

INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: North Cleveland (529)

ACRES (NFS): 109,639

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Revilla Island/ Cleveland Peninsula

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Inside Passage Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 26

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** The area is located north of Revillagigedo (Revilla) Island. The area includes part of the Cleveland Peninsula on the mainland and a number of islands in Behm Canal, including Bell and Black Islands. Behm Arm and Behm Narrows border the area to the south. The area is bordered to the east by the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness and the Harding Roadless Area (#207). The Cleveland (#528), Frosty (#210), and Anan (#209) Roadless Areas border the area to the west and north.

The city of Ketchikan, on the Alaska Marine Highway and with regularly scheduled air service, is located approximately 25 miles south of the area. The city of Wrangell is located about 35 miles to the northwest. Access to the area is via boat or floatplane on saltwater or from the neighboring roadless areas. There are a number of trails in the area that provide access to the area's interior. Many people access this roadless area by floatplane. Access into the interior is by foot or helicopter. There are no places suitable for landing wheeled airplanes.

(2) **History:** A number of prehistoric and historic sites have been identified through archaeological surveys, oral history and historic documents. The interior of this area has seen little influence of human activity. Some coastal locations were occupied by prehistoric and historic Native cultures. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified former smokehouse/cabin locations adjacent to Yes and Short Bays, as well as a former village adjacent to Yes Bay. They also identified fishing at the mouth of Yes Bay. Several of the bays and islands were used by early commercial fishing interests and, in recent times, commercial recreation (lodges on Bell Island and in Yes Bay) and individual recreation users. These land uses are closely tied to the excellent salmon fishing in the adjacent saltwater and streams. Yes Bay in particular has a long historic use including a cannery.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The area is characterized by very rugged terrain. The steep mountain slopes cause deeply incised drainages. There are large lakes at the headwaters of the larger streams, and numerous smaller lakes in most drainages. There are a few small glaciers. Freshwater lakes cover approximately 4,438 acres. Elevations range from sea level to 4,000 feet. The major islands in Behm Canal are less rugged than the mainland, but are characterized by steep slopes starting at saltwater and ranging to 3,000 feet. The area contains 24 islands and islets (4 of which are greater than 10 acres) totaling 14,374. Alpine tundra covers 5,058 acres, rock covers 6,908 and ice and snow cover 31 acres. There are 95 miles of shoreline.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

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

Ecological Section/Subsection. The North Cleveland Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247E). Within this area there are two ecological subsections (see table below). The Bell Island Granitics Ecological Subsection, covering all but the western edge of the North Cleveland Roadless Area (96% of roadless area), is characterized by rounded hills and narrow,

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glacially scoured valleys. Within this subsection, mountain slope soils are usually well-drained, mineral soil, while lowlands, lake margins and wetlands are typically poorly drained soils (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Inside Passage Fjordlands	Bell Island Granitics	96%
	Zimovia Strait Complex	4%

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

(c) Vegetation: Vegetation is typical Southeast Alaska coastal temperate rain forest. The forest is primarily western hemlock and Sitka spruce with smaller components of cedar. Approximately 364 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 5,058 acres of alpine vegetation are mapped in this area.

There are approximately 88,478 acres mapped as forest land, of which 47,348 acres or 54 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 21,848 acres or 46 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 1,783 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The area also includes 111 acres of second growth where timber harvest has occurred in the past.

(d) Fish Resources: The streams and lakes in this area support pink, coho, chum, sockeye, and chinook salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden char. The major fish producing waters listed by the Anadromous Waters Catalogue include McDonald Lake, Wolverine Creek, Reflection Lake, and Short Creek.

(e) Wildlife Resources: This area has habitat for deer, brown and black bear, otter, beaver, marten, mink, loon, wolves, and common waterfowl. Mountain goats, mountain lions, and moose can also be found here. Trumpeter swans use the major saltwater inlets and freshwater lakes as resting areas during their migrations. Bald eagles, Canada geese, and arctic loons nest within the area. Marbled murrelets and northern goshawks can be found here, but no nests have been located (USDA Forest Service, 1997).

(5) Management Direction and Current Uses: This roadless area was allocated to seven different Land Use Designations (LUDs) in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These seven LUDs are Transportation and Utility System (TUS), Semi-remote Recreation, Remote Recreation, Special Interest Area, Wild River, Scenic Viewshed, and Old-growth Habitat. The TUS LUD is a secondary LUD that overlays the other land uses.

LUD	Acres
Scenic Viewshed	939
Transportation and Utility System	NA
Semi-remote Recreation	72,167
Remote Recreation	29,645
Special Interest Area	3,494
Wild River	3,150
Old-growth Habitat	245

Approximately one percent of this roadless area (not including the LUD overlay) contains a development LUD Scenic Viewshed. This LUD is located on Black Island. The potential power transmission corridor that passes through this area was assigned to the Transportation and Utility System LUD overlay.

Approximately 99 percent of this area contains non-development LUDs (Semi-remote Recreation, Remote Recreation, Special Interest Area, Wild River, Old Growth Habitat). The Semi-remote Recreation LUD was assigned to approximately 66 percent of the roadless area. Approximately 27 percent of the area was allocated to

the Remote Recreation LUD. In the upper Bailey Bay area, approximately 3 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Special Interest Area LUD. These acres are known as Bailey Bay Hot Springs Recreation Area and are considered to be exceptionally scenic. In the Wolverine Creek-Lake McDonald Wild River area, approximately 3 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Wild River LUD. A small portion of Black Island was allocated to the Old-growth Habitat LUD, accounting for less than one percent of the roadless area.

Most of the current use in this area involves recreation activities along the coast and bay areas. There are five recreation use cabins and shelters within the area and trails to lakes in the Yes Bay and Short Bay areas. Private lodge at Yes Bay and on Bell Island cater to sport fishing, with clients also using the hiking trails. The lodge on Bell Island is currently inactive. Fourteen outfitter/guides operated in this roadless area in 2000. Outfitter/guide services in 2000 included freshwater fishing (164 service days), remote setting nature tours (43 service days), flight seeing tours (43 service days), and bear hunting (6 service days). Some subsistence use occurs in this area. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) indicated that one VCU partially located in this area is a subsistence use area with a high sensitivity to disturbance. This area receives more personal use by residents of Ketchikan rather than subsistence use.

A power transmission corridor runs north through this area. The Forest Service has approved a Special Use Permit for Ketchikan Public Utilities to construct the Swan Lake-Lake Tye Intertie Project, a 138-kV electric transmission line that would run through this corridor. Project construction clearing for the southern portion began in 2002.

There is an electronics site at Syble Point and several lighthouse or navigational aid reserves located in the area.

(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness): The majority of this area is unmodified and retains a natural appearance. Exceptions to this include the five recreation cabins, shelters, hiking trails, and small areas where beach logging has occurred in the past. The boundaries of the area all conform to natural terrain features. The area displays natural characteristics when viewed from nearby water travel routes and from inside the area itself.

(7) Surroundings (External Influences): Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness borders part of the North Cleveland Roadless Area to the east. The Cleveland Roadless Area (#528), Frosty (#210), Anan Creek (#209), and Harding (#207) Roadless Areas border the area to the north, east, and west. The area is bordered to the south by saltwater. External influences in the area include boat traffic and aircraft flying overhead.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: The main attraction of this area is its remoteness and outstanding scenery. Excellent freshwater fishing also attracts people to the area. Areas of special interest include McDonald Lake, part of the Wolverine Creek-McDonald Lake Wild River area and Bailey Bay Hot Springs Recreation Area. McDonald Lake is of special interest because it has historically supported one of the largest sockeye runs in Southeast Alaska. Bailey Bay Hot Springs Recreation Area is known for exceptional scenery and has the highest surface temperature of any hot spring in Southeast Alaska. Bailey Bay Hot Springs is managed as a Special Interest Area. The area contains 21 inventoried recreation places, which cover 51,176 acres, or 47 percent of the roadless area.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2002 Roadless Area Boundary: The boundaries of this area changed in one main way between 1989 and 2002. The majority of Hassler Island was included in the 1989 area. This island is entirely excluded from the 2002 area due to recent timber management related development.

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: The area has very high natural integrity and outstanding apparent naturalness. The boundaries all conform to natural terrain features and the area's physical features all tie together into one homogeneous unit. The area is bordered by large roadless areas and saltwater. The appearance of this area is highly suitable for wilderness classification.

(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: The area provides very high opportunity for solitude and outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation. A person is not likely to encounter other people when camping in and using this roadless area.

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except possibly on the Lake McDonald, Shelokum Lake, or Reflection Lake trails. Bailey Bay Hot Springs Recreation Area has exceptional scenery and hot springs providing a variety of recreational opportunities.

There are five recreation use cabins located in the area and trails to lakes in the Yes Bay and Short Bay areas. A private lodge at Yes Bay caters to sport fishing, with clients also using the hiking trails. Fourteen outfitter/guides operated in this roadless area in 2000. Outfitter/guide services in 2000 included freshwater fishing (164 service days), remote setting nature tours (43 service days), flight seeing tours (43 service days), and bear hunting (6 service days).

Due to the vastness of the area, the high scenic quality, the abundance of saltwater and upland lake recreation attractions, and many trail opportunities, this area has outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

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)	102,595	94%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	2,952	3%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	3,142	3%
Roaded Modified (RM)	70	0%
Rural (R)	686	1%

The area contains 21 inventoried recreation places, which cover 51,176 acres, or 47 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places	Total Acres
P	16	44,420
SPNM	3	2,952
SPM	1	3,118
RM	0	0
R	1	686

The Misty Fiords National Monument is adjacent to this roadless area, which has various recreation opportunities.

(3) Wilderness Attribute Rating System: In 1977, the Forest Service, along with public interest groups, developed the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS), which was used to inventory the wilderness characteristics of roadless areas during the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (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 North Cleveland 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 26. This rating is more reflective of the relatively low effect that existing developments have on the attributes of the area and the fact that it is surrounded by roadless areas.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The North Cleveland Roadless Area is part of a much larger roadless land area that includes all of Cleveland Peninsula through the Misty-Fiords 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), Cleveland (#528), Anan (#209), Bradfield (#208), Harding (#207), Cone (#206), Aaron (#205), and Madan (#204).

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment listed three VCUs (724, 727, and 728 along Bell Arm and Yes Bay) as primary sportfish producers. No VCUs were listed as primary salmon producers although most of the area is listed as secondary salmon producers (ADF&G, 1998).

The streams and lakes in this area support pink, coho, chum, sockeye, and chinook salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden char. The major fish producing waters listed by the Anadromous Waters Catalogue include McDonald Lake, Wolverine Creek, Reflection Lake, and Short Creek. McDonald Lake supports all five species of salmon, plus steelhead and Dolly Varden char. McDonald Lake has historically supported one of the largest sockeye runs in Southeast Alaska. Wolverine Creek flows out of McDonald Lake into Yes Bay. The area is well known for fisheries and recreation. McDonald Lake and Wolverine Creek have a regionally significant fishery with a steelhead run that averages 50 fish per year, as well as five species of salmon, greyling, western brook lamprey, cutthroat and rainbow trout, and Dolly Varden char. ADF&G lists the area as one of the 65 “important” watersheds in Southeast Alaska for fisheries values (USDA Forest Service, 1997). The estimated annual peak escapement for Wolverine Creek is 15,400 pink salmon. This stream also has good coho smolt production values (ADF&G, 1998). Information from ADF&G escapement surveys shows that between 1992 and 1998, Wolverine Creek had an average peak escapement of 4,100 sockeye salmon. Walker Creek also has runs of all five species of salmon plus steelhead trout. Short Creek and Reflection Lake provide habitat for sockeye, coho, and pink salmon, steelhead trout and Dolly Varden char. Short Creek has an estimated annual peak escapement of 9,000 pink salmon (ADF&G, 1998). Reflection Lake has a coho run that is used as the brood stock for fish enhancement projects.

Recent fisheries enhancement has been accomplished by fertilizing McDonald Lake. The Swan Lake EIS (USDA Forest Service, 1997) identified enhancement projects implemented in 1995 providing fish passage to two barrier falls in the Woodpecker Creek drainage.

(b) Wildlife Resources: This area has habitat for deer, brown and black bear, otter, marten, mink, loon, wolves, and common waterfowl. Mountain goats and moose can also be found here. American peregrine falcons likely migrate through this area (USDA Forest Service, 1997). Trumpeter swans use the major saltwater inlets and freshwater lakes as resting areas during their migrations. Bald eagles nest within the area. Canada geese and arctic loons nest in the beaver ponds connected to McDonald Lake (USDA Forest Service, 1997). Marbled murrelets and northern goshawks can be found here, but no nests have been located (USDA Forest Service, 1997).

(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 no known karst or cave resources in this roadless area. There are a few small glaciers near Reflection Lake. Bailey Bay Hot Springs at Lake Shelokum are of special geologic interest.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: Bailey Bay Hot Springs and the small glaciers are special features of the area. There are no Research Natural Areas (RNAs) within this area. However, this area contains two of the potential RNAs identified in the 1997 Tongass Land Management Plan Revision FEIS. Bailey Bay Hot Springs and

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McDonald Lake were identified as potential candidates for RNA designation but neither of these areas were ultimately considered suitable.

McDonald Lake has historically supported one of the largest sockeye runs in Southeast Alaska. Bailey Bay Hot Springs have the highest surface temperature of any hot spring in Southeast Alaska. Bailey Bay Hot Springs were not selected as an RNA because this designation would conflict with existing and potential recreation use of the area. It was instead designated as a Special Interest Area (Bailey Bay Hot Springs Recreation Area).

(6) Scenic Values: Most of this roadless area is part of the Coast Range Visual Character Type which is characterized by large massive landforms that commonly rise to elevations of about 7,000 feet, steep slopes or rock cliffs that plunge to saltwater, and deep, narrow saltwater fiords that protrude into this land mass. Mountain ridges are generally rounded with scattered jagged peaks rising above the surrounding rounded ridge tops. The North Cleveland Roadless Area does not have the massive landforms with the high elevations that are found through much of the Coast Range character type. It does, however, possess a high degree of diversity due to the variety of lake basins of all sizes, stream features, rock features, and vegetative patterns found in this area.

The majority of this area is unmodified and retains a natural appearance. Exceptions to this include the five recreation cabins, hiking trails, and small areas where beach logging has occurred in the past. The boundaries of the area all conform to natural terrain features. The area displays natural characteristics when viewed from nearby water travel routes and from inside the area the itself. Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan that are within or adjacent to the area, include: Wolverine Creek/Lake McDonald (Recommended Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River); Yes Bay, Bailey Bay, Bell Arm, Behm Narrows, Short Bay, and Anchor Pass (Saltwater Use Areas); McDonald Lake cabin and shelter, Anchor Pass, and Reflection Lake (Public Recreation Cabins); Yes Bay and Bell Island (Private Resorts); and the Bell Island, Bailey Bay-Shelokum Lake, Reflections Lake, and McDonald Lake trails (Hiking Trails).

About 60 percent of this area was inventoried as Variety Class B (possessing landscape characteristics that are common for the character type). Approximately 39 percent was rated as Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type). Approximately 99 percent of this roadless area is in a Type I Existing Visual Condition (EVC), where the natural landscape has remained unaltered by human activity.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: A number of prehistoric and historic sites have been identified through archaeological surveys, oral history and historic documents. The interior of this area has seen little influence of human activity. Some coastal locations were occupied by prehistoric and historic Native cultures. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified former smokehouse/cabin locations adjacent to Yes and Short Bays, as well as a former village adjacent to Yes Bay. They also identified fishing at the mouth of Yes Bay. Several of the bays and islands were used by early commercial fishing interests and, in recent times, commercial recreation (lodges on Bell Island and in Yes Bay) and individual recreation users. These land uses are closely tied to the excellent salmon fishing in the adjacent saltwater and streams. A cannery and related historic uses occurred at Yes Bay, including an early headquarters of the Tongass National Forest.

Most of the current use in this area involves recreation activities along the coast and bay areas. There are five recreation use cabins within the area and trails to lakes in the Yes Bay and Short Bay areas. Private lodges at Yes Bay and on Bell Island cater to sportfishing, with clients also using the hiking trails. Fourteen outfitter/guides operate in this roadless area. Outfitter/guide services in 2000 included freshwater fishing (164 service days), remote setting nature tours (43 service days), flight seeing tours (43 service days), and bear hunting (6 service days). Limited subsistence use occurs in this area. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) listed one VCU partially located in this area (VCU 735, Bell Island) 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 highest, second or third groups of highest community use values (ADF&G, 1998).

(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: The boundaries of the area follow natural features on all sides and the area could easily be managed for wilderness.

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, Bailey Bay Hot Springs Recreation Area, and additional trails for dispersed recreation activity. There is some potential for additional mooring buoys in the popular bays. The bay areas have potential for fishing lodges.
- (2) **Subsistence Uses:** The existing patterns of subsistence activities in the area would not be affected by wilderness designation.
- (3) **Fish Resources:** ADF&G, in cooperation with the Forest Service, maintains a fisheries fertilization project at Lake McDonald (USDA Forest Service, 1997). The landowner at Bell Island has proposed a fishpass.
- (4) **Wildlife Resources:** No wildlife enhancement projects are planned for this roadless area.
- (5) **Timber Resources:** There are 47,348 acres mapped as productive old growth and 111 acres of second growth in the roadless area. Of these acres, 14,881 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), 199 acres or less than one percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 15 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, none are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.
- (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:** No mining claims are located within this roadless area and there is low potential for mineral development. This area contains an estimated 5,202 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources (Brew et al 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991); 3,584 of these acres are considered to have high potential for development.
- (8) **Transportation and Utilities:** An approved power transmission corridor runs north through this area. The Swan Lake-Lake Tye Intertie, a 138-kV electric transmission line, will run through this corridor. The Forest Service has approved a Special Use Permit for this project and construction began in 2002.
- The State and Southeast Conference also identified 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 this roadless area.
- (10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** There are no RNAs located in this area. However, this area contains two areas that were considered for RNA status in the Research Natural Areas Steering Committee's planning process. Neither of these areas were ultimately considered suitable for RNA designation. One of the areas was subsequently designated as a Special Interest Area (Bailey Bay Hot Springs Recreation Area).
- (11) **Land Use Authorizations:** There is an electronics site at Syble Point and several lighthouse or navigational aid reserves. The Forest service has approved a Special Use Permit for Ketchikan Public Utilities to construct the Swan Lake-Lake Tye Intertie Project, a 138-kV electric transmission line that would pass through this area. This project began construction in 2002. Outfitter and guide permitting is ongoing and 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 around Eagle River and Lake.

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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 hunting, fishing 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 North Cleveland Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 identified the area as a proposed LUD II addition. It also identified two drainages for protection as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

(c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revision and Appeals:** Parts of this area were specifically addressed in public input received during the Forest Plan revision and appeal. In addition, many general comments were received with respect to the southern end of Cleveland Peninsula, which borders the area to the west. Most comments regarding the Cleveland Peninsula asked for either no future logging, a deferral of logging plans, or less intensive logging than planned. Specific areas in the North Cleveland Roadless Area that were identified in comments included Bailey and Short Bays, Anchor Pass, and Bell Island. Commenters requested that the roadless recreation values (hunting, fishing, and scenery) of Bailey and Short Bays be protected. Other commenters requested that there be no logging on Bell Island. Anchor Pass, which borders Bell Island to the east, was identified by another commenter as an area where logging should not be permitted.

The Cleveland Peninsula was also identified in a number of appeals.

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

(e) **Public Input Expressed for Project-level EISs and Other Input:** Part of this area was included in the study area for the Swan Lake-Lake Tyee Intertie Project FEIS (USDA Forest Service, 1997). Public comments on this document that included reference to roads in the North Cleveland Roadless Area included the following. Native Councils opposed road construction in the Yes Bay because of their effect on fisheries and land animals and because they would encourage members of the public to compete with them for subsistence resources. Other local governments support access roads.

(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 commented 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. 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 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 might cross a small portion of this roadless area; it is identified in the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan under Long Term Actions and was not included in the SEIS. They commented 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 Petersburg said they were opposed to designation of this area as wilderness because of the potential long-term economic impacts on the city.

SEACC identified the Anan 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 recommends North Cleveland roadless area for long-term protection from logging and development.

Many individual commenters identified the Cleveland Peninsula as an area in need of protection. Some individuals recommended this area for permanent protection as wilderness.

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness borders part of the North Cleveland Roadless Area to the east. South Etolin Island Wilderness is located approximately 8 miles west of the area. The Cleveland Roadless Area (#528) borders the area to the west. The Frosty Roadless Area (#210) borders the area to the north and west. The Anan Creek (#209) and Harding (#207) Roadless Areas border the area to the north. The North Revilla Roadless Area (#526) is located south across Behm Narrows from the area.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	185	265
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	25	30
Wrangell (Pop. 2,308)	35	135
Petersburg (Pop. 3,324)	70	145

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The North Cleveland Roadless Area is located north of Revillagigedo (Revilla) Island. The area includes part of the Cleveland Peninsula on the mainland and a number of islands in Behm Canal, including Bell and Black Islands. Behm Arm and Behm Narrows border the area to the south. The area is bordered on the east by the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness and the Harding Roadless Area (#207). The Cleveland (#528), Frosty (#210), and Anan (#209) Roadless Areas border the area to the west and north. The area is characterized by very rugged terrain. The steep mountain slopes cause deeply incised drainages. There are large lakes at the headwaters of the larger streams and numerous smaller lakes in most drainages. There are a few small glaciers. Elevations range from sea level to 4,000 feet. The major islands in Behm Canal are less rugged than the mainland, but are characterized by steep slopes starting at saltwater and ranging to 3,000 feet.

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

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The area has relatively high scenic quality; approximately 39 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery standpoint. Features of special interest in the area include Bailey Bay Hot Springs Special Interest Area, and McDonald Lake, which is known for its very high production of sockeye salmon. The area has some small glaciers near Reflection Lake and additional hot springs near Lake Shelokum. A special value of the North Cleveland Roadless Area is that it lies within a much larger mainland, roadless area that includes all adjacent areas and extends from the southern tip of Southeast Alaska to Skagway. As such, it contributes to one of the largest roadless land areas in the temperate region of North America.

The roadless area includes about 21,848 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, approximately 1,783 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The North Cleveland Roadless Area is classified as being in the Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula Biogeographic Province and makes up about 8 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 Fiords 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 4 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 (96 percent) of the roadless area is in the Bell Island Granitics Ecological Subsection. This portion of the roadless area represents 32 percent of the entire ecological subsection, 14 percent of which is in existing wilderness, 9 percent in LUD II, and 57 percent in other existing non-development LUDs. The balance (4 percent) of the roadless area is in the Zimovia Strait Complex Ecological Subsection; this portion represents 2 percent of the entire ecological subsection, 5 percent of which is protected in existing wilderness and 26 percent in other existing non-development LUDs.

The North Cleveland Roadless Area was rated 26 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 5th from the highest (along with six 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 that would contribute to an even larger area of roadless lands along the Canadian border that could stretch from Hyder to Skagway. The Bailey Bay Hot Springs and the hot springs near Lake Shelokum would be included. A power transmission that is part of the planned power grid for Southeast Alaska has been approved and permitted for construction which began in 2002. It follows a route from Bell Arm in the southeast of the area, north to Eagle Lake and down Eagle River to the Tyee power system on the Bradfield Canal. 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 North Cleveland Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 is implemented. Approximately 99 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur within the remaining 1 percent of the roadless area. The land in the development LUDs includes an estimated 199 acres that are suitable for timber production (less than 1 percent of the suitable acres on the Ketchikan/Misty Fiords Ranger District). None of the suitable acres are identified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. This area contains 5,202 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources; 3,584 of the acres are considered to have high 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.

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.

Appendix C

The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the high scenic, ecologic, and commercial recreation values, would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II.

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 high scenic, ecologic, and commercial recreation values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 529 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness								109,639
Wilderness								
Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.								
Wilderness National Monument								
Non-wilderness National Monument								
Research Natural Area								
Special Interest Area	3,494	3,494	3,494	3,494	3,494		3,494	
Remote Recreation	29,645	29,645	29,645	29,645	29,645		29,645	
Enacted Municipal Watershed								
Old-growth Habitat	245	245	245	245	245		245	
Semi-remote Recreation	72,167	72,167	72,167	72,167	72,167		72,167	
Recommended LUD II						109,639		
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River	3,150	3,150	3,150	3,150	3,150		3,150	
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	939	939	939	939	939		939	
Modified Landscape								
Timber production								
TOTAL	109,639	109,639	109,639	109,639	109,639	109,639	109,639	109,639
Suitable Timber Lands	199	199	199	199	199	0	199	0