

2 Alternatives

Alternative 6

Framework

Alternative 6 would recommend approximately 3,222,000 acres for new wilderness designation and 5,641,000 acres for new LUD II designation. It would result in the conversion of all areas recommended for wilderness or LUD II by HR 2908 to Recommended Wilderness and Recommended LUD II, respectively. It responds to Key Issue 1 at a high level by recommending most roadless areas for long-term protection of resource values. It responds to Key Issue 2 at a low level because, although it substantially reduces the area of development LUDs, the majority of the conversions are to Recommended LUD II, which is less restrictive than Recommended Wilderness. Three existing LUD II areas (Berners Bay, Trap Bay, and Kadashan) would be converted to wilderness; there would be no change to existing wildernesses.

HR 2908 is referred to as the Alaska Rainforest Conservation Act of 2001 and was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2001; it is currently available for consideration by the House. This Bill is intended to provide additional protections for National Forest System lands in Alaska (it includes both the Tongass and the Chugach National Forests) through the designation of wilderness, wilderness study areas, LUD II management areas, restoration areas, special management areas, and additional components of the national wild and scenic rivers system. Alternative 6 includes only the wilderness and LUD II components of the Bill.

New Wilderness or LUD II Areas

This alternative would result in the creation of approximately 18 Recommended Wildernesses, totaling approximately 3,222,000 acres, as well as 5,641,000 acres of Recommended LUD II. If designated by Congress, this would ultimately result in a total of 9.0 million acres of wilderness and 6.4 million acres of LUD II areas. If designated, the 18 Recommended Wildernesses would result in 5 new wildernesses and 13 wilderness additions. Virtually all other roadless areas in the Tongass would be converted to Recommended LUD II. The 18 Recommended Wildernesses are described in Table 2-15. The Alternative 6 map in the *Map* section of this SEIS displays the locations of the Recommended Wildernesses, as well as the Recommended LUD II areas.

**Table 2-15
New Wilderness Recommendations for Alternative 6**

Area Recommended	National Forest System Acres	Wilderness or LUD II Name or Addition
Roadless Area 338 (Brabazon Addition) and Part of Roadless Area 341 (Upper Situk)	514,938	Addition to Russell Fiord Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 303 (Sullivan) and Roadless Area 304 (Chilkat-West Lynn)	263,238	Addition to Endicott River Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 301 (Juneau-Skagway Icefield)	268,793	New Berners Bay Wilderness
Part of Roadless Areas 306 (Mansfield Peninsula)	64,524	New Mansfield Peninsula Wilderness
Part of Roadless Areas 311 (Chichagof) – Kadashan LUD II Area	35,120	New Kadashan Wilderness
Roadless Area 328 (Hoonah Sound)	43,665	Addition to West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 312 (Trap Bay) – Trap Bay LUD II Area	13,905	New Trap Bay Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 302 (Taku-Snettisham)	427,319	Addition to Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness
Roadless Areas 308 (Windham-Port Houghton) and 201 (Fanshaw)	210,204	Addition to Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness
Roadless Area 202 (Spires)	548,587	Addition to and Connection Between Tracy Arm-Fords Terror and Stikine-LeConte Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 334 (Port Alexander)	100,616	Addition to South Baranof Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 216 (Lindenberg), Roadless Areas 214 (South Kupreanof), and 215 (Castle), and two unroaded areas	312,845	Addition to the Petersburg Creek – Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness
Roadless Area 218 (Woewodski)	10,646	New Woewodski Island Wilderness
Roadless Area 244 (Bay of Pillars) and Roadless Area 245 (East Kuiu)	78,002	Addition to Tebenkof Bay – Kuiu Wilderness
Roadless Area 246 (South Kuiu)	63,063	Addition to Tebenkof Bay – Kuiu Wilderness
Roadless Areas 233 (Mosman) and 234 (South Etolin)	85,287	Addition to South Etolin Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 531 (Nutmwa)	30,551	Addition to South Prince of Wales Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 507 (Eudora)	150,305	Addition to South Prince of Wales Wilderness

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Land Use Designations

If Alternative 6 is selected, the LUD allocation acres shown in Table 2-16 would result. Figure 2-6 shows the distribution of LUDs across the Tongass under Alternative 6 according to three LUD groups (see Table 2-16 for definitions of the LUD groups). Table 2-17 displays selected outputs and other measures associated with this alternative.

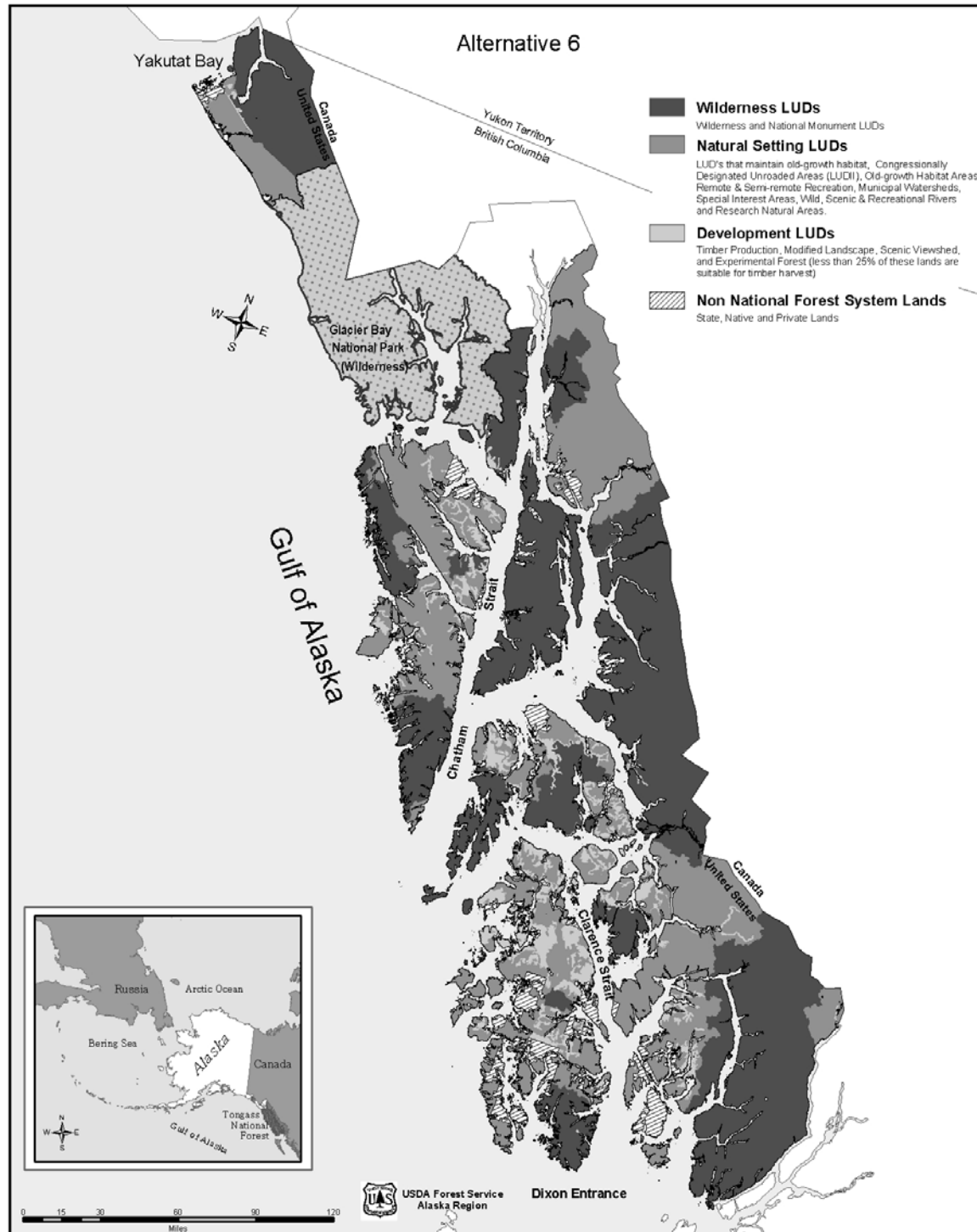
Table 2-16
Land Use Designations for Alternative 6¹

Land Use Designation	Acres Allocated	Net Change from Current Forest Plan Acres ²
Wilderness LUD Group		
Recommended Wilderness	3,221,610	+3,221,610
Wilderness	2,642,241	0
Wilderness National Monument	3,114,231	0
Nonwilderness National Monument	159,681	0
Total for Wilderness LUD Group	9,137,763	+3,221,610
Natural Setting LUD Group		
Research Natural Area	405	-25,616
Special Interest Area	6,698	-167,424
Remote Recreation	3,614	-2,129,498
Enacted Municipal Watershed	2,111	-43,131
Old-Growth Habitat	168,023	-1,007,422
Semi-Remote Recreation	54,629	-2,800,249
Recommended LUD II	5,641,208	+5,641,208
LUD II	721,168	0
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River	13,445	-106,192
Total for Natural Setting LUD Group	6,611,301	-638,324
Development LUD Group		
Experimental Forest	4,294	-12,813
Scenic Viewshed	116,128	-364,730
Modified Landscape	211,124	-401,357
Timber production	720,639	-1,804,386
Total for Development LUD Group	1,052,184	-2,583,286

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 115,277; 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 2-6
Wilderness, Natural Setting, and Development LUDs on the Tongass National Forest
under Alternative 6



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**Table 2-17
Selected Outputs and Measures Associated with Alternative 6¹**

Resource/Category	Output/Measure
Amount of Wilderness and LUD II Protection (millions of acres)	
Recommended Wilderness plus Current Wilderness and National Monument	9.1
Recommended LUD II plus Current LUD II	6.4
Percent of Ecoregion Protected in Reserves	
Northern Pacific Coastal Forest	50%
Pacific Coastal Mountain Tundra and Ice Fields	49%
Productive Old-growth after 150 Years (millions of acres)	4.84
Estimated Land Suitable for Timber Production (acres)	330,000
Allowable Sale Quantity (million board feet) ²	
Non-interchangeable component I	70
Non-interchangeable component II	16
Total	86
Annual Road Construction during 1st Decade, based on the ASQ (miles)	22
Annual Timber Harvest during 1st Decade, based on the ASQ (acres)	2,900
Short-term Effects on Timber Industry (percent of volume)	
Percent of Timber Sales Under Contract Affected	65%
Percent of Proposed Timber Sales (10-year plan) Affected	64%
Percent of Identified and Undiscovered Mineral Areas Withdrawn or Potentially Withdrawn	
Percent of Identified Mineral Tracts	33%
Percent of Undiscovered Mineral Areas	57%
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes after 150 Years (millions of acres)	
Primitive and Semi-primitive Non-motorized	13.3
Semi-primitive Motorized	1.4
Roaded Natural and Roaded Modified	2.1

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.