across Behm Canal from the area, and Kasaan (#520) located southwest across Clarence Strait.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	190	205
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	15	15
Wrangell (Pop. 2,308)	40	40
Petersburg (Pop. 3,324)	70	85

Appendix C

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The Cleveland Roadless Area is located on the southern end of Cleveland Peninsula on the mainland. Clarence Strait, Behm Canal, and Ernest Sound generally border the area to the south, east, and west, respectively. Several areas of non-National Forest System lands also border the area to the west. The area is bordered to the north by the Frosty (#210) and North Cleveland (#529) Roadless Areas. This area is characterized by a combination of gently rolling topography to moderately rugged mountains. Elevations range from sea level to just over 3,000 feet. Many of the drainages are broad, flat areas. There are a number of streams and lakes within the area.

The Cleveland Roadless Area is mostly unmodified and natural appearing. The natural integrity and apparent naturalness is very high. The opportunity for solitude is very high and the opportunity for primitive recreation is outstanding.

The roadless area has moderate to high scenic quality; approximately 6 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery standpoint. Cleveland Peninsula is part of the mainland and extends southwestward into the islands that make up Southeast Alaska. It is also connected to the large roadless area that follows the Canadian border from Skagway to Hyder. The area has historic and cultural values. There are no other known features of ecologic, geologic, scientific, or cultural significance.

The roadless area includes about 45,439 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, approximately 5,070 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Cleveland Roadless Area is classified as being in the Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula Biogeographic Province and makes up about 14 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 Cleveland Roadless Area lies completely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section and represents 7 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.

One-third (34 percent) of the roadless area is in the Traitors Cove Metasediments Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 20 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. Nearly one-third (31 percent) of the roadless area is in the Clarence Strait Volcanics Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 23 percent of the entire ecological subsection, 15 percent of which is in existing wilderness and is well represented by other existing non-development LUDs (34 percent). Eleven percent of the roadless area is in the Zimovia Strait Complex Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 9 percent of the entire ecological subsection, 5 percent of which is protected in existing wilderness and 26 percent in other existing non-development LUDs. Fourteen percent of the roadless area is in the Vixen Inlet Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection representing 97 percent of the ecological subsection. None of this ecological subsection is protected in existing wilderness or LUD II, however, 40 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs. The remainder (10 percent) of the roadless area is in the Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics Ecological Subsection; this portion represents 27 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 Cleveland Roadless Area was rated 25 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 12th from the highest (along with 12 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is considerable local and national support for managing this area in an unroaded condition, and some support for designation of this area as wilderness. Designation would create a large wilderness of an area that many people feel should be protected from development. It would provide wilderness on a piece of the mainland that is bordered by islands of Southeast Alaska. Designation would provide long-term Congressional protection for 97 percent of the

Vixen Inlet Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection and 27 percent of the Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics Ecological Subsection; these subsections do not have any areas within existing wilderness or LUD II. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be high to very high.

V. Environmental Consequences

The Cleveland Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternatives 1 or 2 are implemented. Approximately 60 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur within the remaining 40 percent of the roadless area. The land in the development LUDs includes an estimated 15,556 acres that are suitable for timber production (24 percent of the suitable acres on the Ketchikan/Misty Fiords Ranger District). Approximately 767 of the suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. Planning for the Emerald Timber Sale would continue. This area contains 25,243 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract. Approximately 7,768 acres are identified as having a high potential and 17,475 as having low potential for expanding mineral exploration or development of locatable minerals. In addition, this area contains 37,146 of undiscovered locatable mineral resources; 36,932 acres are considered to have moderate potential for development. The recreation, minerals, and special use programs would continue. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area could be affected by developments allowed by the Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 4, an 80,852-acre portion of the Semi-remote Recreation and Old-growth Habitat LUDs would be converted to Recommended Wilderness LUD. This would not affect timber sale projects because this area is currently allocated to non-development LUDs. The total area suitable for timber production would not change from Alternative 1. Ongoing recreation, special use, and minerals programs could be restricted in the Recommended Wilderness LUD area. Mineral prospecting would be allowed in the Recommended Wilderness LUD up to the time that the area is actually designated as wilderness by Congress. The values associated with the natural settings of the southern portion of the roadless area would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness. Designation would provide long-term Congressional protection for portions of the Vixen Inlet Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection and the Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics Ecological Subsection; these subsections do not have any areas within existing wilderness or LUD II.

Under Alternatives 3, 5, 7, or 8, the entire area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness LUD. No timber harvest would be allowed. Ongoing recreation, special use, and minerals programs could be restricted. Mineral prospecting would be allowed in the Recommended Wilderness LUD 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. Designation would provide long-term Congressional protection for 97 percent of the Vixen Inlet Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection and 27 percent of the Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics Ecological Subsection; these subsections do not have any areas within existing wilderness or LUD II.

Under Alternative 6, the entire area would be converted to Recommended LUD II. Ongoing recreation, special use, and minerals programs would continue similar to current conditions with little restriction. No timber harvest would be allowed. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II. Designation would provide long-term Congressional protection for 97 percent of the Vixen Inlet Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection and 27 percent of the Ketchikan Mafics/Ultramafics Ecological Subsection; these subsections do not have any areas within existing wilderness or LUD II.

Appendix C

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 528 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness			191,477	80,852	191,477		191,477	191,477
Wilderness								
Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.								
Wilderness National Monument								
Non-wilderness National Monument								
Research Natural Area								
Special Interest Area								
Remote Recreation	25	25		20				
Enacted Municipal Watershed								
Old-growth Habitat	38,938	38,938		31,180				
Semi-remote Recreation	75,196	75,196		2,108				
Recommended LUD II						191,477		
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed								
Modified Landscape	13,989	13,989		13,989				
Timber production	63,329	63,329		63,329				
TOTAL	191,477	191,477	191,477	191,477	191,477	191,477	191,477	191,477
Suitable Timber Lands	15,556	15,556	0	15,556	0	0	0	0