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INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Security (240)

ACRES (NFS): 35,497

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Kuiu Island

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Kuiu-Prince of Wales Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 22

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** The Security Roadless Area is located on the northwest side of Kuiu Island, approximately 15 air miles southwest of Kake and about 50 air miles west of Petersburg. Both cities are accessed via the Alaska Marine Highway and Petersburg is served by daily jet service. Chatham Strait lies to the west, Security Bay to the northeast, and Frederick Sound to the north. A roaded area lies to the east. It is accessed primarily by saltwater and by air. The only secure anchorage along the Chatham coast is in Washington Bay, the remaining west coast is rocky and open to severe marine weather. Security Bay and Rowan Bay have good anchorages. It is possible to land floatplanes within Washington Bay and also in Security and Rowan Bays. There are no sites suitable for landing wheeled aircraft. Inland access is by foot or helicopter. There is no ferry service to Kuiu Island, and the road system does not connect to any community.

(2) **History:** North Kuiu Island is in the traditional territory of the Kake Tlingit. Evidence of past use is indicated by the remains of villages, camps, forts, gardens, fish traps, pictographs, petroglyphs, and culturally modified trees. Security and Saginaw Bays were heavily used prior to 1870. These bays are still important for gathering subsistence items. Historic use of the area is evidenced by the remains of a herring reduction plant and cannery in Washington Bay, and fur farms and troller camps in Security Bay. No known cultural sites exist inland. A logging camp at nearby Rowan Bay supports logging operations, and it is occupied intermittently during timber harvest activities. Extensive road development and timber harvest has occurred east of this area. The Security Bay State Marine Park was designated in the mid-1980s and is adjacent to this roadless area.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** This coastal area is represented by steep, heavily-dissected slopes, rocky beaches, and numerous streams cascading directly into saltwater. Washington Bay is typical of this setting. Security Bay, also a major feature of this area, has more gently-sloping terrain characteristic of glaciated valleys. Elevations of this area range from sea level to about 3,300 feet. Bedrock lithology consists of plutonic rocks of the Kuiu-Etolin plutonic belt of Miocene age (20 to 22 million years ago) and older plutons of the Chilkat-Prince of Wales plutonic province of Cretaceous age (about 100 million years ago). Rock types are primarily massive, non-foliated intrusive igneous rocks, mostly granite, granodiorite, quartz diorite, and quartz monzodiorite.

The area is largely covered with spruce-hemlock forest over interspersed mountain ridges and peaks. Few muskeg areas exist. Three islands account for 271 acres, while freshwater lakes make up approximately 90 acres. Alpine ecosystems cover approximately 742 acres, rock covers 2,621 acres, and there are no mapped ice or snow features. The area has 63 miles of shoreline.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is in the Kuiu Island Biogeographic Province. This province is generally characterized by rolling, subdued topography and extensive muskeg areas, but may have localized, rugged terrain. The west-facing side of the Security Roadless Area is typical of the exposed, moderate-energy shoreline facing west and south along major waterways of Southeast Alaska. The climate is cooler, and winter snow pack is greater, than on islands to the south but milder than the mainland. The west portion is subject to severe windstorms. There are no known areas of unique or uncommon plant/soils associations or geologic formations in the area.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Security Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Kuiu-Prince of Wales Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247F), represented by two ecological subsections (see table below). The Kuiu-Prince of Wales Granitics Ecological Subsection is the dominant subsection within the Security Roadless Area. Rugged mountaintops of igneous rock rise above rounded peaks, capturing incoming precipitation which remains as snowpack much of the year. Moderately productive hemlock forests are found below the alpine. The Rowan Sediments Ecological Subsection forms the remaining 19 percent of the Security Roadless Area. Glacially smoothed hills and broad valleys carved from sedimentary rock on northcentral Kuiu Island support highly productive hemlock or hemlock-spruce forests. Valley bottoms contain a variety of wetlands that have developed in poorly drained organic soils (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Kuiu-Prince of Wales Fjordlands	Kuiu-Prince of Wales Granitics	81%
	Rowan Sediments	19%

(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 (residuum from granitic rocks). 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.

Poorly-drained soils developed on less-sloping areas and/or areas with impermeable soil materials. These soils develop in colluvium or glacial till and 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. Large alluvial fans on mountain toe slopes are characteristic of this area.

Drainage density is 4.1 miles/1,000 acres, the highest on Kuiu Island. This area also has the highest percentage of high gradient contained streams. Most low-velocity streams often have sandy substrates derived from weathered granitic soil.

(c) **Vegetation:** The western hemlock plant community dominates the lower elevations while the mountain hemlock plant community predominates immediately below the subalpine zone at around 2,000 feet in elevation. Muskegs occur infrequently on lower slopes and in valley bottoms. Sitka spruce and western hemlock plant communities occur on large alluvial fans. Nearly all of the alpine ecosystems (742 acres mapped) on Kuiu Island occur in this landscape at elevations of about 2,000 to 3,350 feet. Although no permanent snowfields or glaciers occur in this area, the snow pack on north slopes persists for most of the year. Brush communities dominated by Sitka alder and salmonberry occur in narrow snow avalanche tracks that run from alpine areas to near sea level.

There are approximately 30,142 acres mapped as forest land, of which 23,619 acres or 78 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, approximately 14,995 acres or 63 percent are mapped as high-volume, old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 4,361 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There are approximately 573 acres of second-growth

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forest where timber harvest has occurred in the past. The majority of the harvest (552 acres) was beach harvest.

(d) Fish Resources: Nine Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) numbered salmon producing streams are present in the roadless area. These streams produce very small numbers of pink, chum, and coho salmon, and Dolly Varden char. The exception is Security Salt Chuck stream which produces a late chum and coho return due to a unique upwelling water condition.

(e) Wildlife Resources: Sitka black-tailed deer, moose, beaver, river otter, marten, wolves, and black bear inhabit this roadless area. Black bears are especially abundant on the north end of Kuiu Island. Other terrestrial mammals include bats, mink, muskrat, ermine, red squirrel, mice, shrews, and voles. There are occasional sightings of fisher and wolverine, but these are considered incidental species at the edge of their range.

Bird species include bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, great horned owls, western screech owls, saw-whet owls, pigmy owls, marbled murrelets, osprey, spruce grouse, ptarmigan, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, Canada geese, and great blue herons. Red-throated, Pacific, and common loon all occur around Kuiu 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.

Sea mammals known to inhabit the waters surrounding Kuiu Island are the Pacific white-sided dolphin, killer whale, harbor porpoise, Dall's porpoise, humpback whale, Steller sea lion, and harbor seal. Sea otters occur on both eastern and western shores of Kuiu Island. They are expanding their range northward into Keku Strait.

Amphibians known to occur on Kuiu Island include rough-skinned newt, western toad, and wood 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. Wood frogs are found in most of the ecosystems found in Southeast Alaska except for marine, estuarine, and riverine.

(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 Timber Production, Semi-remote Recreation, and Wild River.

LUD	Acres
Timber Production	9,393
Semi-remote Recreation	25,169
Wild River	935

Approximately 27 percent of the roadless area was allocated to one development LUD, Timber Production. Land allocated to this LUD is located primarily in the south and southeast.

Most of the roadless area, approximately 73 percent, was allocated to non-development LUDs (Semi-remote Recreation, Wild River). Approximately 70 percent of the roadless area, including the small associated islands, is allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation LUD. Land in the Fall Dog Creek area was allocated to the Wild River LUD, accounting for approximately 3 percent of the roadless area. Fall Dog Creek Wild River drains into Security Bay.

The decision on the Crane and Rowan Mountain Timber Sale Final EIS (1998) approved road construction and timber harvest in the southern portion of the roadless area. Approximately 150 acres are included. The Rowan Mountain Timber Sale is currently under contract. No other timber harvest activities are currently proposed, but the part of the roadless area that is classified as development LUD is identified for potential future timber harvest on the 10-year timber sale schedule.

Personal resource use by logging camp residents when timber sales are active currently occurs in the vicinity of Security Bay. Kake residents also participate in subsistence fishing and hunting and favor waterfowl hunting in Security Bay. Recreation uses include bear, deer, and waterfowl hunting; coho salmon, chum salmon, pink salmon, and steelhead fishing; sea kayaking; camping; beachcombing; and viewing from marine areas. The absence of cabins or commercial overnight facilities limits use by fly-in recreationists. Security Bay is a popular anchorage for commercial fishermen and recreational boaters.

(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness): The area is essentially unmodified. Some evidence of past occupancy is present at the abandoned fox farms located on adjacent islands, and at the fish camps and the cannery site at Washington Bay and a harvest unit to the south of Washington Bay. Several timber harvest areas outside the roadless area are visible, as is a private residence on the east side of Security Bay from within Security Bay and other locations within the area.

(7) Surroundings (External Influences): Areas east of, and adjacent to, the Security Roadless Area are heavily modified by past and present timber harvest activities centered around Rowan Bay. Forest Road 6402 runs north from Rowan Bay and connects with Security and Saginaw Bays. It continues to serve as a major access route for hauling logs. Modifications on lands adjacent to this route will continue to occur under current management direction, as the area is allocated for timber management. Land on the east side of Security Bay has been conveyed to the State for a marine park. A private residence also exists there.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: The area includes the west side of Security Bay; all of Washington Bay; a portion of Rowan Bay, which would be roaded under a current timber sale contract; and two Lighthouse Reserves, one south of Washington Bay and one near Kingsmill Point. The area contains three inventoried recreation places, which cover 2,821 acres, or 8 percent of the roadless area. The most important of these recreation places includes the Salt Chuck at the head of Security Bay, which is known to be particularly good for waterfowl hunting. The presence of anchorage sites within Washington Bay and along shorelines in Security Bay and Rowan Bay are noteworthy.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: The area on the east side of Security Bay has been dropped, as has a small roaded area on the southwest end of the bay. Several small areas were excluded from the area between the Draft and Final SEIS to improve manageability in those areas.

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: The area is essentially unmodified; however, the landscape is influenced by development on the eastern boundary. Also, some evidence of past occupancy is present at the abandoned fur farms located on adjacent islands, and at the fish camps and the cannery sites at Washington Bay. Natural processes are essentially unaltered over the remainder of the area. The natural appearance which the majority of the area possesses, is consistent with the potential classification of this area as wilderness.

(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. Use of floatplanes and motorboats may disrupt visitors for brief periods. Noise from timber management activities on the roads east and south of the area can be heard during periods of activity. Present recreation use levels within the roadless area are low; however, Security Bay is used by commercial fishermen and by those staying at the camp at Rowan Bay. Generally a person camped along the shore would have a moderate chance of seeing others.

Traveling by boat into the area requires extended boating time in exposed waters, challenging the skills of even experienced skippers. The roadless area contains steep terrain that presents challenging hiking conditions. As with

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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
Primitive (P)	9,007	25%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	14,969	42%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	9,922	28%
Roaded Modified (RM)	1,579	4%
Rural (R)	19	0%

The area contains three inventoried recreation places, which cover 2,821 acres, or 8 percent of the roadless area. The most important of these recreation places includes the Salt Chuck at the head of Security Bay, which is known for particularly good waterfowl hunting.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places	Total Acres
P	0	0
SPNM	0	0
SPM	3	2,796
RM	1	25
R	0	0

* Rec. Places may occur in more than one ROS Class; the sum of this column may exceed the total number of Rec. Places.

There are no developed recreation facilities. Outfitters and guides use the area. Forest Service records show that three outfitters/guides used this area in 2000 for a total of 17 service days for remote setting nature tours and 2 service days for black bear hunting.

(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 Security 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 22. This rating reflects the effects of the developments and activities on adjacent areas on wilderness attributes of this area.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The area is separated from other roadless areas and wilderness areas by Frederick Sound and Chatham Strait on the north and west, and by roaded and harvested areas and Rowan Bay to the south and east. It is relatively isolated on a peninsula on the northwest end of Kuiu Island. Approximately half the area, mostly the higher elevations, is not forested. However, the lower elevations contain interconnected stands of medium- and high-volume, old-growth forest. Little timber management has occurred in this area.

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) lists VCU's 400 and 402 surrounding Security and Rowan Bays, respectively, as primary producers of salmon.

The boundary of this roadless area does not include the larger streams within VCU 402. Neither is listed as a primary sport fish producer.

An unnamed stream on the west coast of this roadless area contains 0.7 mile of Class I stream and 2.8 miles of Class II stream habitat. Approximately one mile of coho habitat is present here. Small numbers of pink and chum salmon may use the lower reaches of this creek, but several partial barriers are present upstream. Both Dolly Varden char and cutthroat trout are present upstream.

Fall Dog Creek has high commercial and historic values for chum salmon. Fall Dog Creek has a unique November spawning run of chum salmon that is used for subsistence. The salmon also attract a large number of black bears and eagles. Fall Dog Creek meets the guidelines for Wild River classification for 4 miles under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(b) Wildlife Resources: Deer winter habitat is generally found on southern aspects at low to moderate elevations in multi-canopied forests. High quality deer winter habitat can be found along the beach fringe of Chatham Strait and Washington Bay. Information from the Crane and Rowan Mountain Timber Sales EIS (USDA Forest Service, 1998) indicates that this area also supports habitat for otter, mink, marten, bald eagle, Arctic and American peregrine falcons, osprey, trumpeter swan, northern goshawk and Canada geese. There are no known concentrations of marine wildlife or sea lion haul-out sites but humpback whales are known to use the waters off Kuiu Island. Sea otters occur in the waters to the east and west of Kuiu Island. They are expanding their range northward into Keku Strait.

Rowan Bay and the Rowan Mountain area have the highest wildlife values in the roadless area. The Salt Chuck at the head of Security Bay is known for high-quality waterfowl hunting. Black bear populations on Kuiu also attract numerous hunters. Based on data compiled from 1985 to 1994, VCU 400 surrounding Security Bay is listed among the top 25 percent of VCUs for black bear harvest. VCU 402 surrounding Rowan Bay is listed among the second 25 percent (ADF&G, 1998). The area serves as a medium old-growth habitat reserve on the northern portion of the island. Old-growth Habitat reserves are part of the Forest-wide wildlife conservation strategy included in the Forest Plan.

(c) Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species: The only federally listed threatened or 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. Three Forest Service Region 10 Sensitive Species are suspected or known to occur within the area: the trumpeter swan, Peale's peregrine falcon, and the Queen Charlotte goshawk. Trumpeter swans nest in the lowlands on small lakes and along large rivers. Wintering in ice-free areas throughout the Tongass, trumpeter swans may be seen migrating through Rowan Bay and Security Bay. 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. Goshawk nests have been located in the Security Bay and Rowan Creek drainages. 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.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: The abandoned cannery sites, fish camps, and fish traps attract some visitors and could be used for education/interpretation of the history of the area. If facilities are developed in the Security Bay State Marine Park, the use of the roadless area may increase, increasing opportunities for interpreting the history of the area.

(6) Scenic Values: The west-facing slope in this area appears unmodified from a major travel way used by cruise ships. It is from this vantage that one can see displays of distinctive characteristics similar to those of the Baranof Highlands along the exposed coastline. Viewing the area from Security Bay, the terrain slopes more gently toward the water, but several timber harvest areas are also visible outside the roadless area.

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Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan that are within or adjacent to the area include Frederick Sound, which is a part of the Alaska Marine Highway and tour ship route, as well as a saltwater use area; Chatham Strait, a tour ship route; Security and Washington Bay, which are saltwater use areas; and the Security Bay State Marine Park.

Fifty-five percent of this area was inventoried as Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type). About 37 percent was inventoried as Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type), and 7 percent was inventoried as Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity).

About 95 percent of this roadless area was inventoried in Existing Visual Condition (EVC) I, where only ecological change has occurred. Two percent was inventoried in EVC Type V, where changes in the landscape are obvious to the average person and appear to be major disturbances. Approximately 2 percent of the area was not inventoried.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: North Kuiu Island is in the traditional territory of the Kake Tlingit. Past use is indicated by the remains of villages, temporary camps, forts, gardens, fish traps, pictographs, petroglyphs and culturally modified trees. Historic period sites in the area consist of a herring reduction plant and cannery in Washington Bay, and fur farms and troller camps in Security Bay. Kake residents maintain close cultural and spiritual ties to Security Bay. It continues to be an important subsistence resource gathering, hunting and fishing location. The roadless area is in three VCUs: 400, 401, and 402. VCU 400 and VCU 402 surrounding Security and Rowan Bays, respectively, are listed among the VCUs with the highest community use value. None of the VCUs are listed among the VCUs with the highest sensitivity to disturbance of subsistence use areas (ADF&G, 1998).

(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: The northeastern, northern and western boundaries of this area are adjacent to saltwater. The remaining portions border developed areas. The lower slopes adjacent to Rowan and Security Bays are likely to continue to be managed in a roaded condition. However, the remaining area has steep slopes and dissected terrain and will likely remain unroaded, regardless of classification, due to infeasibility of road construction. Forest Road 6425 runs parallel to the eastern shore of Security Bay, and harvest units adjoin the roadless boundary. Potential for development of private land or land within the State marine park could also influence future manageability.

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. The area is relatively close to Kake, which is a stop on the Alaska Marine Highway. Potential sites exist for boat ramps, public recreation cabins, and shelters. There is potential for additional outfitter and guide permits.

(2) Subsistence Uses: Wilderness designation would not adversely affect current subsistence uses.

(3) Fish Resources: No fish habitat enhancement projects have been identified for this area.

(4) Wildlife Resources: No wildlife habitat enhancement projects have been identified for this area. The area includes a medium old-growth habitat reserve on the northwest portion of Kuiu Island.

(5) Timber Resources: There are approximately 23,619 acres mapped as productive old growth in the roadless area. Approximately 573 acres are second growth in small patches near the cannery site where pilings and fuel were obtained from 1930-1950. Of these, approximately 12,460 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), 1,510 acres or 4 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 1,131 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 123 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

An industrial camp was developed at nearby Rowan Bay in support of timber management operations. Extensive development has occurred east of the roadless area. Much of the area's timber could be economically harvested by helicopter yarding from saltwater or existing roads, or by extending existing roads.

- (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. There are no valid mining claims in the area. The roadless area contains 12,544 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991). All of these acres are considered to have very low potential for development.
- (8) **Transportation and Utilities:** There are no travel corridors or utility corridors in the roadless area. The Rowan Mountain Timber Sale will extend an existing road approximately 2 miles west into the southern portion of the roadless area. The road was expected to be built in 2002.
- (9) **Water Availability and Use:** There are no developed recreation sites 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:** This area contains no Research Natural Areas and has not been identified for any other scientific value.
- (11) **Land Use Authorizations:** Forest Service records show that three outfitters/guides used this area in 2000 for a total of 17 service days for remote setting nature tours and 2 service days for black bear hunting.
- (12) **Land Status:** The roadless area is entirely National Forest System land.

IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

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

- (a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** There has been interest expressed in retaining the roadless character of unroaded parts of Kuiu Island, including the head of Security Bay.
- (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 this area for wilderness but it did propose it to be classified as a Congressionally Designated LUD II area and managed in an unroaded condition.
- (c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revision and Appeals:** The City of Kake suggested that Security Bay be designated as wilderness because it was the most important subsistence area left to the Village of Kake. They wanted old growth protected, especially on the west side of Security Bay (i.e., the Security Roadless Area). The City of Kupreanof commented that the area should be preserved as a wilderness because of its subsistence value. The Narrows Conservation Coalition wanted the area managed as Primitive Recreation. The Point Baker Community Council and the Sitka Conservation Society also opposed logging because of the effects on primitive recreation, scenic quality, subsistence uses, fish and wildlife, salmon, and landslide prone areas. Other comments supported managing the area as old growth and prohibiting logging because of the adverse effects on major subsistence streams, archaeological sites, commercial fishing, Alaska Natives, the State marine park, and on private property. However, the timber industry felt that all areas not designated as wilderness or as LUD II should be 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

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lands in the Tongass to be protected from development. Others supported continued development on the Tongass.

(e) Public Input Expressed for Project-level EISs and Other Input: Public input was received on the Crane and Rowan Mountain Timber Sale EIS. The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council stated that no decision should be made until the roadless issue is decided at the national level. The City of Kake commented that subsistence use would be adversely affected by timber harvest, including the cultural and spiritual value of participating in traditional subsistence harvests in the old-growth forests used by the ancestors of the Tlingit residents of Kake for countless generations. Logging and road building in these sacred places permanently and irreparably degrades an important cultural experience. They stated that courts have recognized that ANILCA protects this value. This position was supported by the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, and other commenters. The Alaska Forest Association supported roads and timber harvest.

(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 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 Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Area 240 for permanent protection as LUD II. SEACC recommended the remaining unlogged portions of northern Kuiu Island should be protected by LUD II designation.

Some individuals wanted protection for Washington Bay. Some individuals recommended the entire area for permanent protection as wilderness.

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: The Bay of Pillars Roadless Area and the Tebenkof Bay Wilderness are south of the Security Roadless Area, across the mouth of Rowan Bay. Most of south Kuiu Island is unroaded. Across Chatham Strait, about 10 miles to the west, is the South Baranof Wilderness. These areas receive light use.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	100	115
Petersburg (Pop. 3,224)	50	110
Wrangell (Pop. 2,308)	75	110
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	135	170

Kake, approximately 15 air miles away, and Petersburg are the nearest stops on the Alaska Marine Highway.

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The Security Roadless Area is located on the northwest side of Kuiu Island. Chatham Strait lies to the west, Security Bay to the northeast, and Frederick Sound to the north. A developed area lies to the east. The Security Roadless Area is generally characterized as complex terrain dominated by rugged mountains, many of which reach elevations of over 3,000 feet. Between the mountains are deep, broad valleys containing several sizable streams.

The area is mostly unmodified; however, it is influenced by developments along the eastern boundary. The natural integrity is high and the apparent naturalness of the area is very high. The opportunity for solitude is high and the opportunity for primitive recreation is very high.

Approximately 55 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery perspective. The area also has high cultural and historic values.

The roadless area includes about 14,995 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 4,361 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Security Roadless Area is classified as being in the Kuiu Island Biogeographic Province and makes about 7 percent of the province. It is one of eight inventoried roadless areas found within the province that collectively make up about 53 percent of the province. The Tebenkof Bay and the Kuiu Wildernesses are located in this province and make up about 26 percent of the province. The province also includes the Sumner, Conclusion, and associated islands LUD II area, which make up about 1 percent of the province.

The Security Roadless Area lies completely within the Kuiu-Prince of Wales Fjordlands Ecological Section and represents 3 percent of the ecological section. Approximately 13 percent of the Kuiu-Prince of Wales Fjordlands Ecological Section is in existing wilderness, 8 percent is in existing LUD II, and an additional 33 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs.

The majority (81 percent) of the roadless area is in the Kuiu-Prince of Wales Granitics Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 19 percent of the entire ecological subsection, 19 percent of which is protected in existing wilderness, 23 percent in existing LUD II, and 36 percent in other existing non-development LUDs. The remaining 19 percent of the roadless area is in the Rowan Sediments Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 5 percent of the entire ecological subsection, 27 percent of which is protected in existing wilderness and 27 percent in existing non-development LUDs.

The Security Roadless Area was rated 22 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 38th from the highest (along with 8 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is both local and national support for managing this area in an unroaded condition, and there is some support for designating it as wilderness. Designation would create a wilderness that has high scenic, cultural, and historic values. The roadless area also includes a large amount of contiguous productive old growth in contrast to much of the surrounding lands, which have had intensive timber harvest that have fragmented the stands of old growth in those areas. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be moderate.

V. Environmental Consequences

The Security Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 is implemented. Approximately 73 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur in the remaining 27 percent. The land in the development LUDs provides an estimated 1,510 acres that are suitable for timber production (1 percent of the suitable acres on the Petersburg Ranger District). Approximately 123 of the suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The roadless area contains 12,544 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources; all of the acres are considered to have very low potential for development. The timber, 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 allowed by the Forest Plan in the southern and western portions of the area. The high value cultural, historic and most scenic values and old growth are protected under the Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 6, the entire area would be converted to Recommended LUD II. The ongoing recreation, minerals, and special use programs would continue similar to current conditions. No timber harvest would be allowed. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the very high cultural, historic, old growth, and 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 and the 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, including the very high cultural, historic, old growth, and scenic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Appendix C

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 240 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness								35,497
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	25,169	25,169	25,169	25,169	25,169		25,169	
Recommended LUD II						35,497		
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River	935	935	935	935	935		935	
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed								
Modified Landscape								
Timber Production	9,393	9,393	9,393	9,393	9,393		9,393	
TOTAL	35,497	35,497	35,497	35,497	35,497	35,497	35,497	35,497
Suitable Timber Lands	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510	0	1,510	0