

## INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

**ROADLESS AREA NAME:** Five Mile (213)

**ACRES (NFS):** 19,284

**BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:** Kupreanof/Mitkof Islands

**ECOLOGICAL SECTION:** Inside Passage Fjordlands

**2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING:** 23

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

(1) **Location and Access:** The Five Mile Roadless Area lies along the eastern shore of the Lindenberg Peninsula on Kupreanof Island on the northeastern edge of the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness and includes the Sukoi Islands. This area is accessed primarily by saltwater. Logging roads from Portage Bay access the west and north portions. The community of Kake lies 30 air miles to the west, and the community of Petersburg lies less than 2 air or water miles south of the southern tip. Petersburg and Kake are served by the Alaska Marine Highway, and Petersburg has daily jet service. Neither of these communities is connected to the area by road. There are no sites suitable for landing wheeled aircraft or floatplanes in the interior of this area. Access is by foot or helicopter. The Petersburg Mountain Trail, which provides access into the southern part of this area, is readily accessible from the state dock in the city of Kupreanof, across Wrangell Narrows from the city of Petersburg.

(2) **History:** The area lies within the traditional territory of the Stikine Tlingit. Known cultural resources in the area include historic period cabins, fur farms, homesteads, culturally modified trees, prehistoric period fish traps, villages, and camps. No cultural resources have been identified in the area interior aside from blazed trees around Colp Lake. Recreation use in the area is moderate. A developed trail leads from saltwater to Colp Lake and another extends from the City of Kupreanof up the southeast face of Petersburg Mountain.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The Five Mile Roadless Area includes distinctive alpine topography exhibiting steep mountain peaks rising from saltwater. To the north, Scott, Sheridan, and Sherman Peaks are above 3,400 feet. Centered in this basin is Five Mile Creek draining to the east from Colp Lake and originating near the base of Sherman Peak. Several other small lakes near Scott Peak form smaller steep and shallow drainages also feeding into Five Mile Creek. Most of the area has a uniform forest canopy below 2,200 feet with slopes of moderate steepness. The area contains about 15 miles of shoreline on saltwater. Offshore, three Sukoi Islands account for 205 acres of this roadless area, and approximately 1,281 acres are alpine environment. Islands account for 205 acres of the area, two of which are larger than 50 acres. There are no mapped acres of ice or rock features.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is classified as being in the Kupreanof/Mitkof Islands Biogeographic Province. Rolling, subdued topography and extensive muskeg areas generally characterize this province, but it also has rugged terrain in localized areas.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Five Mile Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247E), Wrangell Narrows Metasediments Ecological Subsection (see table below). Mountains of sedimentary origin have been extensively reshaped by glaciers and glacial deposition. Slopes are forested with hemlock, spruce, and cedar while lodgepole pine and mixed-conifer stands are found in poorly drained soils. Wetlands are common in low relief, depositional areas. Thick peat deposits have accumulated in some sites with poor drainage (Nowacki et al., 2001).

## Appendix C

<b>Ecological Section</b>	<b>Ecological Subsection</b>	<b>Percent of Roadless Area</b>
Inside Passage Fjordlands	Wrangell Narrows Metasediments	100%

**(b) Soils:** Soils in this area are formed in a wide variety of parent materials, including bedrock and glacial drift. In general, well- or moderately-well-drained soils are 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 2,000 feet elevation, are mostly shallow, very wet organic soils or are extremely shallow and rocky. Approximately 39 percent of the Five Mile Creek watershed is Soil Class IV, which has a very high potential for mass movement.

**(c) Vegetation:** Less than 100 acres of muskeg are mapped for the area; however, due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult. Muskeg/forested wetland timber complexes are interspersed with mature mixed conifer plant communities on better-drained sites along creeks and on steeper slopes. Western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and Alaska-cedar plant communities dominate timbered hill slopes. Minor amounts of redcedar are present. There are 1,281 acres of alpine vegetation mapped in this area.

There are approximately 16,976 acres mapped as forest land of which 8,247 acres or 49 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 3,977 acres or 48 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 734 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There is no second-growth forest mapped within the roadless area.

**(d) Fish Resources:** Fish resources were rated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in its Habitat Integrity Program (1983). These ratings describe the value of VCUs for sport fish, commercial fish, and estuaries. One VCU, 447, was rated as high value for sport fish. Five Mile Creek is the only ADF&G numbered stream in this area. This stream supports runs of steelhead and cutthroat trout; Dolly Varden char; and pink, chum, and coho salmon.

**(e) Wildlife Resources:** Sitka black-tailed deer and moose are present, and black bears are abundant. Historically, Kupreanof Island has been known for moderate to high Sitka black-tailed deer populations. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the central portion of Southeast Alaska experienced a decline in deer populations. Populations on the island are increasing. Recent surveys of moose indicate a growing moose population here. Wolves are located across all habitat types. Mink, river otters, beaver, porcupine, marten, ermine, red squirrel, mice, shrews, and voles are well distributed. Fishers and wolverines are incidental species. The northern flying squirrel has been migrating to Kupreanof Island but is not yet well distributed on the island; some may occur within this roadless area.

Bald eagles, northern goshawks, red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, species of owls, spruce grouse, and ptarmigan all occur within the roadless area. Bats are present during the summer months and may over-winter. Numerous bald eagles nest along this coastline.

Numerous species of ducks and geese, trumpeter swans, marbled murrelets, sandhill cranes, and great blue herons may use this roadless area, both during migration and, in some cases, during the nesting season.

Many species of birds are present. Red-throated, Pacific, and common loons all occur on Kupreanof Island. Several plover, yellowlegs, and sandpiper species occur, mainly along the river corridors and in large muskeg systems. Two swift species, one hummingbird species, four woodpecker species, three flycatcher species, and five swallow species are also known on the island. Steller's jay, 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. 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.

Amphibians known to occur on Kupreanof Island include the rough-skinned newt and western toad. 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.

Sea mammals known to inhabit the waters surrounding Kupreanof Island 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:** This area was allocated to six Land Use Designations (LUDs) in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These six LUDs are Scenic Viewshed, Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Transportation and Utility System (TUS), Old-growth Habitat, and Semi-remote Recreation. The TUS LUD is a secondary LUD that overlays the other land uses.

<b>LUD</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Scenic Viewshed	7,997
Timber Production	6,657
Modified Landscape	1,207
Transportation and Utility System	NA
Old-growth Habitat	2,078
Semi-remote Recreation	1,344

Approximately 82 percent of this roadless area (not including the LUD overlay) was allocated to a development LUD (Scenic Viewshed, Timber Production, Modified Landscape). The coastline along Frederick Sound and the Five Mile Creek area was allocated to the Scenic Viewshed LUD, which accounts for approximately 41 percent of the roadless area. The Timber Production LUD was assigned to west portions of the area, adjacent to the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness and accounts for approximately 35 percent of the roadless area. Approximately 6 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Modified Landscape LUD, located in the less visible areas west of Frederick Sound. The TUS LUD overlay includes possible transportation and utility corridors for the Kake-Petersburg connection, which would need to go through this area since it is adjacent to the wilderness.

Approximately 18 percent of the roadless area was allocated to a non-development LUD (Old Growth Habitat, Semi-remote Recreation). The Old-growth Habitat LUD was assigned to approximately 11 percent of the roadless area. Land with this LUD is located north of Five Mile Creek and adjacent to Frederick Sound. The southeastern tip of the roadless area, adjacent to non-National Forest System lands was allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation LUD, accounting for approximately 7 percent of the roadless area. The Sukoi Islands are also in the Semi-remote Recreation LUD. In most of this roadless area, analysis is on-going for the Scott Peak Project Area, which plans to harvest timber and may construct roads. Some helicopter logging may occur. No definite units have been proposed at this time.

The Forest Plan identified a potential powerline corridor across the roadless area to connect Kake with Petersburg. A tentative road corridor has been identified along the shoreline as part of a possible connection of Petersburg to Kake. There is high local public controversy about this possible connection.

The Sukoi Islands lie in a primary marine route for pleasure and commercial boat traffic. This includes the Alaska State ferries, which cruise between the islands and view much of this roadless area. Navigation markers are maintained in the vicinity of the islands.

Recreation use includes hiking, viewing scenery, camping, bear hunting, deer hunting, trout fishing, and seakayaking. Two trails exist in the area, both beginning at saltwater. The Petersburg Mountain Trail receives

## Appendix C

relatively heavy use and climbs up to Petersburg Mountain. The Colp Lake Trail receives light use and accesses Colp Lake. Use is primarily by day users from nearby Petersburg.

Several small buildings exist on two private parcels of land at the mouth of Five Mile Creek.

**(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness):** The area is essentially unmodified. It is visible from major marine travel routes and provides a backdrop for the city of Petersburg. Areas along the western boundary are affected by timber harvest and associated roads. Timber harvest on non-National Forest System lands along the southeast boundary may affect the apparent naturalness of the area

**(7) Surroundings (External Influences):** The northern end of the Lindenberg Peninsula is roaded and connected to Portage Bay. To the east is saltwater (Frederick Sound) which receives heavy boat traffic. To the southeast, this roadless area adjoins State of Alaska lands and the community of Kupreanof (West Petersburg). These State lands are managed to provide revenue to support the State Mental Health Trust. Across Wrangell Narrows from the city of Kupreanof is the city of Petersburg. Immediately to the south is the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness.

**(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest:** The area contains six inventoried recreation places that cover 1,237 acres, or 6 percent of the roadless area. The area is immediately adjacent to saltwater. Major creeks are valued for recreation uses such as black bear hunting and hiking. Sport fishing is popular around the Sukoi Islets. Colp Lake Trail includes views of glaciers and ice fields on the mainland. The Petersburg Mountain Trail is accessible from the state dock in Kupreanof, across Wrangell Narrows from the city of Petersburg and provides access to alpine areas.

**(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary:** There have been two small changes to the roadless area. The northern boundary has been moved north a short distance closer to Twelvemile Creek. This is a more definable boundary for the roadless area. Also, the Sukoi Islands, three small islands off the coast, are included in the roadless area. In the southeast corner, 600 acres were conveyed to the State in 1996.

### II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

**(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness:** The area is unmodified, with the minor exception of the hiking trail to Colp Lake and Petersburg Mountain, and 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 in the Five Mile Roadless Area once one is a short distance from the west and east boundaries. Use of floatplanes and motorboats may disrupt visitors for brief periods. Present recreation use levels are low to moderate in specific locations adjacent to the major creeks and drainages. A visitor camped on the beach may see or be seen by fishing boats and other marine traffic offshore. The Petersburg Mountain Trail is accessible from the state dock in Kupreanof, across Wrangell Narrows from the city of Petersburg. This roadless area is adjacent to the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness Area.

Landforms along this area are characterized by an anadromous stream and steeply-rising mountain slopes with small icefields. The highest peaks rise to 3,900 feet from saltwater. This makes travel through the area challenging. 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 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)	5,463	28%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	4,657	24%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	7,211	37%
Roaded Modified (RM)	1,953	10%

The area contains six inventoried recreation places that cover 1,237 acres, or 6 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places	Total Acres
P	2	609
SPNM	0	0
SPM	4	627
RM	0	0

Except for the Petersburg Mountain and Colp Lake trails, there are no developed recreation facilities in the area. Major creeks are valued for recreation uses such as black bear hunting, hiking, and beach combing. Sport fishing is popular around the Sukoi Islands.

**(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 original Analysis of the Management Situation developed in support of the Forest Plan Revision. At that time, the Five Mile 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 23. The new rating reflects the effects associated with developments on the northwest side of the area and use and activities associated with the relatively close proximity to Petersburg.

**(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values:**

**(a) Fish Resources:** VCU 447 (Five Mile Creek drainage) has a small segment in this roadless area and it is listed as a primary salmon and sportfish producer. The rest of the area is listed as a secondary producer of salmon (ADF&G, 1998). Five Mile Creek, the only ADF&G numbered stream in this area, has an average annual peak escapement of 4,000 pink salmon. Petersburg anglers often fish in the stream.

**(b) Wildlife Resources:** Historically, Kupreanof Island has been known for moderate to high Sitka black-tailed deer populations and this roadless area is where many Petersburg residents hunted deer. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the central portion of Southeast Alaska experienced a decline in deer populations. Populations on the island are increasing. Recent surveys indicate a growing moose population here. The forested area provides habitat for marten and its prey, mice, voles, and red squirrel. There are numerous bald eagles nests along this coastline. Northern goshawks have been sighted in this area. Surveys in adjacent areas report a plentiful population of porcupines.

Numerous species of ducks and geese, trumpeter swans, marbled murrelets, sandhill cranes, and great blue herons have been seen within this roadless area, both during migration and, in some cases, during the nesting season. The estuary at Five Mile Creek is important habitat and a waterfowl hunting area, as well as, for black bear hunting.

Many species of birds are present although access limits the area for bird-viewing. The extent that this area is used by migratory birds is unknown. Humpback whales, orcas, and Steller sea lions are often seen in Frederick Sound adjacent to this roadless area. Sea lions use the Sukoi Islands for a haul-out.

## Appendix C

**(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). Humpback whales are abundant in Frederick Sound. Steller sea lions routinely haul out on the Sukoi Islands. 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. Goshawks have been sighted in the general 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, cave, or other geologic resources in this area.

**(5) Scientific and Educational Values:** No unique scientific or educational values have been identified in the area.

**(6) Scenic Values:** Most of the area is in a natural state, including Five Mile Creek, and steeply-rising mountain slopes. The highest peaks rise to 3,900 feet from the saltwater in Frederick Sound. Features in the southern portion of the area form a backdrop for Petersburg and the marine gateway from the north.

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 and Colp Lake Hiking Trail #461.

Forty-seven percent of this roadless area is inventoried Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type). About 49 percent is inventoried as Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity character is common for the character type). About 2 percent is inventoried Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity). The remaining 2 percent is not inventoried.

The majority of this roadless area (85 percent) is rated with the Existing Visual Condition (EVC) Type I, where only ecological change has occurred. About 13 percent of the area is rated as an EVC Type V, where changes in the landscape are obvious to the average person and appear to be major disturbances. The remaining 2 percent is not inventoried.

**(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values:** The area lies within the traditional territory of the Stikine Tlingit. Known cultural resources in the area include historic period cabins, fur farms, homesteads, culturally modified trees, prehistoric period fish traps, villages and camps. Evidence of past use suggests the area was used more extensively both historically and prehistorically than current trends. The identified cultural resources lie in beach fringe areas that are generally protected from forest projects by buffers that prohibit project-related disturbances. The presence of developed trails promotes some non-coastal use of the area. VCUs 444, 446 and 447, almost the entire roadless area, are listed among the VCUs with the highest sensitivity to disturbance of subsistence use areas. No significant acreage is listed among the VCUs with high community use value (ADF&G, 1998).

**(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundaries Conditions/Changes:** Areas to the northwest are bounded by roads and harvest areas and there is no easily definable boundary. The east is well defined by saltwater. The Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness lies to the south. Non-National Forest System lands lie to the southeast.

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

(1) **Recreation, Including Tourism Potential:** Recreation potential for the Five Mile area is moderate to high. Use of the developed trails is primarily by residents of Petersburg or Kupreanof. Additional trails, cabins, and shelters all have potential. The area displays a wide variety of settings, from offshore islands to alpine, in a compact area that is easily accessible from Petersburg and Kupreanof. There was one outfitter/guide permit issued in 2000 (2 service days for black bear hunting). Maintenance of this area in a roadless condition enhances the opportunity to manage the adjacent Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness. It also maintains existing recreation opportunities and the visual backdrop for the towns of Petersburg and Kupreanof.

(2) **Subsistence Uses:** Management as a wilderness or in an unroaded condition will not affect subsistence uses.

(3) **Fish Resources:** No fish habitat enhancement projects are planned at this time.

(4) **Wildlife Resources:** No wildlife habitat improvement projects are planned in the area at this time.

(5) **Timber Resources:** There are approximately 8,247 acres mapped as productive old-growth forest and no acres mapped as second growth due to harvest in the roadless area. Of this area, 4,885 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), 2,232 acres, or 12 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 896 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 255 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

There are good timber values in this area; however, high roading costs and high scenic values will need to be recognized. An additional log transfer facility would be desirable to lessen the haul cost to Portage Bay, the nearest log transfer facility.

(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 potential mineral development potential in the area.

(8) **Transportation and Utilities:** A possible transportation corridor has been identified along the shoreline to connect the Lindenberg Peninsula to Portage Bay, and possibly to Kake. Also, there is a potential powerline that would cross the roadless area in order to link Kake with the existing powerline on Mitkof Island. Wilderness designation could preclude development of these facilities.

(9) **Water Availability and Uses:** No developed recreation or other facilities exist to create a water demand. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects in the area.

(10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** The area contains no Research Natural Areas and has not been identified for any other scientific value. There are opportunities to study forests, fish, wildlife, and geologic processes in an area close to Petersburg.

(11) **Land Use Authorizations:** A special use permit exists for an electronics site on a ridge just south of Petersburg Mountain.

(12) **Land Status:** All land within the roadless area is part of the National Forest System. Six hundred acres were conveyed to the State in 1996.

# Appendix C

## IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

### (1) Public and Congressional Interest:

(a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** Interest has developed in this roadless area concerning potential road access from Kake to Kupreanof, and a potential powerline between Kake and Petersburg.

(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. The bill did not include this area. In 2001, HR 2908 did not propose that this roadless area be designated as wilderness. However, it does recommend that most of the roadless area be classified as a Congressionally Designated LUD II area and managed in an unroaded condition.

(c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revision and Appeals:** There were no specific comments on this roadless area. However, negative comments were received regarding the proposed road connection that passes through the area.

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

(e) **Public Input Expressed for Project-level EISs and Other Input:** No project-level comments on this roadless area have been identified

(f) **Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process:** 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.

The city of Kupreanof said they would like this area added to the Petersburg-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness. They are interested in developing a loop trail that connects with the Kupreanof waterfront trail and with Petersburg Creek. They indicated that this trail would take 2-3 days to hike and would be unique in Southeast Alaska; it would be a lengthy hiking loop and would be easily accessible by tourists.

The mayor of Wrangell is opposed to wilderness designation of this area because it would preclude cost-effective transportation and electrical intertie connection to Kake and Sitka.

SEACC recommended that the remaining unlogged portions of northern Kupreanof Island (Roadless Areas 211, 212, and 213) be designated LUD II. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Area 213 for permanent protection as LUD II.

(2) **Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses:** The western and southern boundaries of the Five Mile Roadless Area adjoin the eastern and northern boundaries of the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness area. The remaining roadless units on Kupreanof Island are separated from the Five Mile Roadless Area by saltwater or roaded areas. Overall, this area receives moderate recreational use.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	105	110
Petersburg (Pop. 3,224)	2	3
Wrangell (Pop. 2,308)	35	35
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	110	130

Petersburg is the nearest stop on the Alaska Marine Highway.

**(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System:** The Five Mile Roadless Area lies along the eastern shore of the Lindenberg Peninsula on Kupreanof Island on the northeastern edge of the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness and includes the Sukoi Islands. Landforms along this area are characterized by Five Mile Creek and steeply-rising mountain slopes. The peaks rise to 3,900 feet from saltwater. The area contains about 15 miles of shoreline on saltwater. The Petersburg Mountain Trail, which enters the southern portion of the area, is readily accessible from the state dock in Kupreanof, across Wrangell narrows from the city of Petersburg.

The roadless area is relatively small and mostly unmodified. The area has very high natural integrity and apparent naturalness. The opportunity for solitude is high and the opportunity for primitive recreation is very high.

Approximately 47 percent of the landscape of the area is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery standpoint. The area is within 2 miles of Petersburg and can be accessed by trail from Kupreanof across the channel from Petersburg.

The roadless area includes about 3,977 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 734 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Five Mile Roadless Area is classified as being in the Kupreanof/Mitkof Islands Biogeographic Province and makes up about 2 percent of the province. It is one of 12 inventoried roadless areas found within the province that collectively make up about 63 percent of the province. The Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness is located in this province and makes up about 6 percent of the province.

The Five Mile Roadless Area lies completely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section and represents 1 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 an additional 30 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs.

The roadless area lies completely within the Wrangell Narrows Metasediments Ecological Subsection and represents 6 percent of the ecological subsection. The subsection is protected by existing wilderness (11 percent) and other non-development LUDs (18 percent).

The Five Mile Roadless Area was rated 23 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 30th from the highest (along with seven other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is both local and national support for management of the area in an unroaded condition, and there is little support for designating the area as wilderness. Designation would create a wilderness that would be an extension of the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness, which lies directly south and west of the area. The area includes a transportation and powerline corridor important to future connection between Petersburg and Kake. The powerlines will be part of the overall future power grid important to Southeast Alaska and its communities. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be moderate.

# Appendix C

## V. Environmental Consequences

The Five Mile Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 is implemented. Approximately 18 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur in the remaining 82 percent. The land in the development LUDs provides an estimated 2,232 acres that are suitable for timber production (1 percent of the suitable acres on the Petersburg Ranger District). Approximately 255 of the suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. Planning for the State road and power grid connection between Kake and Petersburg would continue. The timber sales, recreation, minerals, and special use programs would continue. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area would be affected by the ongoing developments allowed by the Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 6, the entire area would be converted to Recommended LUD II. The ongoing recreation, transportation and utility planning, minerals, and special use programs would continue similar to current conditions. No timber harvest would be allowed. Although LUD II designation would not expand the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness as such, it would provide for long-term management in a mostly natural condition. Much of the values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the high scenic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II.

Under Alternative 8, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. No timber harvest would be allowed. The ongoing recreation, transportation and utility planning, minerals, and special uses programs could be restricted. Mineral prospecting would be allowed up to the time that the area is actually designated as wilderness by Congress. Designation of the area as wilderness would extend the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness to the north and east. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the high scenic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 213 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness								19,284
Wilderness								
Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.								
Wilderness National Monument								
Non-wilderness National Monument								
Research Natural Area								
Special Interest Area								
Remote Recreation								
Enacted Municipal Watershed								
Old-growth Habitat	2,078	2,078	2,078	2,078	2,078		2,078	
Semi-remote Recreation	1,344	1,344	1,344	1,344	1,344		1,344	
Recommended LUD II						19,284		
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	7,997	7,997	7,997	7,997	7,997		7,997	
Modified Landscape	1,207	1,207	1,207	1,207	1,207		1,207	
Timber Production	6,657	6,657	6,657	6,657	6,657		6,657	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,284</b>	<b>19,284</b>	<b>19,284</b>	<b>19,284</b>	<b>19,284</b>	<b>19,284</b>	<b>19,284</b>	<b>19,284</b>
Suitable Timber Lands	2,232	2,232	2,232	2,232	2,232	0	2,232	0