

INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Fanshaw (201)

ACRES (NFS): 48,446

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Central Coast Range and Northern Coast Range

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Inside Passage Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 26

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** The Fanshaw Roadless Area is located on the mainland from Cape Fanshaw south to the North Arm of Farragut Bay. Frederick Sound lies to the southwest and Stephens Passage to the northwest. The roadless area is approximately 25 air miles north of Petersburg, which is on the Alaska Marine Highway and has air service. The roadless area is accessible by water and floatplane. There is no ferry service or road or trail access to the area. Boat anchorage is available in Steamboat Bay and Cleveland Passage at Fanshaw Bay and in the North Arm of Farragut Bay. Accessible shorelines suitable for landing small craft and floatplanes are found in both bays. There are no sites suitable for landing wheeled aircraft. Access inland is by foot or helicopter.

(2) **History:** The Fanshaw area is within the traditional territory of the Kake Tlingit. Extensive archaeological surveys along the coast of the roadless area identified various site types, including prehistoric period villages, camps, and culturally-modified trees. Historic period sites include cabins, fur farms, and residences. Cape Fanshaw is the site of an abandoned historic period fishing village and cannery. A post office was established at Cape Fanshaw in 1902. An historic lighthouse reserve is also at Cape Fanshaw. Historic beach logging has occurred along the shores of the roadless area.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The Fanshaw Roadless Area contains diverse topography that ranges from large muskeg complexes to high alpine environment. Four peaks in the central and southern portion of the area are at or above 3,000 feet in elevation. Two other peaks along the northern border, Dahlgren and Fanshaw, are equal in height. Between the isolated mountains are low-lying valleys. Cat Creek is the only named drainage in the area. A tributary to the south of Cat Creek, and another feeding into the North Arm of Farragut Bay, are also significant watersheds. In the northwest corner of the area, Whitney Island and the Storm Islands are situated just off shore in Fanshaw Bay. The islands and islets total approximately 605 acres in this roadless area, two of which are over 50 acres. There are about 136 acres of alpine mapped in this area and another 225 acres of rock mapped in this area. The area contains 38 miles of shoreline along saltwater.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. Approximately 90 percent of the area is classified as being in the Central Coast Range Biogeographic Province and 10 percent is in the Northern Coast Range Province. The area is characterized by broad, low-lying valleys and several steeply rising peaks. Productive forest lands exist in river bottoms and on mountain slopes. Vegetation ranges from alpine to saltwater marshes. This province is warmer than the northern coast range province and the topography is less precipitous.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Fanshaw Roadless Area is entirely contained within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247E) and is represented by two ecological subsections (see table below). The Cape Fanshaw Complex covers the vast majority of the area and contains rounded yet somewhat rugged glaciated mountains. Soils on the slopes are mostly productive and support a mix of hemlock and spruce. Lowlands and rolling hills are often underlain by glacial till and are poorly drained. Forested wetlands are quite abundant. The northernmost extent of sword fern and western redcedar occurs in this

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subsection. The Holkham Bay Complex covers the remaining 18 percent and is along the eastern boundary of the roadless area. It is similar except for a general absence of glacial till (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Inside Passage Fjordlands	Cape Fanshaw Complex	82%
	Holkham Bay Complex	18%

(b) Soils: Soils in this area are formed in a wide variety of material, including bedrock and glacial drift. In general, well-drained or moderately-well-drained soils occur on moderate to steep mountain slopes with permeable parent materials. These soils are acidic, have cold soil temperatures, and are very high in organic matter. Rooting is largely limited to the surface organic layers and the top few inches of mineral soil. These soils are usually moist, sometimes wet, but are never dry.

More-poorly-drained soils developed on less-sloping areas and/or areas with impermeable soil materials. These soils have deep accumulations of organic matter and range from scrubby forested wetlands to open muskeg.

Alpine soils, generally above an elevation of 2,000 feet, are mostly rocky, shallow, very wet organic soils.

(c) Vegetation: Much of the low-lying land is covered with muskeg and forested muskeg mosaic. Approximately 1,484 acres of muskeg are mapped for the area; however, due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult. Hills and side slopes of the mountains where drainage is better are covered with dense stands of Sitka spruce, western hemlock and Alaska-cedar. Spruce trees are typically found as stringers along the streams.

There are approximately 45,893 acres mapped as forest land of which 29,478 acres or 64 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 13,042 acres or 44 percent are mapped as high-volume, old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 3,781 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There are about 31 acres of second-growth forest where beach harvest has occurred in the past.

(d) Fish Resources: There are nine Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) numbered salmon producing streams within the area. Cat Creek is the largest producer. Species present in the area are pink, chum, and coho salmon, and Dolly Varden char (ADF&G Anadromous Waters Catalogue, 2000). A herring spawning area exists at the mouth of the North Arm of Farragut Bay. Farragut Bay also supports significant populations of shellfish such as Tanner crab, Dungeness crab, King crab, and shrimp.

(e) Wildlife Resources: A small population of mountain goats lives on the isolated mountains within the area. Black bears, Sitka black-tailed deer, and wolves are found in the area, as are an occasional brown bear and moose. The mountain lion is not known to be in this area, but is present in small numbers on the mainland. It is probably migrating into Southeast Alaska from Canada using the large rivers, such as the Stikine River, as corridors. Furbearers and other small mammals include: mink, river otters, beaver, marten, ermine, lynx, red squirrel, northern flying squirrel, porcupine, mice, shrew, and voles. There are occasional sightings of fisher and wolverine but they are at the edge of their range and are considered an incidental species. Bats are present during the summer months and occasionally over winter in man-made structures.

Bald eagles, northern goshawks, merlin, red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, great horned owls, western screech owls, saw-whet owls, and pigmy owls are all found in this area. Numerous ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, marbled murrelets, and great blue herons all occur on the mainland both during migration and, in some cases, nesting. Spruce grouse, blue grouse and ptarmigan are known to occur on the mainland.

Small forest-dwelling birds that are known to occur on the mainland include; the red-throated, Pacific and common loon, and several plover, yellowlegs, and sandpiper species. Two swift species, one hummingbird species, four woodpecker species, three flycatcher species, and five swallow species are also known on the mainland. Steller’s jay, black-billed magpie, northwestern crow, and common raven all occur. Chestnut-backed chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, winter wren, American dipper, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, Swainson’s thrush, and hermit thrush occur. The American robin, varied thrush, American pipit, cedar waxwing, northern shrike, warbling vireo, and five warbler species occur. Additionally, the northern water thrush, common yellow throat, western tanager, dark-eyed junco, Lapland longspur, snow bunting, red-winged blackbird, rusty blackbird, brown-headed cowbird, eight sparrow species, pine grosbeak, red crossbill, white-winged crossbill, common redpoll, and pine siskin are found.

Several amphibians are known to occur on the mainland. They are rough-skinned newts, western toad, and spotted frog. The rough-skinned newt is found primarily in lacustrine, palustrine, hemlock/spruce forests, and muskeg bog ecosystems. The western toad is also found primarily in lacustrine, palustrine, hemlock/spruce forests and in clearcuts. Spotted frogs are found primarily in lacustrine, palustrine ecosystems and are normally found in large river systems like the Stikine River.

Sea mammals known to inhabit the waters surrounding the mainland are the Pacific white-sided dolphin, orca whale, harbor porpoise, Dall’s porpoise, humpback whale, Steller sea lion, and harbor seal.

- (5) **Management Direction and Current Uses:** The roadless area was allocated to six land use designations (LUDs) that allow development under the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These six LUDs are Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed, Semi-remote Recreation, Old-growth Habitat, and Research Natural Area.

LUD	Acres
Timber Production	18,906
Modified Landscape	6,546
Scenic Viewshed	9,167
Semi-remote Recreation	693
Old-growth Habitat	12,507
Research Natural Area	627

Most of the roadless area, approximately 71 percent, was allocated to development LUDs (Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed). The Timber Production LUD was assigned to approximately 39 percent of the roadless area. Approximately 19 percent of the roadless area, along Frederick Sound and Farragut Bay, was allocated to the Scenic Viewshed LUD. Along Cat Creek and the western side of Jamestown Peak, approximately 14 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Modified Landscape LUD.

Approximately 29 percent of the roadless area was allocated to non-development LUDs (Semi-remote Recreation, Old-growth Habitat, Research Natural Area). The Old-growth Habitat LUD was assigned to approximately 26 percent of the roadless area and is located mainly around Fanshaw Bay, Frederick Bay, and the North Arm of Farragut Bay. Approximately 1 percent of the roadless area, on Whitney and Storm Islands, was allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation LUD. Near Fanshaw Bay, approximately 1 percent of the roadless area was designated as a Research Natural Area (RNA). The Cape Fanshaw RNA was established in 1965 to represent undisturbed old-growth Alaska yellow-cedar and western hemlock forests.

No resource development activities have yet occurred in the area. The Fanshaw Project Area timber harvest is currently under analysis. There is a lighthouse reserve on the tip of Cape Fanshaw. Recreation uses include: black bear, moose, and waterfowl hunting; marine wildlife viewing; beachcombing; sea kayaking; camping; and sightseeing from saltwater or along the shoreline. Fanshaw Bay is frequently used by recreational boaters. The marine waters of Farragut Bay, Cape Fanshaw, and Whitney Island are heavily used by commercial, sport, and personal use fishermen. The lack of public recreation cabins or commercial overnight facilities limits use by recreationists. The area is not identified as a significant subsistence area in the Tongass Resource Use Cooperative Survey (TRUCS).

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(6) **Appearance (Apparent Naturalness):** The area appears unmodified except for the remains of an abandoned fur farm in Fanshaw Bay. Much of the area is visible from the Alaska Marine Highway and cruise ship routes. The roadless area appears natural from these viewpoints.

(7) **Surroundings (External Influences):** The roadless area is part of a region of several adjoining roadless areas and wilderness areas that extend along the mainland from the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness in the south to Glacier Bay National Park in the north. This extensive unroaded area borders other unroaded areas to the north and east in Canada. Frederick Sound and Stephens Passage lie to the west and south. They receive moderately-heavy boat traffic. Evidence of timber harvest on Kupreanof Island may be visible in the background from some portions of the Fanshaw Roadless Area.

(8) **Attractions and Features of Special Interest:** The area contains six inventoried recreation places that cover 867 acres, or 2 percent of the roadless area. These recreation places include the old fur farm. While the streams in the area offer some sport fishing opportunity, the area does not receive much use. The Cape Fanshaw Natural Area is part of the roadless area. The available anchorages provide a safe holding area for boaters during inclement weather in Frederick Sound and Stephens Passage.

(9) **Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary:** Portions of Whitney Island and Storm Island have been added to the roadless area. Lands in the northwest that have been conveyed to the State have been removed.

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) **Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness:** The area is essentially unmodified. Some evidence of old structures is present at the abandoned fur farm in Fanshaw Bay but is of limited magnitude and effect. Based on the natural integrity of the area, the area is suitable for wilderness classification.

(2) **Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation:** There is a high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation within the area, especially when including adjacent roadless areas. At times, low-flying airplanes may disrupt visitors for brief periods. Boats bypassing the area are generally too far offshore to cause any distraction. Present recreation use levels are low, and generally a person camped inland is unlikely to see others. The character of the landforms in the area generally allows the visitor to feel remote from the sights and sounds of human activity.

Accessing the roadless area by small boat from the community of Petersburg requires about a 2-hour crossing on exposed waters. As with all backcountry areas on the Tongass, the opportunity for challenge and risk in this area is high. The climate, the rugged terrain, the isolation and distance from population centers with medical facilities, the barriers to communication, and the presence of large wild animals all contribute to the need for good preparation and knowledge of backcountry survival skills for anyone using this area. Hypothermia and bear encounters are just two examples of the many risks that must be considered before traveling in the backcountry of Southeast Alaska.

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

ROS Class	Acres	Percent of Total ROS
Primitive (P)	23,551	49%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	15,889	33%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	9,006	19%

The area contains six inventoried recreation places that cover 867 acres, or approximately 2 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places	Total Acres
P	1	1
SPNM	1	1
SPM	4	865

There are no developed recreation facilities within the area.

(3) Wilderness Attribute Rating System: In 1977, the Forest Service, along with public interest groups, developed the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS), which was used to inventory the wilderness characteristics of roadless areas during the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation process (referred to as RARE II). The purpose of WARS was to provide a measure of the area's wilderness quality, based on the key attributes of wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act. It is largely based on the attributes described above in items 1 and 2 of this section (natural integrity, apparent naturalness, outstanding opportunity for solitude, and primitive recreation opportunities).

The inventoried roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest were rated according to this system in 1989 for the Analysis of the Management Situation developed in support of the Forest Plan Revision. At that time, the Fanshaw Roadless Area was given a rating of 25 out of 28 possible points. The rating was re-evaluated for this updated version of the Analysis of the Management Situation. Based on this re-evaluation, the area was given a rating of 26. The higher rating reflects the high apparent naturalness as seen by forest visitors and high ratings for primitive recreation opportunities when combined with other adjacent roadless areas.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: This roadless area is part of a region of several adjoining roadless areas and wildernesses that extend along the mainland from the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness in the south to Glacier Bay National Park in the north. This extensive unroaded area borders unroaded areas to the north and east in Canada.

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) did not list any VCU as primary producers of salmon or sport fish.

There are nine ADF&G numbered salmon-producing streams within the area. Two are of moderate size. Species present in the area are pink, chum, and coho salmon, and Dolly Varden char (ADF&G Anadromous Waters Catalogue, 2000). Cat Creek contains 14.2 miles of Class I and 5.3 miles of Class II streams. Cat Creek is the largest producer with an average annual peak escapement of 14,000 pink salmon. Coho, steelhead and a few chum salmon are also present. Several waterfalls approximately one mile upstream from the mouth of Cat Creek prevent anadromous fish migration upstream. North Arm Creek contains 0.25 miles of Class I stream before two waterfall barriers block anadromous migration. There is the potential for a fisheries enhancement project through modification of the barrier falls on Cat Creek. The falls at North Arm Creek are too large to be considered for modification.

(b) Wildlife Resources: A small population of mountain goats lives on the isolated mountains within the area. Black bears, Sitka black-tailed deer, marten, river otter, red squirrels, and wolves are found in the area, as are occasional brown bear and moose. Information from the Port Houghton Revised DEIS (USDA Forest Service, 1998) indicates that two brown bears reside near Farragut Bay. Deer densities are low because of the northern exposure of most of the area and the high average annual snowfall. There are four northern goshawk nests in the area. A 16-acre unnamed lake located between Sandborn Canal and Farragut Bay North Arm has been identified as prime Canada goose nesting habitat. Waterfowl use the limited grass flats at the head of the North Arm. The American peregrine falcon may migrate through this area. The humpback whale and the Steller sea lion use nearby waters.

(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

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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. Four goshawk nests have been located in this area. In addition, 12 sensitive plant species are known or suspected to occur in the Petersburg Ranger District.

(d) Karst, Cave, and Other Geologic Resources: There are no known karst or cave resources in this roadless area. There are no glaciers or unique geologic features.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: The abandoned fur farm site attracts some visitors. The Research Natural Area was established for protection and study of a stand of Alaska-cedar; however, that stand is not particularly unique. There are opportunities to study fish, forests, wildlife, and geologic processes.

(6) Scenic Values: The Fanshaw Roadless Area is characterized by four separate peaks and ridges with an average elevation of about 3,000 feet. From Fanshaw Bay, one views the natural state of Whitney and Storm Islands and the Fanshaw Range. However, the southeast one-third of Whitney Island is State of Alaska land, and may be developed in the future. There are low-lying valleys between the isolated mountains that can be viewed from Frederick Sound and Farragut Bay.

Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan that are within or adjacent to the area include: Frederick Sound, a part of the Alaska Marine Highway, a tour ship route, and a saltwater use area; Farragut Bay, a saltwater use area; and the Whitney Island area in Cape Fanshaw, a boat anchorage.

About 35 percent of this roadless area is inventoried Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type). The remaining 65 percent is inventoried Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity).

Almost the entire roadless area, 99 percent, is in Existing Visual Condition (EVC) Type I, where only ecological change has occurred. The remaining 1 percent of the area is in EVC IV, where land alteration is obvious to visitors.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: The Fanshaw area is within the traditional territory of the Kake Tlingit. There are numerous cultural resources and archaeological sites in the area, including prehistoric period villages, camps, and culturally-modified trees. Historic period use is indicated by fur farms, cabins, and the Cape Fanshaw fishing village and cannery site. In 1902, a post office was established at the village. An historic lighthouse reserve is also at Cape Fanshaw. Some beach logging has occurred in the area. This roadless area, located approximately 25 air miles from Petersburg, is accessible by boat and floatplane. There are no developed recreation facilities in the roadless area. There were six outfitter/guide permits issued in 2000 for 105 service days of remote setting nature tours and 1 service day of black bear hunting. Subsistence use of the area appears to be low. According to ADF&G records, only a few deer were harvested from this area between 1987 and 1996. Two of the five VCUs in the area (VCUs 850 and 860 at Cape Fanshaw) are listed among the VCUs with the highest sensitivity to disturbance of subsistence use areas. No VCUs are listed among the VCUs with high community use values (ADF&G, 1998).

(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: The roadless area is part of a region of several adjoining roadless areas and wildernesses that extend along the mainland from the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness in the south to Glacier Bay National Park in the north. This extensive unroaded area borders unroaded areas to the north and east in Canada. Frederick Sound and Stephens Passage lie to the west and south. The Fanshaw Roadless Area is adjacent to land owned by State of Alaska. This will most likely lead to development, which may not be compatible with wilderness management. Other boundaries follow topographic features. The roadless area directly adjoins other, larger roadless areas, which in turn border large wildernesses. This enhances the opportunity to mutually support the roadless, undeveloped character of each area. Except in the northwestern part of this roadless area, the boundaries are well defined. The feasibility of management as a wilderness is high except in the northwest. It could create a better-defined boundary if VCU 85 were dropped from the area considered for wilderness designation.

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

- (1) **Recreation, Including Tourism Potential:** Tourism has been increasing in Southeast Alaska and is expected to continue to increase. Petersburg is a hub for this increase in tourism and is expected to continue to be. The close proximity of the roadless area to Petersburg is likely to result in an increase in tourist interest in the roadless area. There is potential for additional outfitter and guide permits, trails, and cabins or shelters. In 1996, the Alaska Visitors Association proposed a day use recreation facility at Cape Fanshaw, with a capacity for 2,800 persons per day.
- (2) **Subsistence Uses:** Management as a wilderness would not conflict with current subsistence uses.
- (3) **Fish Resources:** Construction of a fish pass at Cat Creek is being considered by the Forest Service to enhance pink salmon production.
- (4) **Wildlife Resources:** No wildlife habitat enhancement projects are currently planned in the area.
- (5) **Timber Resources:** There are approximately 29,478 acres mapped as productive old-growth forest and 31 acres mapped as second growth in the roadless area. Of this, approximately 19,519 acres are categorized as tentatively suitable for timber harvest. Based on the Forest Plan LUDs assigned to this area (and estimated falldown and scheduling reduction factors), 8,251 acres, or 17 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 3,111 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 611 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

A timber sale project is currently being planned for this area. A Draft EIS is expected in 2004 and timber sales of 30 to 40 MMBF are scheduled for 2005.
- (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 no inventoried areas with high mineral development potential in the area and no known mining claims.
- (8) **Transportation and Utilities:** There are no transportation or utility corridors proposed in the roadless area.
- (9) **Water Availability and Use:** There are no recreation or other facilities located in this roadless area. As a result, demand does not exist for domestic water use. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects.
- (10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** There is a Research Natural Area near Cape Fanshaw. The area has not been identified for any other scientific value.
- (11) **Land Use Authorizations:** Forest Service records show that six outfitter/guides used this area in 2000 for 105 service days for remote setting nature tours, and for one service day for hunting. The U.S. Coast Guard and the Federal Aviation Administration are authorized to maintain communication facilities at the Cape Fanshaw Communication Site.
- (12) **Land Status:** All land within the roadless area is part of the National Forest System. Approximately 700 acres along the northwest boundary of the roadless area and on Whitney Island have been conveyed to the State.

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IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

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

(a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** Some local interest groups have expressed interest in retaining the roadless character of this area. There is also support for developing all or part of the area.

(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 Fanshaw Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 proposed that the roadless area be designated as part of the Port Houghton-Farragut Bay Wilderness.

(c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revision and Appeals:** The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council listed Farragut Bay and Cape Fanshaw as “meriting special management protection” for their outstanding wildlife, fisheries, hunting, subsistence, recreation, and tourism values. The Alaska Visitors Association recommended developing a day use recreation center with a daily capacity of 2,800 visitors. The Narrows Conservation Coalition and the Juneau Sierra Club mentioned the importance of the area for fishing, recreation, and subsistence. They also commented on the importance of protecting recreational and commercial anchorage, whale watching, tourism, and crab habitat. Some commenters stressed that the area was visible from cruise ships and shouldn’t have timber harvest. The Narrows Conservation Coalition recommended that no log transfer facilities be developed. The timber industry wanted the area managed for timber production.

(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:** Comments were received on the Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw Timber Sale Project Revised DEIS (1998). Seventy-four individuals, organizations, and agencies submitted written comments. The Forest Service did not prepare a Final EIS. A modified timber sale is currently being planned in this area. A Draft EIS for the Fanshaw Project Area is planned for 2003. Many of the original comments on the Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw project concerned the area around Port Houghton. The Port Houghton portion of the project has been dropped from consideration. Comments concerned the size of the harvest and other details and did not directly address the roadless issue. A guide service, Wilderness Swift Charters, commented that all the action alternatives posed a “dire threat to the stability of our business.” Other guide services also expressed their opposition to timber management in the area. Many commenters felt that timber harvest would harm fishery resources in the area. Timber industry comments supported development. One industry commenter noted that subsistence use was practically nonexistent.

(f) **Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process:** The U.S. Department of the Interior identified this roadless area as having outstanding fish and wildlife values. It is one of two areas in the central mainland considered outstanding. They indicated that protecting this area, in combination with the Windham-Port Houghton Roadless Area (#308), would protect some of the most valuable remaining undisturbed forested habitats on the mainland of Southeast Alaska.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game rated the Fanshaw roadless area as the eighth highest priority for protection in the Stikine Area. 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 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.

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. However, they encouraged the Forest Service not to log or build logging roads in watersheds that are primary salmon producing watersheds or otherwise community use areas important to Petersburg residents including Cape Fanshaw.

The city of Kupreanof recommends the entire Port Houghton drainage, Cape Fanshaw, Farrugut Bay and the shoreline from Farrugut Bay to Thomas Bay for designation as wilderness.

The Organized Village of Kake passed a resolution requesting that “customary and traditional areas such as ... Cape Fanshaw/Farrugut Bay (VCUs 860-900), Port Houghton (VCUs 790-840)...” be recommended for long-term protection.

Audubon Alaska recommended that Cape Fanshaw should be protected from logging and road building.

The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) identified Roadless Areas 201, 202, 203, and 308 as a contiguous complex of roadless areas that should be considered one roadless area and recommended it for permanent protection as wilderness. SEACC identified the Fanshaw roadless area as part of the Port Houghton/Cape Fanshaw complex (RAs 201, 202, and 308), which should be considered one contiguous roadless area recommended for permanent protection as wilderness. They indicated that if this complex were designated, it would create a contiguous wilderness along the central mainland coast of nearly 2 million acres, making it the second largest Forest Service Wilderness in the nation.

A number of individuals identified Cape Fanshaw as an area that needed permanent protection.

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness lies across Stephens Passage about 15 miles to the west. The Fanshaw area is part of a region of several adjoining roadless areas and wilderness areas that extend along the mainland from the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness in the south to Glacier Bay National Park in the north. This extensive unroaded area borders unroaded areas to the north and east in Canada. This enhances the opportunity to mutually support the roadless, undeveloped character of each area. Use of the mainland areas can be very high, as is the case for the Juneau Icefield, where tourism accounts for a very high level of use. Other mainland areas receive light use inland with slightly higher use along saltwater shorelines. Admiralty Island gets slightly higher use because of its hunting opportunities.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	80	85
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	130	160
Wrangell (Pop. 2,308)	60	60
Petersburg (Pop. 3,324)	25	30

Petersburg is the nearest stop on the Alaska Marine Highway.

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The Fanshaw Roadless Area is located on the mainland at Cape Fanshaw and extends south to the North Arm of Farrugut Bay. The roadless area contains four separate peaks and ridges with an average elevation of about 3,000 feet. One peak reaches over 3,500 feet. Between the isolated mountains are low-lying valleys.

The area has very high natural integrity and outstanding apparent naturalness. The opportunity for solitude is very high and the opportunity for primitive recreation is outstanding.

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None of the landscape in the area is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery standpoint. The Cape Fanshaw Research Natural Area is located in the roadless area. The area has important cultural and historic values.

The roadless area includes about 13,042 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 3,781 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

Approximately 90 percent of the Fanshaw Roadless Area lies within the Central Coast Range Biogeographic Province and makes up about 6 percent of the province. It is one of nine inventoried roadless areas found in the province that collectively make up about 59 percent of the province. Portions of the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness also lie within the Central Coast Range province and make up about 38 percent of the province. The remaining 10 percent of the Fanshaw Roadless Area lies within the Northern Coast Range Province and makes up less than one percent of the province. Six other inventoried roadless areas make up approximately 66 percent of the province. About 25 percent of this province is covered by the Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness.

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

Approximately 82 percent of the roadless area is in the Cape Fanshaw Complex Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 58 percent of the entire ecological subsection. Only about 0.1 percent of this ecological subsection is located in existing wilderness, but 29 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs. The remaining 18 percent of the roadless area is in the Holkham Bay Complex Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 2 percent of the entire ecological subsection. Approximately 32 percent of this ecological subsection is in existing wilderness and an additional 28 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs.

The Fanshaw 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 6 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is both local and national support for managing the roadless area in an unroaded condition, and some support for designating the area as wilderness. Designation would create a wilderness with a small portion (less than 1 percent) of it being the Cape Fanshaw RNA that has some cultural and historic values along the coast. Designation would likely be considered along with the Spires and portions of the Windham-Port Houghton Roadless areas that abut the Fanshaw Roadless Area. Designation of the area would add Congressional protection to approximately 58 percent of the Cape Fanshaw Complex Ecological Subsection that has very little area in 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 Fanshaw Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 is implemented. Approximately 29 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur in the remaining 71 percent. The land in the development LUDs provides an estimated 8,251 acres that are suitable for timber production (5 percent of the suitable acres on the Petersburg Ranger District). Approximately 611 of the suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The timber sales, recreation, 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. The high cultural and historic values, the Cape Fanshaw Research Natural Area, and most of the high scenic values of the roadless area would be protected under the Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

Under Alternatives 6, 7, or 8, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. No timber harvest would be allowed. The ongoing recreation, and special uses programs could be restricted. Mineral prospecting would be allowed up to the time that the area is actually designated as wilderness by Congress.

Appendix C

Designation of the area as wilderness would add Congressional protection to approximately 58 percent of the Cape Fanshaw Complex Ecological Subsection that has very little acreage in wilderness or LUD II. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness. The high cultural, historic and scenic values would be protected in full.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 201 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness						48,446	48,446	48,446
Wilderness								
Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.								
Wilderness National Monument								
Non-wilderness National Monument								
Research Natural Area	627	627	627	627	627			
Special Interest Area								
Remote Recreation								
Enacted Municipal Watershed								
Old-growth Habitat	12,507	12,507	12,507	12,507	12,507			
Semi-remote Recreation	693	693	693	693	693			
Recommended LUD II								
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167			
Modified Landscape	6,546	6,546	6,546	6,546	6,546			
Timber Production	18,906	18,906	18,906	18,906	18,906			
TOTAL	48,446	48,446	48,446	48,446	48,446	48,446	48,446	48,446
Suitable Timber Lands	8,251	8,251	8,251	8,251	8,251	0	0	0