

Alternative 3

Framework

Alternative 3 would recommend approximately 1,076,000 acres for new wilderness designation. It would result in the conversion of areas to the Recommended Wilderness LUD that have a relatively high score in the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS), along with relatively high public interest and/or high relative contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Areas were considered for inclusion only if they had a WARS score of at least 25 out of 28 possible points. This alternative responds to Key Issue 1 at a moderate level by recommending a group of high-value roadless areas for wilderness protection. It responds to Key Issue 2 also at a moderate level by only slightly reducing the area of development LUDs. Under this alternative, there would be no change to existing wilderness and LUD II areas.

New Wilderness or LUD II Areas

This alternative would result in the conversion of seven areas, totaling approximately 1,076,000 acres, to the Recommended Wilderness LUD. If designated by Congress, this would ultimately result in a total of 6.8 million acres of wilderness. The 0.7 million acres of existing LUD II areas would remain. If designated, the seven Recommended Wildernesses would result in two new wildernesses and five wilderness additions. The seven areas are described in Table 2-6. The Alternative 3 map in the *Map* section of this SEIS displays the locations of the seven areas.

**Table 2-6
New Wilderness Recommendations for Alternative 3**

| Area Recommended | National Forest System Acres | Wilderness Name or Addition |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Roadless Area 328 (Hoonah Sound) | 43,665 | Addition to West Chichagof – Yakobi Wilderness |
| Roadless Area 202 (Spires) | 500,020 | Addition to and Connection Between Tracy Arm-Fords Terror and Stikine-LeConte Wilderness |
| Parts of Roadless Areas 214 (South Kupreanof) and 215 (Castle) | 107,392 | Addition to the Petersburg Creek – Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness |
| Parts of Roadless Areas 214 (South Kupreanof), 242 (Camden) and 243 (Rocky Pass) | 100,287 | New Rocky Pass Wilderness |
| Part of Roadless Area 244 (Bay of Pillars) and Roadless Area 245 (East Kuiu) | 69,709 | Addition to Tebenkof Bay – Kuiu Wilderness |
| Roadless Area 246 (South Kuiu) | 63,063 | Addition to Tebenkof Bay – Kuiu Wilderness |
| Roadless Area 528 (Cleveland) | 191,504 | New Cleveland Peninsula Wilderness |

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Land Use Designations

If Alternative 3 is selected, the LUD allocation acres shown in Table 2-7 would result. Figure 2-3 shows the distribution of LUDs across the Tongass under Alternative 3 according to three LUD groups (see Table 2-7 for definitions of the LUD groups). Table 2-8 displays selected outputs and other measures associated with this alternative.

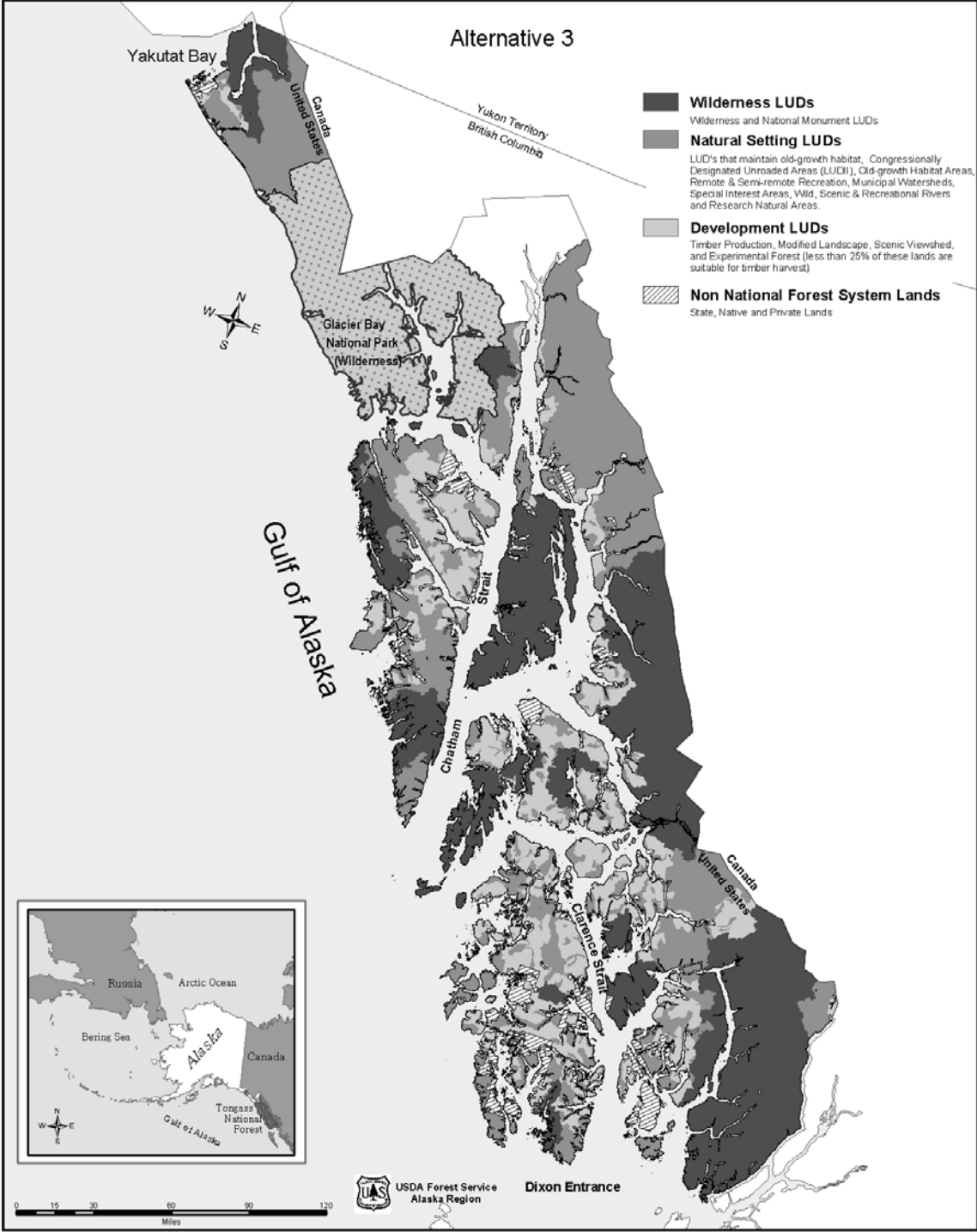
Table 2-7
Land Use Designations for Alternative 3¹

| Land Use Designation | Acres Allocated | Net Change from Current Forest Plan Acres ² |
|--|------------------|--|
| Wilderness LUD Group | | |
| Recommended Wilderness | 1,075,640 | +1,075,640 |
| Wilderness | 2,642,241 | 0 |
| Wilderness National Monument | 3,114,231 | 0 |
| Nonwilderness National Monument | 159,681 | 0 |
| Total for Wilderness LUD Group | 6,991,793 | +1,075,640 |
| Natural Setting LUD Group | | |
| Research Natural Area | 26,020 | 0 |
| Special Interest Area | 161,852 | -12,270 |
| Remote Recreation | 2,073,469 | -59,642 |
| Enacted Municipal Watershed | 45,242 | 0 |
| Old-Growth Habitat | 1,094,530 | -80,916 |
| Semi-Remote Recreation | 2,211,524 | -643,353 |
| Recommended LUD II | 0 | 0 |
| LUD II | 718,092 | -3,075 |
| Wild, Scenic, Recreational River | 105,556 | -14,082 |
| Total for Natural Setting LUD Group | 6,436,286 | -813,339 |
| Development LUD Group | | |
| Experimental Forest | 17,107 | 0 |
| Scenic Viewshed | 464,115 | -16,743 |
| Modified Landscape | 557,962 | -54,520 |
| Timber production | 2,333,986 | -191,038 |
| Total for Development LUD Group | 3,373,169 | -262,301 |

¹ When more than one Land Use Designation is applied to the same area (such as a Special Interest Area within Wilderness), only the acreage of the more-restrictive LUD is included, except that total Wilderness, Wilderness National Monument, and LUD II acres are always shown. The acreage for Minerals LUD would be 154,560; these acres are not included in the table because the Minerals LUD is an overlay. No acreages have been calculated for the Transportation and Utility Systems LUD because it is a corridor. Totals may not exactly equal the sum of individual entries due to rounding.

² These changes from current Forest Plan acres are the differences from the decisions made in the 1997 Tongass Forest Plan Revision ROD, as amended. Except as they may be modified in this SEIS process by the selection of an alternative proposing Recommended Wilderness or Recommended LUD II, the current Forest Plan LUD allocations are outside the scope of this SEIS process.

Figure 2-3
Wilderness, Natural Setting, and Development LUDs on the Tongass National Forest under Alternative 3



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**Table 2-8
Selected Outputs and Measures Associated with Alternative 3¹**

| Resource/Category | Output/Measure |
|---|----------------|
| Amount of Wilderness and LUD II Protection (millions of acres) | |
| Recommended Wilderness plus Current Wilderness and National Monument | 7.0 |
| Recommended LUD II plus Current LUD II | 0.7 |
| Percent of Ecoregion Protected in Reserves | |
| Northern Pacific Coastal Forest | 23% |
| Pacific Coastal Mountain Tundra and Ice Fields | 38% |
| Productive Old-growth after 150 Years (millions of acres) | 4.56 |
| Estimated Land Suitable for Timber Production (acres) | 619,000 |
| Allowable Sale Quantity: (million board feet) ² | |
| Non-interchangeable component I | 193 |
| Non-interchangeable component II | 43 |
| Total | 236 |
| Annual Road Construction during 1st Decade, based on the ASQ (miles) | 96 |
| Annual Timber Harvest during 1st Decade, based on the ASQ (acres) | 8,100 |
| Short-term Effects on Timber Industry | |
| Percent of Timber Sales Under Contract Affected | 3% |
| Percent of Proposed Timber Sales (10-year plan) Affected | 4% |
| Percent of Identified and Undiscovered Mineral Areas Withdrawn or Potentially Withdrawn | |
| Percent of Identified Mineral Tracts | 28% |
| Percent of Undiscovered Mineral Areas | 40% |
| Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes after 150 Years (millions of acres) | |
| Primitive and Semi-primitive Non-motorized | 12.1 |
| Semi-primitive Motorized | 1.3 |
| Roaded Natural and Roaded Modified | 3.5 |

¹ Unless otherwise noted, figures are average annual amounts for the next decade (2002 to 2012).

² All timber volumes are sawlog plus utility. Totals may not add exactly due to rounding.