

## INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

**ROADLESS AREA NAME:** Camden (242)

**ACRES (NFS):** 40,395

**BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:** Kuiu Island

**ECOLOGICAL SECTION:** Kupreanof Lowlands and Kuiu-Prince of Wales Fjordlands

**2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING:** 23 (26, 19)

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

**(1) Location and Access:** The Camden Roadless Area is located on northeast Kuiu Island, southeast of Keku Strait. It is approximately 10 air miles south of Kake and about 35 air miles west of Petersburg. Kake and Petersburg are served by the Alaska Marine Highway and Petersburg has daily jet service. It is divided into two sections by Port Camden, a large bay. The roadless area is accessible by boat or floatplane on saltwater, or by road from Rowan Bay logging camp on the west side of Kuiu Island. Both shores of Port Camden have good anchorages. Access to the westside is available from the road system that forms the western boundary and comes near Port Camden and Kadake Bay in at least four places. There are no sites suitable for landing wheeled aircraft. There is no ferry service to Kuiu Island. Access to the interior is by foot or helicopter.

**(2) History:** The Port Camden area is in the traditional territory of the Kake Tlingit. A variety of cultural sites exist in the area, including villages, temporary camps, portage trails, fish traps, petroglyphs, and culturally modified trees. Historic period sites include gardens, fur farms, and cabins. A logging camp was developed at nearby Rowan Bay, which is still used during active timber sales. Road development has occurred south and west of this area. The roads that connect to Rowan Bay, across the isthmus, to Port Camden, and to Threemile Arm are primarily used for hauling logs to the transfer facility at Rowan Bay. Forest Road 6402 was constructed in 1986. Some beach logging has occurred along the shore.

**(3) Geography and Topography:** The Port Camden waterway is centered in this roadless area and bordered by the landforms in an east and west direction. The terrain is predominantly rolling hills of the Keku Volcanic Plateaus that are typically short, extremely broken, and benched are common. Bedrock lithology is dominated by extrusive igneous rocks. Rock types are primarily rhyolite, rhyodiorite, basalt, and other mafic extrusive rocks that have been extremely altered and brecciated in many areas. Volcanic conglomerate and volcanoclastic graywackes are scattered throughout the area. Volcanoclastic deposits and volcanic flows occur within this area, notably the area between Crane Creek and Kadake Bay on the west side of Port Camden. This landscape is much younger than the rest of Kuiu Island as these rocks are of Pleistocene age (less than 1 million years old).

The entire area was glaciated after the cessation of volcanism. The present landscape is largely the result of glacially eroded, alternating strata of volcanic flows. Southeast-facing slopes are long and relatively gentle, while northwest-facing slopes are typically steep and stair-stepped with numerous cliffs.

Elevations range from sea level to 1,500 feet. The area contains 67 miles of shoreline on saltwater. Freshwater lakes occupy 210 acres and small islands account for 155 acres, one of which is larger than 50 acres. Stream density is relatively low (2.6 miles/1,000 acres). In areas of volcanoclastic bedrock, actively eroding gullies (V-notches) are prominent features of the watershed and contribute a large amount of bedload sediment. There are no ice or snow, alpine, or rock features mapped in the area.

## Appendix C

### (4) Ecosystem:

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is in the Kuiu Island Biogeographic Province. It is generally characterized by rolling, subdued topography and extensive muskeg areas. Rugged terrain may be found in localized areas. The coastline area represents a richly varied ecosystem.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Camden Roadless Area is contained mostly within the Kupreanof Lowlands Ecological Section (M247G) and also contains portions within the Kuiu-Prince of Wales Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247F). These areas are represented by five ecological subsections (see table below). The Sumner Strait Volcanics Ecological Subsection represents the majority, 89 percent, of the Camden Roadless Area. Water-resistant volcanic flows of relatively recent origin arise from lowland glacial deposits. The interplay of volcanic and glacial forces have left a landscape of shallow organic soils on long, gentle slopes and mineral soils on short, steep slopes. Productive hemlock, Alaska yellow cedar, and spruce forests are found on the steep slopes. Most of the remainder, 9 percent, of the Camden Roadless Area lies within the Kake Volcanics Ecological Subsection, which contains gently rolling hills of glacially reduced sedimentary and volcanic rock, usually below 1,000 feet elevation. Productive hemlock and spruce forests are found on the slopes (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Kupreanof Lowlands	Sumner Strait Volcanics	89%
	Kake Volcanics	9%
Kuiu-Prince of Wales Fjordlands	Kuiu-Prince of Wales Granitics	<1%
	Rowan Sediments	<1%
	North Prince of Wales- Kuiu Carbonates	2%

(b) **Soils:** Soils in this area are formed in a wide variety of parent material, including bedrock and glacial drift. In general, well-drained 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.

Poorly drained soils developed on less-sloping areas, such as southeast-facing hills and the areas between hills, and/or on areas with impermeable soil materials. These soils have deep accumulations of organic matter and range from scrubby forested wetlands to open muskeg.

(c) **Vegetation:** Muskeg/forested wetland complexes are interspersed with mixed conifer plant communities on excessively wet sites. 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. Timbered hill slopes are predominantly western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and Alaska-cedar plant communities.

There are approximately 39,607 acres mapped as forest land, of which 20,371 acres or 51 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 9,620 acres or 47 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 1,335 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There are 516 acres of second-growth forest where timber harvest has occurred in the past.

(d) **Fish Resources:** There are nine Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) numbered salmon producing streams within the area. Major fish producing streams in the area include Kadake Creek and Slippery Creek. These provide habitat for pink, chum, and coho salmon; cutthroat and steelhead trout; and Dolly Varden char.

(e) **Wildlife Resources:** Port Camden Bay is a rich ecosystem. 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 loons 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 in the western areas of Summer Strait off southern Kupreanof Island and on both eastern and western shores of Kuiu Island. They are expanding their range northward into Keku Strait, and are found in Threemile Arm.

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 ecotypes.

**(5) Management Direction and Current Uses:** The roadless area was allocated to six Land Use Designations (LUDs) under the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These six LUDs are Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Recreational River, Semi-remote Recreation, Old-growth Habitat, and Remote Recreation.

<b>LUD</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Timber Production	29,859
Modified Landscape	2,442
Recreational River	1,426
Semi-remote Recreation	3,898
Old-growth Habitat	2,649
Remote Recreation	122

The majority of the roadless area, approximately 80 percent, was allocated to LUDs that allows development (Timber Production, Modified Landscape). Most of this roadless area, approximately 74 percent, was allocated to the Timber Production LUD. Approximately 6 percent of the roadless area north of Threemile Arm was allocated to the Modified Landscape LUD.

Approximately 20 percent of the roadless area was allocated to non-development LUDs (Recreational River, Semi-remote Recreation, Old-growth Habitat, Remote Recreation). The roadless area contains portions of the Kadake Creek Recreational River LUD, which accounts for approximately 4 percent of the roadless area. The Semi-remote Recreation LUD was assigned to approximately 10 percent of the roadless area. It is located in the northwest corner, as well as in the small associated islands. Parts of four old-growth reserves account for 7 percent of the roadless area with the reserves overlapping into adjacent areas. Three of these areas are parts of the medium old-growth habitat reserve in the northeastern portion of Kuiu Island. The other area in the south part of the roadless area is part of a small old-growth habitat reserve. Less than 1 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Remote Recreation LUD.

## Appendix C

The Crane Timber Sale has resulted in timber harvest units and new road construction northwest of Port Camden. The Threemile Timber Sale EIS is currently under analysis and the Draft EIS has been released. This project proposes new roads and timber harvest on the Threemile Arm part of this roadless area. In addition, a low ramp log transfer facility in Threemile Arm may be used. Other timber harvest may be proposed as part of some of the projects listed on the 10-year timber sale schedule. There is a fisheries enhancement project (fish pass) and administrative cabin at Slippery Creek.

Recreation uses include bear and waterfowl hunting; coho, pink, and chum salmon fishing; steelhead and trout fishing; sea kayaking; camping; picnicking; beachcombing; rock hounding; recreation cabin use; and gathering forest products. Both Port Camden and Threemile Arm receive light to moderate recreation use compared to the rest of the Petersburg Ranger District, but use has been increasing. A public recreation cabin is located at the mouth of Kadake Creek. Just outside of the roadless area, two portage trails provide opportunities for canoeists and kayakers to access additional recreation areas. The Threemile Arm portage is 1.25 miles long and connects Port Camden with Threemile Arm. The Bay of Pillars portage is 1 mile long and connects Port Camden with the Bay of Pillars. The Threemile Arm portage is considered difficult and receives very little use. There were seven outfitter/guide permits issued in 2000, including 29 service days for camping, 6 service days for fresh water fishing, 16 service days for remote setting nature tours, and 28 service days for black bear hunting.

**(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness):** The roadless area appears natural. Few management activities are visible within Port Camden and from Keku Strait. A public recreation cabin is located at the mouth of Kadake Creek. The western portion is affected by roads and timber harvest which encroach into the roadless area, nearly reaching the saltwater in several places and effectively dividing this part into five portions, with narrow connections near the shoreline. Chum salmon remote release pens are located in Southeast Harbor, just north of Gil Harbor.

**(7) Surroundings (External Influences):** Port Camden bisects this roadless area. National Forest System land borders the area not adjacent to Port Camden. Areas west of, and adjacent to, the Camden Roadless Area are heavily modified by past and present timber harvest activities along Kadake Creek. These developments penetrate into the roadless area, nearly reaching the saltwater in several places. Forest Road 6402, which connects Rowan Bay to Port Camden and Threemile Arm, serves as a major access route for hauling logs and timber harvest, and vehicles can be heard and seen in parts of the roadless area. Occasional marine and air traffic can also be observed. The area to the east is a large unroaded area, extending to, and beyond, the Petersburg Creek/Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness. To the south, across a narrow roaded area, lies another large unroaded area that includes two wildernesses and several roadless areas.

**(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest:** The area includes all of Port Camden and Kadake Bay. Attractions in this area include a public recreation cabin at the mouth of Kadake Bay. The presence of good anchorage sites along both shores of Port Camden allows boaters to stay overnight. Portage trails between three major bodies of water allow hikers and kayakers recreation opportunities not found elsewhere on this island. The area contains 11 inventoried recreation places, which cover 5,991 acres, or 15 percent of the roadless area.

**(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary:** The western portion of the roadless area has changed since 1989. Three road networks have been extended into the roadless area, nearly separating that part of the roadless area into five segments. A road has also been extended along the northern shore of Threemile Arm. The roadless area no longer extends to the shore of Threemile Arm. Other changes include adding older harvest areas along the shore that do not have roads, and extending the boundary slightly in the northwest to create a more logical boundary between this roadless area and Keku Roadless Area (239). Several small areas have been excluded along the boundaries formed by ongoing developments 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 eastern portion of the roadless area is essentially unmodified. Roads and timber harvesting have divided the western portion of the area into several segments connected by a narrow stretch of roadless area along the shore. This has adversely affected this portion of the area's

natural integrity. Due to this development, the eastern portion of the roadless area is more suited for wilderness classification than the western portion.

**(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation:** There is high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation within the roadless area, especially the eastern side of the area. Use of floatplanes and motorboats may disrupt visitors for brief periods in all regions of the Camden Roadless Area. Noise from logging trucks on the adjacent road system may be audible during periods of harvest activity, especially on the west side of Port Camden. The general character of the landscape and water features allows visitors to feel remote from the sights and sounds of human activity most of the time.

Access to the interior in the eastern portion of the roadless area involves challenges typical of backcountry travel in Southeast Alaska. However, the extensive road system on the western side of Port Camden allows a hiker relatively easy access into the roadless area. 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 a variety of recreation opportunities including primitive, semi-primitive and roaded settings. 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	Acreage	Percent of Total ROS
Primitive (P)	14,002	35%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	5,158	13%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	10,634	26%
Roaded Modified (RM)	10,601	26%

The area contains 11 inventoried recreation places, which cover 5,991 acres, or 15 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
P	1	1,024
SPNM	0	0
SPM	6	3,924
RM	6	1,043

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

There is a public recreation cabin at the mouth of Kadake Creek. There were nine outfitter/guide permits issued in 2000, including 29 service days for camping, 6 for fresh water fishing, 16 for remote setting nature tours, and 28 for black bear hunting. The area along both sides of Port Camden is a popular black bear hunting area. ADF&G records show that 74 black bears were harvested between 1985 and 1994.

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

The inventoried roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest were rated according to this system in 1989 for the Analysis of the Management Situation developed in support of the Forest Plan Revision. At that time, the Camden 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.

## Appendix C

This rating reflects the effects related to roads and timber harvesting the western portion of the area. A separate rating was done for the eastern portion of the area and it was given a rating of 26. Similarly, a rating was done for the western portion and received a score of 19.

**(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values:** There are no unique ecologic or geologic values in the roadless area. The roadless area is somewhat unusual in that it occupies both shores of a large bay, but there is no roadless land connection for the two portions of the roadless area.

**(a) Fish Resources:** The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) lists all VCUs in the area (419, 420, and 421) as primary producers of salmon. It lists only VCU 421, in the northern part of the area surrounding Kadake Bay, as a primary sport fish producer.

This roadless area includes a minor portion of the Kadake Creek drainage. Kadake Creek borders the western boundary of this area and constitutes the largest single drainage on Kuiu Island. It has estimated peak escapements of 36,500 pink and 150 chum, and good runs of coho and steelhead. It supports both commercial and sport fishing. Slippery Creek, on the west side of Port Camden Bay, has been enhanced with a fish ladder, providing access for stocked coho to the upper watershed. Kadake Creek is also a popular sport fishing stream and is regularly used by people staying at the Rowan Bay logging camp, as well as clients of outfitter/guides.

Kadake Creek is the largest producer of salmon on Kuiu Island, producing cutthroat trout; steelhead; Dolly Varden char; and pink, chum, and coho salmon. The ADF&G has identified it as one of 19 “High Quality Watersheds” in Southeast Alaska. Kadake Creek is a popular destination for sport anglers pursuing steelhead. Pink and chum salmon spawning habitat is limited to the lower portions of the watershed where the lower-gradient floodplain channel is present.

**(b) Wildlife Resources:** Port Camden Bay represents a rich ecosystem. It has quality habitat for black bear, fur bearers, and marine mammals. Sea otters are expanding their range northward into Keku Strait, and are found in Threemile Arm. Wolves, moose, and Sitka black-tailed deer also inhabit the area. High quality deer winter habitat can be found along the southern side of Kadake Bay and the west- and south-facing slopes of Port Camden. This area also supports habitat for otter, mink, marten, bald eagle, trumpeter swan, and Canada goose.

The Camden area is readily accessible by boat from Kake. It supports quality waterfowl hunting at the head of the bay, and has a tradition of high subsistence use. The area along both sides of Port Camden is a popular black bear hunting area. Based on data compiled from 1985 to 1994, VCU 420 surrounding Port Camden is listed among the top 25 percent of VCUs for black bear harvest. The other two VCUs, 419 and 421, were listed among the second 25 percent (ADF&G, 1998).

**(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, including 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 and winter in ice-free areas throughout the Tongass. 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 identified in the Kadake Creek 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 505 acres, approximately 1 percent of the roadless area, mapped as low vulnerability karst features. There are no other unique geologic features mapped in this area.

(5) **Scientific and Educational Values:** The highly productive estuarine habitat at the head of Port Camden and Threemile Arm provide a unique combination of wildlife species and habitat. The eastern shore of Port Camden contains fossils of petrified tree species no longer indigenous to Alaska.

(6) **Scenic Values:** Most of the area is natural appearing, with minor intrusions, such as the Forest Service cabin around Kadake Bay and Creek. From Port Camden, the main view route, features contained in the roadless area appear unmodified. Land adjacent to the roadless area to the west displays timber harvest areas and roading, but does not dominate the landscape.

Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan that are within or adjacent to the area include Keku Strait, a tour ship and small boat route; Kadake Creek, recommended for designation as a Recreational River; Port Camden and Kadake Bay for saltwater uses; the Kadake Bay public recreation cabin; and the Kadake Creek dispersed recreation area.

Fifty-one percent is inventoried Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type) and 48 percent is inventoried Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity).

The majority of this roadless area, approximately 87 percent, is in Existing Visual Condition (EVC) Type I, where only ecological change has occurred. Approximately 2 percent of the area appears to be untouched by human activity and is in EVC Type II. About 3 percent of the area is in EVC Type IV, where changes in the landscape are easily noticed by the average person and may attract some attention, but it resembles natural patterns. Seven percent is in EVC Type V, where changes in the landscape are obvious to the average person, and appear to be major disturbances. Approximately 1 percent is in EVC VI, where alterations are in glaring contrast to the natural landscape.

(7) **Social, Cultural, and Historical Values:** The Port Camden area is in the traditional territory of the Kake Tlingit. Numerous cultural sites exist in the area, including villages, temporary camps, portage trails, fish traps, petroglyphs, culturally modified trees, gardens, cabins, and fur farms. The area is an important subsistence location, particularly for Kake residents. Hunting, fish, shellfish, seaweed and berry gathering occur regularly. The area along both sides of Port Camden is a popular black bear hunting area. VCUs 420 and 421, surrounding Port Camden and Kadake Bay, respectively, are listed among the VCUs with the highest community use value. VCU 419, close to Threemile Arm, is 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:** Keku Strait forms the northern boundary of this roadless area. The southern boundary is formed by Forest Road 6402 and Threemile Arm. The eastern boundary borders the Rocky Pass Roadless Area, and the western boundary directly adjoins the roaded portion of Kadake Creek. The western portion is partially fragmented by roads and timber harvest and separated from the eastern portion by saltwater and, in the very south, is separated by a roaded area along the shore. It may be logical to manage the eastern portion separately or with the roadless area to the east, as this has higher wilderness attributes.

### **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 close to Kake, which is a stop on the Alaska Marine Highway. Recreation potential for the Camden Roadless Area is high, access being the primary limiting factor for increased recreation use. Several potential sites exist for additional public recreation cabins. There is potential for additional outfitter and guide permits. Kayaking and canoeing are increasing in the surrounding waters because of the connection and improvement of portage trails and the availability of a brochure on kayaking/canoeing opportunities in the area.

(2) **Subsistence Uses:** Existing subsistence uses would not be affected by management of the area as wilderness.

## Appendix C

- (3) **Fish Resources:** The Slippery Creek fish pass has been successful and is making a significant contribution to the area's sport and commercial coho fisheries. Information from the Threemile Timber Harvest DEIS (USDA Forest Service, 2001) indicates that anadromous fish migration in Hiller Creek is blocked approximately 1 mile from the mouth by a natural waterfall. Construction of a fish ladder is planned here.
- (4) **Wildlife Resources:** No wildlife habitat improvement projects are currently planned in the area.
- (5) **Timber Resources:** There are approximately 20,371 acres mapped as productive old growth in the roadless area. In addition, there are 516 acres of second growth. Of this, approximately 15,343 acres are characterized as tentatively suitable for harvest. Based on the Forest Plan LUDs assigned to this area (and estimated falldown and scheduling reduction factors), 5,901 acres or 15 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 3,075 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 355 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. A road system is already present in the western portion of the roadless area, which could be extended to the rest of the area west and east of Port Camden.
- (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 recorded mining claims in this area. This area contains an estimated 2,238 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991). All of these acres are considered to have moderate development potential. The north part of the Kadake River corridor appears to have the highest potential.
- (8) **Transportation and Utilities:** There are no transportation or utility corridors in the roadless area. A road system is present along the western portion of the roadless area, which could be extended to the rest of the area west of Port Camden. The road along the southern boundary is planned for extension into the eastern portion of the roadless area.
- (9) **Water Availability and Use:** The only domestic water use is for the public recreation cabin near Kadake Creek. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects in the area.
- (10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** The mapped karst resources encompass approximately 505 acres or one percent of the roadless area. There are no other known areas of scientific interest in the roadless area.
- (11) **Land Use Authorizations:** Forest Service records show that seven outfitter/guides used this area in 2000 for a total of 6 service days for fresh water fishing, 29 service days for camping, 16 service days for remote setting nature tours, and 28 service days for black bear hunting. Four special use permits have been issued to authorize the storage of crab pots on National Forest System lands near Port Camden.
- (12) **Land Status:** The roadless area is entirely National Forest System land. Encumbered lands in this roadless area are located around Kadake Bay.

### IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

- (1) **Public and Congressional Interest:**
- (a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** There is a high level of interest in the Port Camden area. Previous attempts to build roads and to develop a log transfer facility along the eastern side of Port Camden met with public resistance.
- (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 the roadless area be designated as wilderness. However, it did 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:** The Kake Tribal Corporation commented that no logging should be allowed in the Port Camden area. The Narrows Conservation Coalition commented that no LTF development should be allowed. Southeast Alaska Conservation Council and the Alaska Rainforest Campaign recommended LUD II or similar protection. Southeast Alaska Conservation Council felt that the area deserved protection due to its outstanding wildlife, fisheries, hunting, subsistence, recreation and tourism values. The Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Board wanted the area allocated to the Primitive Recreation LUD or the Old-growth Habitat LUD. They mentioned that it is along an important flyway, it is an important waterfowl winter habitat, and it has a heavy marbled murrelet population. The Sitka Conservation Society also recommended against logging because of the impact on primitive recreation, scenic quality, subsistence, fish, wildlife, and landslide-prone areas. The timber industry felt that any area not specifically set aside by Congress should be put into a timber management LUD. Others wanted to preserve the area for primitive recreation, kayaking, and scenic quality.

**(d) Public Input During Roadless Area Conservation Rule and Road Management Policy Review:** There were no specific comments on this roadless area. However, some commented that roads on the island should either be maintained or closed. Many thought that there should be fewer roads because roads are the most destructive part of a timber harvest and harm many resources. Others wanted more roads to aid in subsistence harvest or for economic development reasons.

**(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.

Comments were also received on the Threemile EIS. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service felt that that no decision should be made until the roadless issue is decided at the national level. The Sitka Conservation Society, the Cascadia Wildlands Project, and others supported this position. The Sitka Conservation Society also stated that the Camden Roadless Area was an important subsistence area and is important for solitude. They wanted it managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics. They also stated that the isthmus between Port Camden, Bay of Pillars, and Threemile Arm has many springs that add diversity. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign felt that the area should be protected under the National Roadless Area Conservation Policy. The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council wanted roadless areas properly evaluated prior to any road building or harvest. They also stated that the area is important to the residents of Kake for subsistence uses. Others stated that the area is valuable habitat for waterfowl, black bears, furbearers, marine mammals, and bald eagles. They added that subsistence use would be harmed by roads and timber harvest, including the cultural and spiritual value of participating in traditional subsistence harvests in old-growth forests used by the Tlingit people. Other comments supported timber harvest in this area.

**(f) Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process:** The U.S. Department of the Interior identified this roadless area as one of the 13 roadless areas they considered to have outstanding fish and wildlife values. They indicated that among the remaining, undeveloped areas left on Kuiu Island, three areas offer outstanding fish and wildlife habitat that should be protected. These include Bay of Pillars, Camden, and East Kuiu. Protection of this area, particularly in combination with the Rocky Pass (#243) Roadless Area, would conserve valuable remaining undisturbed, forested habitats on the island. They indicated that the important wildlife values provided by this area warrant management that ensures the long-term integrity of its habitats, ecosystem processes, and ecological functions

## Appendix C

ADF&G rated the Camden roadless area as the third 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 effects on the city.

The Organized Village of Kake passed a resolution requesting that “customary and traditional areas such as ... Port Camden (VCU 420)... be recommended for long-term protection.

The city of Pelican passed a resolution stating that the important watersheds identified as areas of special interest in the 1999 ROD and HR 987 should given long-term protection.

The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Area 242 for permanent protection as LUD II. SEACC recommended the remaining unlogged portions of northern Kuiu Island should be protected by LUD II designation.

A number of individuals identified East Port Camden as an area that needed protection. Some individuals recommended the entire area for permanent protection as wilderness.

**(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses:** The Rocky Pass Roadless Area to the east directly adjoins the Camden Roadless Area. The Keku Roadless Area is connected to this roadless area by a narrow unroaded area along the shore. The East Kuiu Roadless Area is to the south and the Tebenkof Bay Wilderness is to the southwest, separated by a logging road and several harvest units. These areas receive low use compared to other areas on the Petersburg Ranger District.

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

<b>Community</b>	<b>Air Miles</b>	<b>Water Miles</b>
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	105	115
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	120	145
Wrangell (Pop. 2,308)	60	65
Petersburg (Pop. 3,324)	35	85

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

**(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System:** The Camden Roadless Area is located on northeast Kuiu Island, southeast of Keku Strait. It is divided into two sections by Port Camden, a large bay. Camden Roadless Area is characterized by gently rolling hills that are typically short, extremely broken and benched. Steeper slopes are forested, but muskegs and scrub timber are very common on gently sloping to moderately steep hills.

The roadless area is natural appearing, but the western side of Port Camden is influenced by developments on adjacent lands. The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the area is high. The natural integrity of the portion east of Port Camden is outstanding and the apparent naturalness is very high when rated separately. The western area has moderate natural integrity and apparent naturalness when rated separately. The opportunity for solitude is very high and the opportunity for primitive recreation is outstanding in the roadless area.

None of the roadless area landscape is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery perspective. The area has good cultural, historic, and recreational values. There are no other ecologic, geologic, or scientific features of significance in the area.

The roadless area includes about 9,620 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 1,335 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Camden Roadless Area is classified as being in the Kuiu Island Biogeographic Province and makes about 8 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 areas, which make up about 1 percent of the province.

The Camden Roadless Area lies within two ecological sections; it represents 4 percent of the Kupreanof Lowlands Ecological Section and 0.1 percent of the Kuiu-Prince of Wales Fjordlands 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. 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 (89 percent) of the roadless area is in the Sumner Strait Volcanics Ecological Subsection. This portion of the roadless area represents 10 percent of the entire ecological subsection, minor portions of which are protected by existing wilderness and LUD II (0.1 percent and 1 percent, respectively) and by other existing non-development LUDs (32 percent). Nine percent of the roadless area is in the Kake Volcanics Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 3 percent of the entire ecological subsection. Approximately 23 percent of the Kake Volcanics Ecological Subsection is protected by other existing non-development LUDs. An additional 2 percent of the roadless area is in the North Prince of Wales-Kuiu Carbonates Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 0.4 percent of the entire ecological subsection, 2 percent of which is in existing LUD II, and 25 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs. The Rowan Sediments and Kuiu-Prince of Wales Granitics Ecological Subsections each cover less than 1 percent of the roadless area, and the roadless area makes up approximately 0.1 percent of each subsection. Twenty-seven percent of the Rowan Sediments Ecological Subsection is in existing wilderness and 27 percent is protected by existing non-development LUDs. Nineteen percent of the Kuiu-Prince of Wales Granitics Ecological Subsection is protected in existing wilderness, 23 percent in existing LUD II, and 36 percent in existing non-development LUDs.

The Camden Roadless Area was rated 23 out of a possible 28 points under the WARS. As such, its WARS rating is ranked 30th from the highest (along with 7 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas. The portion of the roadless area east of Port Camden was rated separately and scored 26, and the western portion rated 19.

There is both strong local and national support for managing the area in an unroaded condition, as well as support for designation of at least parts of the roadless area to wilderness. Designation would create a wilderness that has good cultural, historic and recreational values. The area has a large amount of old growth that is in contrast with the developed areas to the west where intensive timber management has occurred. Designation of the area also would add Congressional protection to about 10 percent of Sumner Strait Volcanics Ecological Subsection and 3 percent of the Kake Volcanics Ecological Subsection that have about 1 percent or less in wilderness or LUD II. The roadless area could also be designated as part of a larger wilderness that stretched east across Kupreanof Island and connects to the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Canal Wilderness. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be moderate to high.

### **V. Environmental Consequences**

The Camden Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, or 4 is implemented. Approximately 20 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur in the remaining 80 percent. The land in the development LUDs provides an estimated 5,901 acres that are suitable for timber production (4 percent of the suitable acres on the Petersburg Ranger District). Approximately 355 of the suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. This area contains an estimated 2,238 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources; all of the acres are considered to have moderate development potential. 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 developments allowed by the Forest Plan.

## Appendix C

Under Alternative 3, a 24,130-acre portion of the area in Remote Recreation, Old-growth Habitat, Semi-remote Recreation, Modified Landscape, and Timber Production LUDs would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. The timber sales, recreation, minerals, and special use programs would continue outside the Recommended Wilderness, but could be restricted within. No timber harvest would be allowed in the Recommended Wilderness area. Lands suitable for timber production would be reduced to approximately 1,405 acres. The values associated with the natural settings of the eastern portion of the roadless area, including cultural, historic, old growth, and most of the recreation values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Under Alternative 5 or 7, a 17,195-acre portion of the Remote Recreation, Old-growth Habitat, Semi-remote Recreation, and Timber Production LUDs would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. The timber sales, recreation, minerals, and special use programs would continue outside the Recommended Wilderness, but could be restricted within. No timber harvest would be allowed in the Recommended Wilderness area. Lands suitable for timber production would be reduced to approximately 2,995 acres. The values associated with the natural settings of the northern part of the eastern portion of the roadless area, including cultural, historic, old growth, and most of the recreation values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Under Alternative 6, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended LUD II. The ongoing recreation, minerals, and special uses programs would continue. No timber harvest would be allowed. Designation of the area also would add Congressional protection to about 10 percent of Sumner Strait Volcanics Ecological Subsection and 3 percent of the Kake Volcanics Ecological Subsection that have about 1 percent or less in wilderness or LUD II. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including cultural, historic, old growth, and most of the recreation values, would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II.

Under Alternative 8, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. 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. Designation of the area also would add Congressional protection to about 10 percent of Sumner Strait Volcanics Ecological Subsection and 3 percent of the Kake Volcanics Ecological Subsection that have about 1 percent or less in wilderness or LUD II. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including cultural, historic, old growth, and most of the recreation values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 242 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness			24,130		17,195		17,195	40,395
Wilderness								
Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.								
Wilderness National Monument								
Non-wilderness National Monument								
Research Natural Area								
Special Interest Area								
Remote Recreation	122	122		122	33		33	
Enacted Municipal Watershed								
Old-growth Habitat	2,649	2,649	2045	2,649	2,220		2,220	
Semi-remote Recreation	3,898	3,898	3694	3,898	3,694		3,694	
Recommended LUD II						40,395		
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River	1,426	1,426	1426	1,426	1,426		1,426	
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed								
Modified Landscape	2,442	2,442	104	2,442	2,439		2,439	
Timber Production	29,859	29,859	8996	29,859	13,389		13,389	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,395</b>	<b>40,395</b>	<b>40395</b>	<b>40,395</b>	<b>40,395</b>	<b>40,395</b>	<b>40,395</b>	<b>40,395</b>
Suitable Timber Lands	5,901	5,901	1,405	5,901	2,995	0	2,995	0