

Alternative 4

Framework

Alternative 4 would recommend approximately 736,000 acres for new wilderness designation. It would result in the conversion of non-development LUD portions of areas 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 low to moderate level by recommending a small group of high-value roadless areas for wilderness protection. It responds to Key Issue 2 at a high level by not 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 six areas, totaling approximately 736,000 acres, to the Recommended Wilderness LUD. If designated by Congress, this would ultimately result in a total of 6.5 million acres of wilderness. The 0.7 million acres of LUD II areas would be unchanged. If designated, the six Recommended Wildernesses would result in three new wildernesses and three wilderness additions. The six areas are described in Table 2-9. The Alternative 4 map in the *Map* section of this SEIS displays the locations of the six areas.

**Table 2-9
New Wilderness Recommendations for Alternative 4**

Area Recommended	National Forest Service Acres	Wilderness Name or Addition
Part of Roadless Area 202 (Spires)	482,597	Addition to and Connection Between Tracy Arm-Fords Terror and Stikine-LeConte Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 215 (Castle)	18,543	New Castle River Wilderness
Part of Roadless Areas 243 (Rocky Pass)	70,221	New Rocky Pass Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 244 (Bay of Pillars)	20,927	Addition to Tebenkof Bay – Kuiu Wilderness
Roadless Area 246 (South Kuiu)	63,063	Addition to Tebenkof Bay – Kuiu Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 528 (Cleveland)	80,831	New Cleveland Peninsula Wilderness

2 Alternatives

Land Use Designations

If Alternative 4 is selected, the LUD allocation acres shown in Table 2-10 would result. Figure 2-4 shows the distribution of LUDs across the Tongass under Alternative 4 according to three LUD groups (see Table 2-10 for definitions of the LUD groups). Table 2-11 displays selected outputs and other measures associated with this alternative.

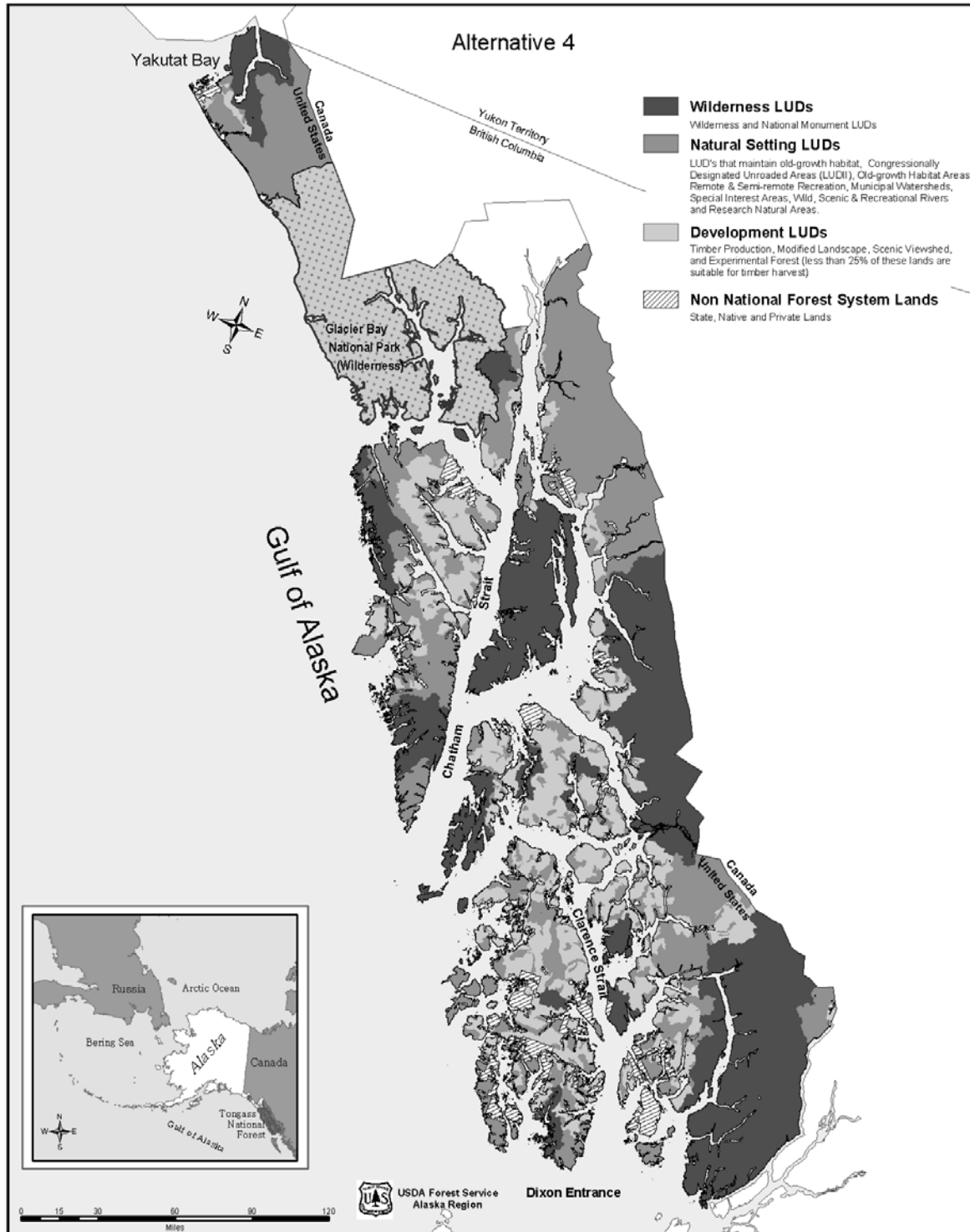
Table 2-10
Land Use Designations for Alternative 4¹

Land Use Designation	Acres Allocated	Net Change from Current Forest Plan Acres ²
Wilderness LUD Group		
Recommended Wilderness	736,182	+736,182
Wilderness	2,642,241	0
Wilderness National Monument	3,114,231	0
Nonwilderness National Monument	159,681	0
Total for Wilderness LUD Group	6,652,335	+736,182
Natural Setting LUD Group		
Research Natural Area	26,020	0
Special Interest Area	161,852	-12,270
Remote Recreation	2,073,694	-59,417
Enacted Municipal Watershed	45,242	0
Old-Growth Habitat	1,149,811	-25,635
Semi-Remote Recreation	2,230,077	-624,801
Recommended LUD II	0	0
LUD II	721,168	0
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River	105,579	-14,058
Total for Natural Setting LUD Group	6,513,443	-736,182
Development LUD Group		
Experimental Forest	17,107	0
Scenic Viewshed	480,858	0
Modified Landscape	612,481	0
Timber production	2,525,024	0
Total for Development LUD Group	3,635,470	0

¹ When more than one LUD 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 169,053; 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 2-4
Wilderness, Natural Setting, and Development LUDs on the Tongass National Forest under Alternative 4**



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2 Alternatives

**Table 2-11
Selected Outputs and Measures Associated with Alternative 4¹**

Resource/Category	Output/Measure
Amount of Wilderness and LUD II Protection (millions of acres)	
Recommended Wilderness plus Current Wilderness and National Monument	6.7
Recommended LUD II plus Current LUD II	0.7
Percent of Ecoregion Protected in Reserves	
Northern Pacific Coastal Forest	21%
Pacific Coastal Mountain Tundra and Ice Fields	38%
Productive Old-growth after 150 Years (millions of acres)	4.52
Estimated Land Suitable for Timber Production (acres)	663,000
Allowable Sale Quantity: (million board feet) ²	
Non-interchangeable component I	212
Non-interchangeable component II	47
Total	259
Annual Road Construction during 1st Decade, based on the ASQ (miles)	108
Annual Timber Harvest during 1st Decade, based on the ASQ (acres)	8,900
Short-term Effects on Timber Industry	
Percent of Timber Sales Under Contract Affected	0%
Percent of Proposed Timber Sales (10-year plan) Affected	0%
Percent of Identified and Undiscovered Mineral Areas Withdrawn or Potentially Withdrawn	
Percent of Identified Mineral Tracts	27%
Percent of Undiscovered Mineral Areas	39%
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes after 150 Years (millions of acres)	
Primitive and Semi-primitive Non-motorized	11.9
Semi-primitive Motorized	1.3
Roaded Natural and Roaded Modified	3.7

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.