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INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Woewodski (218)

ACRES (NFS): 10,647

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Kupreanof/Mitkof Islands

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Kupreanof Lowlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 21

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** This roadless area covers essentially all of Woewodski Island, which lies across Wrangell Narrows (one-quarter mile) from Mitkof Island. The roadless area also includes Butterworth Island, which lies just offshore across Whiskey Pass on the west side, and several small islets. Kupreanof Island lies to the west and north. Woewodski Island is approximately 15 air miles from the City of Petersburg, served by the Alaska Marine Highway and daily jet service. To the west is Duncan Canal, to the north is Beecher Pass and to the east is Wrangell Narrows. Sumner Strait lies to the south. Floatplanes can access Harvey Lake, where there is a public recreation cabin. There are no sites suitable for landing wheeled aircraft. Land access is by foot or helicopter.

(2) **History:** The area lies within the traditional territory of the Stikine Tlingit. Identified historic and prehistoric period site types include cabins, fur farms, mining sites, culturally modified trees and fish traps. Archaeological shoreline surveys would likely verify the presence of prehistoric period villages and camps. The area is unique in its extent of mineral wealth; minerals include gold and its associated minerals. Various companies have held rights to the island's mineral wealth since the early 1900s. Several old and current mines exist in the area. There is one private residence on a patented mining claim near the Harvey Lake trailhead. Some small areas along the shoreline have been beach-logged.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The Woewodski Roadless Area is an island comprised of four minor drainages, totaling 10,371 acres. The area also includes Butterworth Island to the southwest of Woewodski Island and several small islets that make up 276 acres (one of which is over 50 acres). The northeast side of Woewodski Island consists of flat muskegs rising to spruce-hemlock forested hillsides up to an elevation of 1,100 feet. Along the west side, forested slopes rise from saltwater to 500 feet in elevation. There are no sizable streams on the island, however lakes in the area include Harvey Lake near the western shoreline and the much smaller Harry's Lake to the south. Freshwater lakes total about 166 acres. The area contains 32 miles of saltwater shoreline. There are no ice or snow, alpine, or rock features mapped in this area.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is classified as being in the Kupreanof/Mitkof Islands Biogeographic Province. The area is generally characterized by rolling, subdued topography and extensive muskeg areas. There are no known areas of unique or uncommon plant/soils associations or geologic formations in the area.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Woewodski Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Kupreanof Lowlands Ecological Section (M247G), Duncan Canal Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection (see table below). The Duncan Canal Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection is characterized by low relief, high precipitation, and depositional soils which have produced an abundance of wetlands on poorly drained sites. Productive forests are limited to slopes and riparian areas with mineral soil (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Kupreanof Lowlands	Duncan Canal Till Lowlands	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 forested wetlands to open muskeg.

(c) Vegetation: Approximately 188 acres of muskeg are mapped for the area in the low-lying, interior portions of the island, however due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult. Sitka spruce/western hemlock old growth is concentrated on the steep landform on the northern end of the island. Alaska yellow-cedar and redcedar occur as minor components in the Sitka spruce/western hemlock old-growth forest and as well distributed stand components in the muskeg/forested wetland mosaic. The island has been used as a local source for spruce trolling poles and redcedar cabin logs.

There are approximately 10,181 acres mapped as forest land of which 5,783 acres or 57 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, approximately 1,414 acres or 24 percent are mapped as high-volume, old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 171 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There are approximately 57 acres of second-growth forest where beach logging has occurred in the past.

(d) Fish Resources: Species present in the roadless area include pink and coho salmon and cutthroat trout. There are two Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) numbered salmon producing streams. Harvey Creek is the more important of the two streams, producing medium-sized runs of coho salmon. Harvey Lake is a popular fishing area for cutthroat trout.

(e) Wildlife Resources: Black bear, moose, wolves and Sitka black-tailed deer range over the island. Mink, river otters, beaver, marten, ermine, red squirrel, porcupine, mice, shrew, and voles are well distributed over the area. There are occasional sightings of fisher and wolverine but they are at the edge of their range and are considered incidental species. The northern flying squirrel has been migrating to nearby islands from Mitkof Island, and is likely to be found on Woewodski Island.

Bald eagles, northern goshawks, red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, great horned owls, western screech owl, saw-whet owls, and pigmy owls all are likely to occur on Woewodski Island. Bats are present during the summer months and occasionally over winter in man-made structures.

Numerous duck and goose species, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, marbled murrelets, and great blue herons all occur in and around the area both during migration and, in some cases, during nesting season. Spruce grouse and blue grouse are known to occur on the island.

Red-throated, Pacific, and common loon are all likely to occur on the 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 known on nearby Mitkof Island, and probably occur on Woewodski 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,

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rusty blackbird, brown-headed cowbird, eight sparrow species, pine grosbeak, red crossbill, white-winged crossbill, common redpoll, and pine siskin are found.

Amphibians likely to occur on the island are the rough-skinned newts and the western toad. These species are found primarily in lacustrine, palustrine, hemlock/spruce forests and muskeg bog ecosystems. The western toad is also found in clearcuts.

Marine mammals known to inhabit the waters surrounding Woewodski Island are the Pacific white-sided dolphin, killer whale, harbor porpoise, Dall's porpoise, Steller sea lion and harbor seal.

(5) Management Direction and Current Uses: The roadless area was allocated to three Land Use Designations (LUDs) under the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These three LUDs are Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed, and Semi-remote Recreation.

LUD	Acres
Modified Landscape	1,273
Scenic Viewshed	9,108
Semi-remote Recreation	265

Approximately 98 percent of the roadless area was allocated to a development LUD (Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed). Most of Woewodski Island, approximately 86 percent of the roadless area, was allocated to the Scenic Viewshed LUD. Areas that are less visible from saltwater on Woewodski Island were allocated to the Modified Landscape LUD, which account for approximately 12 percent of the roadless area.

Approximately 2 percent of the roadless area was allocated to a non-development LUD. The only non-development LUD in this area is the Semi-remote Recreation LUD, located on all of Butterworth Island and other small islands in the area.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Woewodski Timber Sale was being planned to harvest approximately 15 million board feet of timber from this area. It was scheduled for sale in 1990, but was not offered due to a decision to defer it until after the decision for the Forest Plan was signed. This area is on the ten-year timber sale schedule and inventory for the environmental analysis for timber harvest and other activities is expected to begin in 2003.

Recreation uses include deer and waterfowl hunting, trout fishing, boating, hiking, swimming, and recreation cabin use. There is one public recreation cabin on Harvey Lake, and one near saltwater at the west end of Beecher Pass. Forest Service Recreation Trail #488 connects Harvey Lake to Duncan Canal. There was one outfitter/guide permit issued in 2000 with 70 service-days of use categorized as remote setting nature tours. Subsistence use of the area is believed to be minor. There is one private residence on a patented mining claim near the Harvey Lake trailhead.

Several old and current mines exist in the area. Woewodski Island was the site of extensive mining in the 1930s, but only small amounts of gold were found before the vein was lost. Mining claims have covered about 90 percent of the island.

(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness): The island generally appears unmodified, with exceptions being the public recreation cabins, a trail, and the two private residences. On the southeast end of the island, areas of blown-down timber are visible from Wrangell Narrows. Limited beach logging is visible, but not dominant from a few saltwater locations. The results of the mineral exploration are visible in many places on the island, such as cleared helicopter landing sites, core drill sites, and brushing for mining claims.

(7) Surroundings (External Influences): The area is within close range of the Petersburg and Kupreanof communities. Numerous recreation residences are in the Beecher Pass area. In 1980, the State of Alaska sold numerous parcels of land through the land lottery program. Many of the land owners have built permanent, year-round residences on their properties. Alaska Marine Highway ferries and a large volume of commercial and recreational boat traffic pass within one-quarter mile of the island on its east side.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: The area contains five inventoried recreation places, which cover 2,986 acres, or 28 percent of the roadless area. The Harvey Lake Trail and cabin, and the Beecher Pass cabin, with their proximity to the city of Petersburg, provide the greatest attraction to the recreating public for this roadless area. The scenery of the area is typical of much of the lowlands of Southeast Alaska.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: There have been no changes in the boundaries since 1989 except where the small areas of old beach logging has been added back into the roadless area.

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: The area is unmodified except for the existing recreation cabins, two residences, a trail located at the northern end of the island, impacts from minerals exploration, and limited old beach-logging. The natural integrity is high. The roadless area includes all of Woewodski and Butterworth Islands, and several small islets. It does not include approximately 39 acres of private land in the northwest portion of Woewodski Island.

(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: There is a moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation within the area. Low-flying airplanes traveling to and from Petersburg; the ferry; commercial fishermen and barges; and recreational boaters may at times pass by the area and be observed by people in this roadless area. Present recreation use levels are low except around the public recreation cabins, Harvey Lake, and the trail to the lake. The lake is popular with fishermen. Generally, a person camping or traveling inland is unlikely to see others, except on the trail or near the lake. At the Harvey Lake cabin, the character of the landforms generally allows the visitor to feel remote from the sights and sounds of human activity. The area is accessible by boat from the community of Petersburg in less than an hour and from Wrangell in approximately 2 hours. In July and August, fishing for coho salmon takes place around the public recreation cabins along Duncan Canal.

Travel inland is less challenging than in many roadless areas in Southeast Alaska. The trail provides access to the lake. Other areas are relatively flat and fairly easy to cross. 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 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
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	6,279	59%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	2,518	24%
Roaded Natural (RN)	1,850	17%

The area contains five inventoried recreation places, which cover 2,986 acres, or 28 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places	Total Acres
SPNM	0	0
SPM	2	1,901
RN	3	1,085

There are two public recreation cabins and two residences in the area. There is also a special use permit for a private cabin along the north shore. A developed trail leads from Duncan Canal to Harvey Lake.

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(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 Woewodski Roadless Area was given a rating of 22 out of 28 possible points. The rating was re-evaluated in for this updated version of the Analysis of the Management Situation. Based on this re-evaluation, the area was given a rating of 21. This rating reflects the relatively small size of the roadless area and the effects of the ongoing activities in and near the area.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The roadless area is relatively small. It includes nearly the entire island but it is separated from other roadless areas by saltwater, and by developed areas in some places.

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) listed VCU 448 which encompasses the entire roadless area, as a primary sportfish producer but as a secondary salmon producer (ADF&G, 1998). The boundary of VCU 448 is not restricted to this roadless area and includes streams on Mitkof Island. There are two ADF&G numbered salmon producing streams. Harvey Creek is the more important of the two streams, producing medium-sized runs of coho and pink salmon. A 1979 study, conducted by the ADF&G, estimated there were 669 cutthroat trout present in Harvey Lake at that time.

(b) Wildlife Resources: Woewodski Island is considered a "stepping stone" for inter-island migrations between Mitkof Island and Kupreanof Island for the animal migration that is occurring from the Stikine River. Many species currently on Kupreanof are thought to have spread via this route due to the narrow saltwater passage between both Woewodski and Mitkof Islands and Woewodski and Kupreanof Islands. This island was considered for a medium old-growth habitat reserve but did not meet the size criteria. Many Petersburg residents go hunting on this island and moose hunters have been successful here. There have been unconfirmed sightings of elk, a non-native species. Elk are strong swimmers and it is expected that they crossed over from Zarembo Island. ADF&G does not want to manage for elk on this island. Numerous duck and goose species, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, marbled murrelets, and great blue herons all occur in and around the area both during migration and, in some cases, during nesting season. Spruce grouse and blue grouse are known to occur on the island.

(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, 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. Woewodski Island is part of the Duncan Canal/Zarembo Island mineral tract, which has a moderate to high mineral development potential for barite, zinc, lead, and silver. Mining claims cover approximately 90 percent of the island.

(5) **Scientific and Educational Values:** No unique scientific or educational values are known to exist in this area.

(6) **Scenic Values:** The island generally appears unmodified from the surrounding travel routes and recreation sites on the island. Modified areas include the recreation cabins, trail and two private residences. On the southeast end of the island, areas of blown-down timber are visible from Wrangell Narrows, and old beach-logging is visible in a few areas. Overall, the natural appearance dominates the landscape.

Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan, that are within or adjacent to the area include: Wrangell Narrows, a part of the Alaska Marine Highway and a tour ship route; Duncan Canal, a saltwater use area and small boat route; Sumner Strait, a tour ship route; Beecher Pass and Whiskey Pass, small boat routes; Beecher Pass Marine Park; Beecher Pass and Harvey Lake public recreation cabins; and the Harvey Lake hiking trail #488.

One percent of this roadless area is inventoried Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type). Approximately 91 percent is inventoried Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type) and 5 percent is inventoried Variety Class C (possessing as low degree of landscape diversity). Three percent of the area was not inventoried.

The majority of this area, 93 percent, is in Existing Visual Condition (EVC) Type I, where only ecological change has occurred. One percent of the area appears to be untouched by human activity (EVC Type II). Two percent of this roadless area is EVC Type III, where changes in the landscape are seen by the average forest visitor, but the natural appearance of the landscape remains dominant. Approximately one percent of the area is in EVC IV, where changes in the landscape are easily noticed by the average visitor, and may attract some attention. Three percent of the area was not inventoried.

(7) **Social, Cultural, and Historical Values:** The area lies within the traditional territory of the Stikine Tlingit. Identified historic and prehistoric period site types include cabins, fur farms, mining sites, culturally modified trees and fish traps. Archaeological shoreline surveys would likely verify the presence of prehistoric period villages and camps. The area is unique in its extent of mineral wealth; minerals include gold and its associated minerals. Various companies have held rights to the island's mineral wealth since the early 1900s. Several old and current mines exist in the area. There has been a minor amount of timber harvest along the shore. The roadless area receives light subsistence use; it was not listed in the top three categories for high community fish and wildlife values but is listed among the VCUs with the highest sensitivity to disturbance of subsistence use areas (ADF&G, 1998). There are two recreation cabins and a developed trail that provide recreation opportunities on the island.

(8) **Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes:** The roadless area includes all of Woewodski and Butterworth Islands, except for approximately 39 acres of private land in the northwest portion of Woewodski Island. The area is surrounded by saltwater and is easily defined, except for the private land. Most of the area is allocated to development LUDs. The area has high potential for mining development. Ninety percent of the island has mining claims, which would conflict with wilderness management. Feasibility of management in a roadless condition is moderate. Roadless Area 215 lies to the west, across Duncan Canal. Roadless Area 224 lies to the east, across Wrangell Narrows. Roadless Area 217 lies to the north across Beecher Pass and is separated by state and private land on the south end of the Lindenberg Peninsula. Some residents of that area have voiced strong opposition to development on Woewodski Island. Management in an unroaded condition would be consistent with their objectives. Other residents support roads, which would provide the infrastructure for minerals development.

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

(1) **Recreation, Including Tourism Potential:** There is potential for additional outfitter and guide use, developed trails, and cabins or shelters. Tourism has been increasing in Southeast Alaska and is expected to continue to grow. The area's proximity to Petersburg makes its recreation potential higher than for many other roadless areas on the Petersburg Ranger District. Small cruise ship companies use the Harvey Lake trail for their clients. This large group use would conflict with wilderness designation.

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- (2) **Subsistence Uses:** Management as a wilderness would not conflict with current subsistence use.
- (3) **Fish Resources:** There are no fish habitat enhancement projects currently planned for this area.
- (4) **Wildlife Resources:** There are no wildlife habitat improvement projects currently planned for this area.
- (5) **Timber Resources:** There are approximately 5,783 acres inventoried as productive old-growth forest and 57 acres mapped as second growth due to harvest in the roadless area. Approximately 5,375 acres of these areas 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), 2,346 acres or, 22 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 569 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 88 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

A site for transferring logs to saltwater may be necessary to access the island's interior. Timber development could occur in conjunction with mining activities.

- (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:** Woewodski Island was the site of extensive mining in the 1930s, but only small amounts of gold were found. The area has an abundant supply of minerals, and mineral exploration activity has increased in the last few years. Information from the U.S. Bureau of Mines indicates the Duncan Canal/Zarembo Island mineral tract has a moderate to high mineral development potential for barite, zinc, lead, and silver. Mining claims cover approximately 90 percent of the island.

The roadless area contains 5,681 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having a high potential for experiencing mineral exploration and development of locatable minerals (Coldwell, 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991). In addition, the roadless area contains an estimated 10,647 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991); 7,294 of these acres are considered to have moderate potential for development.

- (8) **Transportation and Utilities:** No existing or proposed transportation or utility corridors cross the roadless area. The area is due east and adjacent to the Alaska Marine Highway.
- (9) **Water Availability and Use:** Two private residences and two public recreation cabins create a domestic water demand within this roadless area. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects.
- (10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** The area contains no Research Natural Areas, and has not been identified for any other scientific value.
- (11) **Land Use Authorizations:** The U. S. Coast Guard is authorized to maintain aids to navigation at Beecher Pass, Butterworth Island, and Point Lockwood. A private individual is authorized to store crabpots at Beecher Pass and a private recreation cabin is authorized at Beecher Pass.
- (12) **Land Status:** There is no other land ownership within the roadless area other than National Forest System lands.

IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

- (1) **Public and Congressional Interest:**
 - (a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** The area is primarily used for recreational purposes, with Petersburg residents and those from the Beecher Pass homesites making use of the Harvey Lake Trail and recreation cabins. Some residents of Beecher Pass have voiced strong opposition to development on the island. Some residents of Petersburg would like to see Woewodski developed to provide an infrastructure for minerals development.

(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 Woewodski Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 proposed that the roadless area be designated as part of the West Duncan-Castle River Wilderness.

(c) Public Input During Forest Plan Revisions and Appeals: No specific comments were received on this roadless area. Some comments concerning roadless areas in general recommended that all roadless areas on the Forest be protected. Others felt that roadless areas should be developed.

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

(e) Public Input Expressed for Project-level EISs and Other Input: During the planning for the Woewodski Timber Sale in the late 1980s, strong opposition developed from residents in the Beecher Pass area. Residents favored managing the area for recreation.

(f) Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process: The U.S. Department of the Interior identified this roadless area as having important fish and wildlife habitat and populations; although not a top priority for protection, it ranked in their top third among all roadless areas.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game rated the Woewodski roadless area as the second 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 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 recommends Woewodski for designation as wilderness.

The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Area 218 for permanent protection as wilderness. SEACC recommended that the Woewodski Roadless Area be designated as wilderness to protect valuable fish and wildlife habitat.

Some individuals recommended this area for permanent protection as wilderness.

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: Woewodski Island is separated by saltwater, and by state and private land in places, from the Castle, Crystal, and Green Rocks Roadless Areas. The Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness lies 20 miles north of this roadless area.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	130	135
Petersburg (Pop. 3,224)	15	15
Wrangell (Pop. 2,308)	25	25
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	90	105

Petersburg and Wrangell are the nearest stops on the Alaska Marine Highway.

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(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: This Woewodski Roadless Area covers essentially all of Woewodski Island, which lies across Wrangell Narrows (one-quarter mile) from Mitkof Island. The roadless area also includes Butterworth Island, which lies just offshore across Whiskey Pass on the west side, and several small islets. To the west is Duncan Canal, to the north is Beecher Pass and to the east is Wrangell Narrows. Summer Strait lies to the south. To the northeast there are flat muskegs rising to timbered hillsides of 1,100 feet. To the southwest, landforms rise gradually to 500 feet. There are no sizeable streams on the islands. Dominant waterforms include Harvey Lake in the northwest portion of the Woewodski Island.

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

Approximately 1 percent of the landscape in the roadless area is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery standpoint. Ninety percent of the island has mining claims and is reflective of the high degree of mineralization of the island. The island's proximity to Petersburg make it a popular destination for recreation.

The roadless area includes about 1,414 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 171 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Woewodski Roadless Area is classified as being in the Kupreanof/Mitkof Islands Biogeographic Province and makes up about 1 percent of the province. It is one 12 of 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 Woewodski Roadless Area lies completely within the Kupreanof Lowlands Ecological Section and represents 1 percent of the ecological section. Approximately 1 percent of the Kupreanof Lowlands Ecological Section is in existing wilderness, 1 percent is in existing LUD II, and an additional 33 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs.

The Woewodski Roadless Area lies completely within the Duncan Canal Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection and represents 4 percent of the ecological subsection. Approximately 5 percent of the Duncan Canal Till Lowlands Ecological Subsection is in existing wilderness and 35 percent is protected in other existing non-development LUDs.

The Woewodski Roadless Area was rated 21 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 47th from the highest (along with five other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is both local and national support for managing the area in an unroaded condition, and very little support for designation of the area for wilderness. Designation would create a small wilderness with relatively high recreation uses, and an area that is actively explored for minerals to the degree that about 90 percent of the area is covered by mining claims. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be low.

V. Environmental Consequences

The Woewodski Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 is implemented. Approximately 2 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur in the remaining 98 percent. The land in the development LUDs provides an estimated 2,346 acres that are suitable for timber production (1 percent of the suitable acres on the Petersburg Ranger District). Approximately 88 of the suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The roadless area contains 5,681 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having a high potential for experiencing mineral exploration and development of locatable minerals. In addition, the roadless area contains an estimated 10,647 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources; 7,294 of the acres are considered to have moderate potential for development. The timber sales, recreation, minerals, and special use programs would continue. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area could be affected by ongoing developments.

Appendix C

Under Alternatives 6, 7, or 8, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness LUD. No timber harvest would be allowed and the ongoing recreation, 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. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area would receive long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 218 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness						10,647	10,647	10,647
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								
Semi-remote Recreation	265	265	265	265	265			
Recommended LUD II								
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	9,108	9,108	9,108	9,108	9,108			
Modified Landscape	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,273			
Timber Production								
TOTAL	10,647	10,647	10,647	10,647	10,647	10,647	10,647	10,647
Suitable Timber Lands	2,346	2,346	2,346	2,346	2,346	0	0	0