

INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Chichagof (311)

ACRES (NFS): 534,310

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: East Chichagof Island and West Chichagof Island

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Baranof-Chichagof Fjordlands and Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 25 (20, 22, 23, 25, 26)

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** The Chichagof Roadless Area is located on Chichagof Island. The area is oriented from northwest to southeast and includes most of the central portion of the island. The area is bordered to the south and southwest by Lisianski Inlet, the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness, Hoonah Sound, and Peril Strait, from Soapstone Cove to False Island. The southeast portion of the area is bordered by areas developed for timber management that extend inland from False Island on Peril Strait and from Little Basket Bay on Chatham Strait. Chatham Strait and non-National Forest System lands border the area to the east.

Developed areas border the southeast portion of the area to the north, extending from Basket Bay/Kook Lake to the Kadashan River. Tenakee Inlet borders the area to the north from the Kadashan River west to Long Bay. Developed areas form the area's north border, west of Long Bay. Cross Sound and South Passage border the area to the northwest.

The towns of Pelican and Elfin Cove, located on Lisianski Inlet and at Port Althrop, respectively, are both located within the Chichagof Roadless Area. Three sites, one at Eight Fathom Bight and the other two at Corner Bay and False Island, are also located near the boundaries of this roadless area and have been used for administrative sites and/or logging camps. Two communities near but not within the roadless area are Tenakee Springs (directly across Tenakee Inlet) and Hoonah (located about 10 miles to the northeast, across Port Frederick). Juneau is approximately 45 miles to the east and is served by the Alaska Highway System and daily jet service.

Access to the Chichagof Roadless Area is via regular or chartered plane service, the Alaska Marine Highway (to Pelican and Tenakee Springs), or by private boat. Floatplane trips to area lakes are common and provide access for work and recreation activities. Forest roads extend along drainages into the roadless area in a number of locations, providing access to the area. Roads also border the area in a number of locations providing access to the edge of the area. Access into the interior is by foot or helicopter.

(2) **History:** The Tenakee/Hoonah Portage, which is located within the area, has been used since precontact times and is still used today for recreation purposes. Tlingit oral history tells that the portage was found by very early Native people when they observed killer whales swimming across the isthmus. This tale very likely dates back to when this lowland was submerged. The Tenakee/Hoonah portage was commonly used by the Natives for canoe travel. It was used by John Muir in 1880 during his exploration of the area. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Tenakee/Hoonah Portage was commonly used by hand trollers. They traveled in groups and hand-carried their boats across this small piece of land between Port Frederick and Tenakee Inlet.

A stream flows from Kook Lake, disappears underground in spots, and flows from a cave into Basket Bay. This closed-in area was used by Native people to hunt seal and to fish.

At the time of Euroamerican contact, the Hoonah and Angoon Tlingit used this area of Chichagof Island. Villages and sites for seasonal hunting, fishing, and collecting activities were located throughout the Chichagof Roadless Area.

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The Port Althorp area was surveyed by Captain Vancouver in 1794. He also explored and named Port Frederick. Salteries were established at Idaho Inlet in 1884 and at Basket and Saltery Bays in the early 1900s. A salmon cannery, built by Alaska Pacific Salmon Company at Port Althorp, burned in 1940 and was never rebuilt. Some buildings still remain from a large salmon cannery that operated on the west side of Sitkoh Bay until about 1972. These facilities are just outside the boundary of the roadless area.

Homesteads were established at Kadashan Bay in 1915. In 1936, one homestead was established at Idaho Inlet. This homestead, Gull Cove, was a trading post that operated for years. The community of Pelican was established in 1938.

(3) Geography and Topography: Most of this area is very mountainous. The flatter areas are primarily around the estuaries and tidal flats. There are high mountain lakes in the northern portion of the area. Muskeg is found throughout. This roadless area is typical of recently glaciated terrain with rugged mountains dissected by steep-sided, U-shaped valleys and stream courses.

There are many creeks and rivers, lakes, bays, and fiords in the area. Many large lakes, such as Kook Lake, and lake chains, such as those in the Meadow Creek area, are found throughout the roadless area. Streams are generally larger and longer here than on other islands of Southeast Alaska. Major streams include Lisianski, Trail, Kadashan, and Mud Bay Rivers; and Tonalite Creek. Saltwater bays and estuaries are numerous and exhibit much variety. Much of the shoreline is rocky and difficult to access.

Elevations range from sea level to 3,788 feet at the highest point, approximately 1.5 miles north of the mouth of the Lisianski River. Peaks exceeding 3,000 feet are scattered throughout the area. Elevations on the small islands are less, ranging to about 1,160 feet.

There are approximately 342 miles of shoreline on saltwater and 1,452 acres of small islands, 1,940 acres of freshwater lakes, 259 acres of snow and ice, 59,512 acres of alpine tundra, and 67,102 acres of rock.

(4) Ecosystem:

(a) Classification: Biogeographic Province. Approximately 80 percent of the roadless area is located within the East Chichagof Island Biogeographic Province. This province has a dryer and colder climate than the outer coast of Chichagof Island and the winter snow pack is generally greater. Chichagof Island is deeply dissected into three peninsulas that may be functioning biologically more like separate islands. Vegetation in this province represents a modal condition similar to Admiralty Island Province. The remaining 20 percent of the roadless area lies in the West Chichagof Island Biogeographic Province that is dominated by a wet maritime climate. The vegetation is similar to other northern islands.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Chichagof Roadless Area is contained within the Baranof-Chichagof Fjordlands (M247B) and Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Sections (M247C) and is represented by six ecological subsections (see table below). The North Chichagof Granitics Ecological Subsection occupies the majority of the roadless area. It is primarily made up of granitics, though various low-grade metamorphic formations exist. Severe glacial scouring in this subsection left a rough surface with steep valleys, fjords, and numerous depression lakes and ponds. This area has a high proportion of hanging valleys with waterfalls entering salt water. Subalpine meadows and bare rock dominate the elevations greater than 1,500 feet and lower elevations are sparsely covered with spruce-hemlock forests where alluvial fans and colluvial cones are present. Alder and landslide tracks are common. The Peril Strait Granitics Ecological Subsection, which covers a third of the roadless area, is very similar to the North Chichagof Granitics Ecological Subsection; however, hanging valleys are less prevalent and floodplains are broader and better developed allowing increased vegetative success. The Kook Lake Carbonates Ecological Subsection, which covers 7 percent of the Chichagof Roadless Area in the southeastern portion, has a rugged terrain where productive forests are common on carbonate bedrock, alluvial, and colluvial surfaces (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Baranof-Chichagof Fjordlands	North Chichagof Granitics	57%
	Peril Strait Granitics	33%
	Outer Coast Wave-cut Terraces	<1%
	Ushk-Patterson Bay Granitics	<1%
Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands	Kook Lake Carbonates	7%
	Point Adolphus Carbonates	3%

(b) Soils: Soil development in the Chichagof Roadless Area is influenced by high levels of rainfall, cool summer temperatures, a short growing season, and moderately-low soil temperatures. Under such conditions, organic matter decomposes slowly and tends to accumulate in areas where it is being produced or deposited. Because of the high rainfall, the available nutrients can be leached rapidly and exposed mineral soils are subject to erosion.

In general, due to the rapid loss of material by erosion and efficient rainwater runoff, shallow soils with good drainage tend to develop on steeper slopes. Examples of these unstable soil conditions exist from Point Adolphus to Mud Bay and on the ridge west of the Eight Fathom Bight road system. Deep, well-drained soils commonly occur on gentler slopes where transported soil materials have collected.

Deep organic soils (muskegs) tend to develop where drainage is poor. This situation occurs where the soil material fails to provide sufficient internal drainage or where topography prevents external drainage. These areas are generally not well suited for road construction since the soil materials tend to be wet and have low bearing strengths. Drainage improves with increased slope gradient; however, as slopes become oversteepened, soil depths become much shallower. Riparian area soils tend to contain flood-deposited sands and gravels.

(c) Vegetation: Dense western hemlock/Sitka spruce forests dominate the overstory of the Chichagof Roadless Area. The understory is composed of shrubs such as red huckleberry, rusty menziesia, and devil's club. The forest floor is covered with a mat of mosses, liverworts, and plants such as deerheart, bunchberry dogwood, single delight, and skunk cabbage. Streamside riparian vegetation is characterized by salmonberry, devil's club, alder, grasses, ferns, and currants.

Muskegs are dominated by sphagnum mosses, sedges, and shrubs of the heath family, and are interspersed among low-elevation timber stands where drainage is restricted. Trees are sparse and consist mainly of stunted hemlock, lodgepole pine, and Alaska-cedar. Approximately 56,512 acres are alpine tundra vegetation, and 27,712 acres are classed as muskeg. Muskeg is interspersed within other types in units too small to map. Therefore, the acreage for muskeg may be substantially understated.

Common marine plants in the near-shore waters include brown, red, and green algae, and eelgrass. Tideflats are found at the heads of many of the bays and are usually associated with stream estuaries. The tideflats generally support sea milkwort, glasswort, and algae. Beach meadows, like Mud Bay, occur between the shore and the forest. Lower beach meadows are composed of beach ryegrass, reed bent grass, hairgrass, fescue grass, beach lovage, goose tongue, and sedges. Upper beach meadow plants include yarrow, bedstraw, starwort, ferns, western columbine, and cow parsnip. Oregon crabapple, alder, devil's club, and blueberry occur along the border of the beach meadow and the forest.

At elevations above 2,000 feet, the plant communities are generally characterized by low shrubs, grasses, and sedges. Subalpine forests and meadows occur at the interface between the forested communities and the alpine tundra.

There are approximately 322,800 acres mapped as forest land of which 173,601 acres or 54 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 62,350 acres or 36 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 11,396 acres of high-

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volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There are approximately 1,029 acres of second growth forest where beach harvest has occurred in the past.

(d) Fish Resources: Pink, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden char occur in the area's lakes and streams (Southeast Chichagof EIS, USDA Forest Service, 1992).

The Kadashan River is recognized as the highest pink salmon producer in northern Southeast Alaska and the third best producer in Southeast Alaska as a whole. This river contains important pink, chum, and coho salmon runs. This river also produces Dolly Varden char and steelhead. The river's estuary is also extremely productive. The streams running into Sitkoh Bay and Seal Bay are also considered high producing streams.

Many streams throughout this roadless area are rated high for salmonid production. These streams include the Mud Bay River, Neka River, Portage Creek, and Chum Creek. The streams running into Sitkoh Bay (both the Sitkoh River and Sitkoh Lake Creek drainages are located mostly in roaded areas near the Chichagof Roadless Area), Seal Bay, Basket Bay, Saltery Bay, Crab Bay, Corner Bay, Long Bay, and North Hoonah Sound are some of the other systems considered high producing streams. Many of these streams provide anadromous trout and char habitat, but the level of production is unknown. In addition to pink and coho salmon, Kook and Sitkoh Lakes contain sockeye salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout that support important subsistence and sport fisheries.

(e) Wildlife Resources: Diverse wildlife species exist in the Chichagof Roadless Area, including brown bears and Sitka black-tailed deer. Bird and waterfowl rearing and nesting areas are abundant. Bald eagles, goshawk, and marbled murrelets all inhabit this area. There are many areas considered critical deer winter range. An important habitat corridor was identified between the Broad Finger drainage and Crab Bay (Southeast Chichagof Landscape Analysis, USDA Forest Service, 1999).

(5) Management Direction and Current Uses: This roadless area was allocated to ten different Land Use Designations (LUDs) in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These ten LUDs are Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed, Minerals, Transportation and Utility System (TUS), LUD II, Old-growth Habitat, Semi-Remote Recreation, Research Natural Area, and Wild and Scenic River. Both the TUS and Minerals LUDs are secondary LUDs, which overlay the other LUDs.

LUD	Acres
Timber Production	206,681
Modified Landscape	4,918
Scenic Viewshed	4,065
Minerals*	4,699
Transportation and Utility System	NA
LUD II (including LUD II/Wild and Scenic River and LUD II/Research Natural Area)	238,456
Old-growth Habitat	39,507
Semi-Remote Recreation	40,682

* Note that acres in the Minerals LUD are included in the Semi-Remote Recreation LUD acres.

Approximately 40 percent of this roadless area (not including the LUD overlays) was allocated to development LUDs (Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed). Approximately 38 percent of this roadless area was allocated to the Timber Production LUD. Along Peril Strait, approximately one percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Scenic Viewshed LUD. The Modified Landscape LUD was assigned to approximately one percent of the roadless area, located primarily around Tenakee Inlet. Approximately one percent of this roadless area was allocated to the Minerals LUD overlay. This roadless area also contains a Potential Power Transmission Corridor that extends along the portion of the Kadashan River in this area. The potential power transmission corridor was assigned to the Transportation and Utility System LUD overlay, which emphasizes potential major public utility systems.

Most of this roadless area, approximately 60 percent, was allocated to non-development LUDs (Old-growth Habitat, Semi-Remote Recreation, LUD II, Research Natural Area, Wild and Scenic River). The roadless area includes 3 of the 12 areas that were allocated to permanent LUD II status under the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act. Approximately 44 percent of this roadless area was allocated to the LUD II designation. Much of the lands allocated to LUD II cover the northern end of Chichagof Island along Icy Strait including areas around Point Adolphus, Mud Bay, and Elfin Cove; this area encompasses the Point Adolphus/Mud Bay LUD II area. A substantial portion of LUD II also occurs in the Lisianski River/Upper Hoonah Sound LUD II area. A smaller area of LUD II is concentrated around Kadashan Bay, Kadashan River, and Tonalite Creek, and is called the Kadashan LUD II area. A portion of the area allocated to LUD II was also allocated to the Research Natural Area and the Wild and Scenic River LUDs. Approximately 2 percent of the roadless area, was allocated to Research Natural Area (RNA) and is managed under both RNA and LUD II. This area, the Tonalite Creek RNA, provides opportunities for baseline monitoring of ecological processes and non-manipulative observation, while fulfilling the LUD II management objectives. Along the Lisianski and Kadashan Rivers, approximately 1 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Wild and Scenic River Designation and is managed under both the LUD II and Wild and Scenic River LUDs. Approximately 8 river miles of the Kadashan River is proposed for designation as a scenic river and 5 river miles of Lisianski River are proposed for wild river designation. The Old-growth Habitat LUD was assigned to approximately 8 percent of the roadless area. Approximately 7 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Semi-Remote Recreation LUD that includes the small islands associated with the area.

The communities of Elfin Cove and Pelican are located within this roadless area. A total of 50 identified recreation places are located throughout this roadless area, accounting for 319,986 acres of the area. The area includes five trails: an 8-mile-long, unmaintained trail between Lisianski Inlet and North Hoonah Sound; Basket Bay Trail (Trail #451), which extends from Basket Bay to Kook Lake; the Tekanis Trail (Trail #710), which extends from Lisianski Strait to Takanis Bay; the Bohemia Trail; and the Stag Bay Trail. There is a three-sided shelter near Point Adolphus and facilities at Neka Hot Springs.

A number of recreation activities take place within this area, including hiking, dispersed camping, big game hunting, marine viewing, beachcombing, saltwater kayaking, and saltwater shore fishing. Other activities include stream fishing, picnicking, nature study, viewing scenery, small game hunting, lake fishing, flightseeing, waterfowl hunting, beach related waterplay, canoeing, viewing wildlife and fish, powerboat use, gathering of forest products, and cross-country skiing.

Floatplane trips to area lakes are common and provide access for work and recreation activities. There is a great deal of small powerboat use from all surrounding communities including Tenakee Springs, Hoonah, Angoon, Sitka, and Juneau.

There are 11 special use permits in the area for activities such as electronic sites, isolated cabins, an agriculture residence, a resort, a cabin and weir for research studies, and a helicopter site. A number of outfitter/guides permittees use the Chichagof Roadless Area. Outfitter/guide use was reported at 47 locations within this area in 1999. A total of 667 groups and 4,698 clients were reported. Outfitter/guide use activities included hiking, fishing, deer hunting, brown bear hunting, sightseeing, camping, and picnicking. Popular locations included Port Althorp, Idaho Inlet, Mud Bay, Hoonah Sound, and Lisianski River.

There is a shelter at Little Saltery Bay and a hunter's cabin at Crab Bay. There are ten unpatented mining claims in VCUs 240 and 241 (the Lori claims) and ten in VCUs 258 and 260 (the Apex-E1 Nido mine). A hydroelectric power plant is proposed for the Elfin Cove area on the Inian Peninsula.

Subsistence use occurs in the area. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) identified 43 of the 54 VCUs wholly or partially located within the area as subsistence use areas with a high sensitivity to disturbance.

The 1996 Record of Decision for the Eight Fathom Timber Sale(s) (USDA Forest Service, 1996) proposed additional developments within this roadless area. The 10-year Action Plan for the Tongass National Forest identifies one existing and four future timber sales as part of the Eight Fathom Timber Sale(s) EIS. The existing sale is the Humpback/Gallagher Timber Sale, which is outside the boundaries of the Chichagof Roadless Area. The four proposed sales are expected to take place in 2003 (two projects), 2005, and 2006, and range in size from 2.3 to 9.2

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million board feet (MMBF). The two projects proposed for 2002 are expected to involve the harvest of 7.4 to 9.4 and 4.3 to 5.3 MMBF of timber within the roadless area. The Action Plan also includes a future potential timber sale project of about 20 MMBF in the Corner Bay and False Island planning areas. The Finger Mountain Timber Sales Draft EIS (USDA Forest Service, 1999) indicated alternatives with about 11 to 22 MMBF in a planning area located south of Tenakee Inlet. A Final EIS is expected in 2003.

(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness): The Chichagof Roadless Area has been modified throughout the years by human influence; however, considering the vastness of the area, the effects have been insignificant. Most of the change has been along the shoreline areas and many of the human occupancy sites are deteriorated and have been overgrown by the forest. The area adjacent to Crab Bay was logged from the beach in the mid-1950s, while the southern drainages of Crab Cove were developed in 1977 and are outside the roadless area. In 1968, Saltery Bay was beach logged and Seal Bay tractor logged. The In-between Timber Sale, harvested in 1983, was located on the headland between these two bays. This sale area is also outside the roadless area. There is also evidence of beach logging in the portion of the area that borders Peril Strait. The communities of Pelican and Elfin Cove are located within the boundaries of the area.

Timber harvest activities in this area are apparent from Tenakee Inlet. The area has an overall natural appearance when viewed from most locations along Hoonah Sound.

(7) Surroundings (External Influences): The following paragraphs summarize the external influences on the Chichagof Roadless Area by region.

The West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness: The West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness is approximately 65 miles long and averages 8 miles in width. It borders the southwest side of the northwest portion of the roadless area. Although this wilderness is remote, it is frequently used by small boat and plane owners. Many people are drawn to this area by the natural thermal hot springs located in the wilderness. Four public use cabins are also located in the wilderness.

Eight Fathom Bight Area: The Eight Fathom Bight road system is a major external influence adjacent to the roadless area. It extends from the closed Eight Fathom Bight logging camp on Port Frederick, ten miles through the Neka River valley to Otter Lake, and then two miles along Mud Bay River. A lateral road system, approximately 3.5 miles long, is located in the Mud Bay River drainage. Harvest operations, begun in the mid-1970s and completed in the early 1990s, cut timber within .5 mile of either side of the road systems in these drainages.

Salt Lake Bay/Port Frederick/Tenakee Inlet Area: The Salt Lake Bay roaded area and the townsite of Tenakee Springs are located in the Port Frederick-Tenakee Inlet area. Tenakee Inlet and Port Frederick are commonly used by small boats. The Salt Lake Bay area (mostly outside of, but adjacent to the roadless area) contains about 11 miles of road. Harvest operations will continue under the current plans. Operations of the Salt Lake Bay LTF will continue. There is one public recreation cabin at Salt Lake Bay.

Corner Bay Area: The Corner Bay road system and associated developments, located in the northwest part of the Kook Lake road system and extending into the roadless area for approximately 9 miles, were completed in the early 1970s. A logging camp and Forest Service Work Center are located at Corner Bay.

Corner Bay-Kadashan Road System: The Chichagof Roadless Area borders the southern shore of Tenakee Inlet and includes Long, Seal, Saltery, Crab, and Kadashan Bays. The Corner Bay/Kadashan road system connects Kadashan Bay to the Corner Bay logging camp. The cutting units in the Corner Bay/Kadashan area were logged in the early 1960s through the early 1990s. The Operating Plan for the Alaska Pulp Corporation Long-Term Timber Sale proposed a road to connect the Kadashan road with the Sitkoh Bay/False Island road system. After 8 miles of this road were built, construction was halted by litigation.

Peril Strait: The Chichagof Roadless Area lies along Peril Strait for 28 miles. There is evidence of beach logging in much of the area. A drainage northwest of Moore Mountain was developed in the mid-1970s, and is referred to as Oly Creek. The southeast corner of the Chichagof Roadless Area is surrounded by the False Island/Sitkoh Bay/White Rock road system.

Basket Bay-Kook Lake: The roadless area borders Chatham Strait for about 4 miles. Located within this area are Little Basket Bay, Basket Lake, the eastern and southern shorelines of Kook Lake, and the southern shoreline of Basket Bay. The Corner Bay/Kook Lake road system and harvest units form the northeastern boundaries of the Chichagof Roadless Area. Construction of the Kook Lake road has been completed past Basket Bay and along Chatham Strait up to the edge of the Trap Bay watershed.

These developed areas are visible from locations within the roadless area and may affect the perceived naturalness and scenic values of these locations. These potential effects are, however, limited to locations in relative proximity to these external influences. A large portion of this extensive roadless area is unaffected by development in adjacent areas.

The sights and sounds of motorized boats are also evident from some locations within the area. Small aircraft overflights for recreation access and service to the various communities and camps in the general vicinity are also apparent on occasion. These occur primarily over the coastal zone and along the major valleys. There are several daily, commercial, high-altitude overflights, primarily to the south of the roadless area, or to the north over Icy Straits. Small boats use most of the coastal waters for commercial or sport fishing and hunting access. The Alaska Marine Highway ferries use Peril, Chatham, and Icy Straits, and Cross Sound.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: The area contains 50 inventoried recreation places, which cover 319,986 acres (60 percent) of the roadless area. The northern portion of the Chichagof Roadless Area contains several high alpine lakes used for fly-in fishing trips. The lakes, originally stocked in the 1930s, provide a unique recreation opportunity. Big game hunting occurs in all parts of the roadless area.

The Kadashan area and the area between Lisianski Inlet and North Hoonah Sound are of special interest because they contain two intact Sitka spruce old-growth ecosystems outside of wilderness on the northern half of the Forest. These groves, between 400 and 500 years old, are considered to have high fish and wildlife values.

Tenakee/Hoonah Portage is a .25-mile-long piece of land that separates Tenakee Inlet from Port Frederick. A trail, laid with sticks at the portage, is a special feature that allows people to push their skiffs and kayaks over the portage. The State has recently acquired the land along the portage.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: The boundaries of the area changed in four main ways between 1989 and 2003. First, most of the area east of the Neka River that was part of the Chichagof Roadless Area in 1990 is now part of the Neka Mountain (#342) or Neka Bay (#343) Roadless Areas. Second, Lemesurier Island and the Inian Islands are no longer part of the Chichagof Roadless Area. They are now part of the Pleasant-Lemesurier-Inian Wilderness. Third, a number of beach-logged areas, excluded from the 1989 area, are included within the 2003 area. Fourth, several smaller areas were excluded from the roadless area between the Draft and Final SEIS to improve the potential manageability of the area as wilderness.

II. Capability of Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: The Chichagof Roadless Area is unmodified except for isolated areas. Most of the change has been along the shoreline areas and many of the human occupancy sites are deteriorated and have been overgrown by the forest. Beach logging has occurred along Crab and Saltery Bays and the intervening headland. There is also evidence of beach logging in the portion of the area that borders Peril Strait. Additional beach logging is evident in Salt Lake Bay, Eight Fathom, and Port Frederick. Developed areas located within, but excluded from, this roadless area include the roads and harvested areas at Kadashan Bay, mining operations on private land at Cape Bingham/Mite Island, and the communities of Pelican and Elfin Cove. In addition, the area is bordered in a number of locations by developed areas. These impacts although locally evident, have a low overall effect on the natural integrity of the area. Both the relative size of the developments and their shoreline or drainage locations contribute to this low impact. Overall, the area has very high natural integrity and apparent naturalness and is suitable for wilderness classification.

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(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: The opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation in the Chichagof Roadless Area is very high to outstanding. There are no impacts from humans over the vast majority of the area. The proximity of the Chichagof Roadless Area to the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness enhances the opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. This area can be accessed by boat or by plane, or may be accessed by foot from one of several adjacent road systems.

Outfitter/guide use was reported at 47 locations within this area in 1999. A total of 667 groups and 4,698 clients were reported. Outfitter/guide use activities included hiking, fishing, deer hunting, brown bear hunting, sightseeing, camping, and picnicking. Popular locations included Port Althorp, Idaho Inlet, Mud Bay, Hoonah Sound, and Lisianski River.

Recreational use occurs around Kadashan Bay from the Kadashan/Corner Bay road system and the associated facilities. The road system is not continuously used and solitude is broken only when use is occurring.

There is, and would continue to be, interruption to the solitude around the townsites of Pelican and Elfin Cove. These interruptions would increase around the patented mines, should they come into production.

Small aircraft overflights for recreation access and service to the various communities and camps in the general vicinity are also apparent on occasion. This use occurs primarily over the coastal zone and along the major valleys. There are several daily, commercial, high-altitude overflights. These flights are primarily nearer to the south part of the roadless area, or to the north over Icy Straits. Small boats use most of the coastal waters for commercial or sport fishing and hunting access. The Alaska Marine Highway ferries use Peril, Chatham, and Icy Straits, and Cross Sound. All of these activities provide interruption to solitude; however, they are transitory and short term in nature.

The Chichagof Roadless Area provides primarily primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized opportunities. However, because of existing use patterns, it is evident that both off-road and highway vehicles use portions of the area. 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)	126,336	24%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	264,951	50%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	29,508	6%
Roaded Natural (RN)	371	0%
Roaded Modified (RM)	112,585	21%
Rural (R)	104	0%

The area contains 50 inventoried recreation places, which cover 319,986 acres (60 percent) of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
P	11	27,930
SPNM	11	163,024
SPM	22	23,730
RN	2	371
RM	19	104,930
R	0	0

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

There are five trails located in the roadless area. Cabins are located in adjacent areas at Salt Lake Bay, White Sulfur Springs, Goulding Lake, Kook Lake, two at Sitkoh Lake, and a three sided shelter in the Point Adolphus area. There are also facilities at Neka Hot Springs.

(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 (RARE II) process. 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).

In 1979, during the RARE II process, the Tongass National Forest applied WARS for the first time and rated each unroaded VCU on the Tongass. In 1989, the inventoried roadless areas (which generally include more than one VCU) were rated according to this system for the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) developed in support of the Forest Plan Revision. This original version of the AMS (dated 1990) included both the individual VCU ratings done in 1979 and the composite rating that was done for each roadless area in 1989. The Chichagof Roadless Area was given a rating of 26 out of a possible 28. The 1989 rating was re-evaluated for this updated version of the AMS. Based on this re-evaluation, the area was given a rating of 25.

In order to examine the wilderness attributes of individual portions of this large roadless area, it was divided into six sub-areas and each was rated separately. The larger LUD II areas (Pt. Adolphus/Mud Bay and Lisianski River/Upper Hoonah Sound) were rated together as a separate area and received a score of 26. The smaller LUD II area (Kadashan) was also rated separately and received a score of 23. The non-LUD II area north of the portage at the head of Tenakee Inlet was rated 22. The non-LUD II area from the portage to the east side of Seal Bay was rated 26. The non-LUD II area from Seal Bay to the Kadashan LUD II rated 23. The non-LUD II area east of the Kadashan LUD II rated 20.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The Chichagof Roadless Area, centrally located on Chichagof Island, is not part of a larger roadless area, which includes the adjacent Roadless Area 342 and the West Chichiagof-Yakobi Wilderness.

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment listed 6 of the 47 VCUs in this area as primary salmon producers, 3 as non-producers and the balance as secondary producers. It listed 5 of the VCUs as primary sportfish producers (ADF&G, 1998).

Primary Salmon Producer	VCU #	Primary Sportfish Producer	VCU #	Non-Producer	VCU #
Seal Bay	229	Mud Bay	193	Elfin Cove	187
Kadashan River	235		1931	Point Adolphus	195
Sitkoh Bay	243	Neka Bay	201		
False Island	245	Kadashan River	2351	Apex-El Nido	260
Lisianski River	249	Kook Lake	239		
Lisianski Ridge	262				

Pink, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon, cutthroat and steelhead trout, and Dolly Varden char occur in the area’s lakes and streams (Southeast Chichagof EIS, USDA Forest Service, 1992).

The Kadashan River is recognized as the highest pink salmon producer in northern Southeast Alaska and the third best producer in Southeast Alaska as a whole. This river contains important pink salmon runs and also produces Dolly Varden char, chum salmon, and steelhead. The estuary for the river is also extremely productive. The streams running into Sitkoh Bay and Seal Bay are also considered high producing streams.

Many streams throughout this roadless area are highly rated for salmonid production. These streams include the Mud Bay River, Neka River, Portage Creek, and Chum Creek. Streams noted for their coho salmon producing ability are the three streams running into Crab Bay, and the streams at the heads of Long Bay and North Hoonah Sound. Many of these streams provide anadromous trout and char habitat, but the level of production is unknown.

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(b) Wildlife Resources: Diverse wildlife species exist in the Chichagof Roadless Area and include brown bears and Sitka black-tailed deer. Bird and waterfowl rearing and nesting areas are abundant. Some of the most noted are Mud Bay and Goose Island. Bald eagle habitat, including nesting and roosting trees, is found along the shorelines. Goshawk nests have been identified in Sitkoh Bay in the past, and have been occupied in recent years. The area is also heavily used by marbled murrelets, but a nest survey has not been conducted (Southeast Chichagof Landscape Assessment, USDA Forest Service, 1999). North Hoonah Sound and Mud, Long, Seal, Saltery, Crab, and Kadashan Bays are good examples of high quality brown bear habitat. The Kadashan River corridor also supports large populations of brown bear and deer. The north end of Hoonah Sound is also desirable seal habitat.

The Kadashan River drainage has been identified as key deer winter range. Other areas designated as critical deer winter range include all of Goose Island, along the shoreline and estuary of Mud Bay, all around the lake system northeast of Mud Bay, all of the area around Tenakee/Hoonah Portage, Corner Bay, the Basket Bay area including Kook Lake, intermittently along the Peril Strait shoreline, and the heads of North Hoonah Sound and Lisianski Inlet.

Based on harvest data compiled from 1985 to 1995, three of the VCUs in the area were ranked in the first 25 percent of brown bear harvest areas on the Tongass. Twelve other VCUs in the area were ranked in 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: 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. Migrating Peale's peregrine falcons pass through the forests during its spring and fall migration flights. Inhabitants of late seral forests, Queen Charlotte goshawks are closely associated with productive old growth. In addition, twelve sensitive plant species are known or suspected to occur in the Sitka Ranger District.

(d) Karst, Cave, and Other Geologic Resources: There are extensive karst resources in this roadless area, encompassing 21,231 acres, or 4 percent of the area. Two-thirds of the karst resources are classified as high vulnerability karst. There are no known glaciers or unique geologic features in this area. The Neka Hot Springs is located in the area. There are reported hot springs at the head of the North Arm of Hoonah Sound.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: The mouth of Basket Bay has formations of gray, gray and white, white, dark blue, and black marble. The Tonalite Creek Research Natural Area, located in the Chichagof Roadless Area, was identified as including pristine examples of Sitka spruce, western and mountain hemlock, and yellowcedar forest types; productive bear and fisheries habitat; and muskegs (USDA Forest Service, 1997). This area was allocated to Research Natural Area in the 1997 Tongass Land Management Plan Revision and is also located within the designated LUD II.

The city of Sitka, the closest larger community, is located approximately 30 air miles south of the area. Therefore, this area is relatively inaccessible to large numbers of school-age children. The area is more accessible to school-age children residing in the communities of Pelican and Elfin Cove and other nearby communities, such as Hoonah.

(6) Scenic Values: The visual character type of this area is Admiralty-Chichagof. Landforms are generally rounded, but include steep, rugged mountains on the west side of the roadless area. These mountains are snowcapped much of the year. Rocky shorelines, interspersed with gravel beaches, are found along most of the coast. Streams are often short and swift, flowing directly to saltwater. However, some of the largest and longest of the Southeast Alaska island rivers are also found here. Bays and estuaries are common and show a wide range of visual characteristics. Other significant water features include large lakes and lake chains. Lower slopes are densely vegetated and are interspersed with muskeg and small lakes. Upper slopes appear bare from a distance, but often contain muskeg, alpine tundra vegetation, and scattered tree cover.

The Chichagof Roadless Area has been modified throughout the years by human influence. Most of the change has been along the shoreline areas and many of the human occupancy sites are deteriorated and have been overgrown by the forest. The area adjacent to Crab Bay was logged from the beach in the mid-1950s. In 1968, Saltery Bay and Seal Bay were beach logged. There is also evidence of beach logging in the portion of the area that borders Peril Strait, Port Frederick, and along Tenakee Inlet.

A number of developed areas border this roadless area. There are also a number of similarly developed areas located within, but excluded from the roadless area. These include the Eight Fathom Bight/Neka River and Kadashan Bay areas, mining operations on private land at Cape Bingham/Mite Island, and the communities of Pelican and Elfin Cove. Overall, these impacts within or adjacent to the area, although locally evident, have a low overall effect on the natural appearance of the area. Both the relative size of the developments and their shoreline location contribute to this low impact. Timber management activities are apparent from Tenakee Inlet. The area has an overall natural appearance when viewed from most locations along Hoonah Sound.

Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan, that are within or adjacent to the area include:

- Alaska Marine Highway and Tour Ship Routes: Peril Strait, Icy Strait, Lisianski Inlet, Cross Sound, South Passage, South Inian Passage, Port Frederick, and Tenakee Inlet.
- Recommended Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers: Kadashan River and Lisianski River.
- Small boat routes: Icy Strait, Peril Strait, Chatham Strait, South Passage, Idaho Inlet, Mud Bay, Port Frederick, Elfin Cove, Port Althrop, Cross Sound, Lisianski Inlet, Hoonah Sound (north and south arms), Tenakee Inlet, Corner Bay, Tenakee Inlet via Portage, Pinta Cove, Lisianski Strait, Stag Bay, Kadashan Bay, Crab Bay, Seal Bay, Long Bay, and Soapstone Cove.
- Saltwater use area: Neka Bay.
- Dispersed Recreation: Three Hill Island, Point Adolphus, Lisianski River, Mud Bay, Neka River, Kadashan Bay, Port Frederick Portage, Long Bay, Tenakee Inlet (South Tidal Flats), Seal Bay, Port Althrop, and Kook Lake.
- Communities: Tenakee Springs, Pelican, and Elfin Cove.
- Hiking Trails: Basket Bay (451), Lisianski (506), Tekanis (710), Bohemia, and Stag Bay.
- Boat Anchorages: Port Althrop, Soapstone Cove, Lisianski Inlet, Mud Bay, Neka Bay, Tenakee Inlet (north extent), Corner Bay, Crab Bay, Seal Cove, Long Bay, Gull Cove, Goose Island, Elfin Cove, Salt Chuck Bay, Pinta Cove, Idaho Inlet, Stag Bay, and the Shaw Islands.

The roadless area is inventoried as approximately 15 percent Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type), 59 percent Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type), and 26 percent Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity).

The majority of the area, 93 percent, is inventoried in Existing Visual Condition (EVC) I, which appears untouched by human activity. Approximately one percent of the area is inventoried as EVC III, which are areas in which changes in the landscape are noticed by the average person, but they do not attract attention. Another 1 percent of the area is in EVC IV, where changes in the landscape are easily noticed by the average visitor, and may attract some attention. EVC V, in which changes to the landscape are obvious to the average visitor, accounts for about 3 percent of the area.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: The Tenakee/Hoonah Portage has been used since precontact times and is still used today for recreation purposes. Tlingit oral history tells that the portage was found by very early Natives when they observed killer whales swimming across the isthmus. This tale very likely dates back to when this lowland was submerged. The Tenakee/Hoonah portage was commonly used by the Natives for canoe travel. It was used by John Muir in 1880 during his exploration of the area. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Tenakee/Hoonah Portage was commonly used by hand trollers. They traveled in groups and hand-carried their boats across this small piece of land between Port Frederick and Tenakee Inlet.

A stream flows from Kook Lake, disappears underground in spots, and flows from a cave into Basket Bay. This closed-in area was used by the Alaska Native peoples to hunt seal and to fish. The Port Althrop area was surveyed by Captain Vancouver in 1794. He also explored and named Port Frederick.

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At the time of Euroamerican contact, the Hoonah and Angoon Tlingit used this area of Chichagof Island. Villages and sites for seasonal hunting, fishing, and collecting activities were located throughout the Chichagof Roadless Area.

Salteries were established at Idaho Inlet in 1884 and at Basket and Saltery Bays in the early 1900s. A salmon cannery, built by Alaska Pacific Salmon Company at Port Althorp, burned in 1940 and was never rebuilt. Homesteads were established at Kadashan Bay in 1915. In 1936, one homestead was established at Idaho Inlet. This homestead, Gull Cove, was a trading post that operated for years. The community of Pelican was established in 1938.

The communities of Pelican and Elfin Cove are located within the roadless area. Tenakee Springs and Hoonah are located 4 miles north and 8 miles northeast of the area, respectively. Sitka, the closest larger community, is located approximately 35 air miles south of the area.

Outfitter/guide use was reported at 47 locations within this area in 1999. A total of 667 groups and 4,698 clients were reported. Outfitter/guide use activities included hiking, fishing, deer hunting, brown bear hunting, sightseeing, camping, and picnicking. Popular locations included Port Althorp, Idaho Inlet, Mud Bay, Hoonah Sound, and Lisianski River.

Subsistence use occurs in the area. Parts of the area are important subsistence use areas for Elfin Cove, Hoonah, Pelican, and Tenakee Springs. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) identified 38 of the 47 VCUs located within the area as subsistence use areas with a high sensitivity to disturbance. Eleven of the VCUs located within this area were included among the VCUs with the highest community use value. Areas identified by ADF&G in their comments on the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan EIS (1997) included four VCUs in their second tier of highly valued community use areas, with two other VCUs included in the third tier (ADF&G, 1998).

(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: Manageability as wilderness is very high. Most boundaries are defined by the coastline or are not critical because they adjoin wilderness. Other parts of the area are bordered by developed areas. The effects of most current activities in adjoining areas are minimal because such activities, which are typically saltwater-based or wilderness related, are transitory. While activities associated with road construction and timber harvest operations are highly distracting, they affect a relatively small proportion of the area. Past activities have affected the natural integrity of parts of the area but they have provided better access into the interior of the roadless area via an existing road system. Designating the Chichagof Roadless Area Wilderness would complement and extend the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness. The proximity of the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness enhances the wilderness character of the Chichagof Roadless Area, in particular related to the potential for solitude and primitive recreation opportunities.

Exceptions to the ease of manageability as wilderness would be in those areas where the boundaries are man-made and do not follow natural features. These areas, which comprise only a small portion of the total length of the area's boundary, include all private ownerships such as at Cape Bingham/Mite Cove, private parcels at Mud Bay, and the lands at Pelican, Elfin Cove, Port Althorp, and Bohemia Basin. All other non-federal ownerships are very small and offer no problems for manageability as wilderness. The recent conveyance of lands along the Tenakee/Hoonah Portage, have isolated a small area east of the portage. The small size and degree of development adjacent to this two-lobed area make it not suitable for wilderness. These small areas were excluded from the roadless area between the Draft and Final SEIS.

III. Availability for Management as Wilderness (including effects of wilderness designation on adjacent areas)

(1) Recreation, Including Tourism Potential: This area has high potential for future recreation use. Freshwater fishing use of the high mountain lakes in the northern portion of the Chichagof Roadless Area will likely increase. Outfitter/guide use will probably increase throughout the area, especially around Elfin Cove, Neka Bay, Pelican, and Lisianski Inlet and Strait. Access will be mainly by boat.

In 1996, the Alaska Visitors Association (AVA) proposed the following recreation developments for the Hoonah Sound-Lisianski Pass area: hut to hut hiking for 25 persons, a day-use and an overnight wildlife observatory for 50 persons. They proposed trails/boardwalks and small cruiseship shorewalks in Three Hill Island, Gull Cove, and Idaho Inlet. They also proposed recreation developments at Basket Bay and a small cruiseship shorewalk along Tenakee Trail.

Public scoping performed by the Sitka Ranger District reported in the Southeast Chichagof Landscape Analysis (USDA Forest Service, 1999) indicated a desire by Tenakee Springs residents for construction of a survival shelter in Seal Bay.

- (2) **Subsistence Uses:** The existing patterns of subsistence activities in the area would not be affected by wilderness designation.
- (3) **Fish Resources:** The Tongass Land Management Plan Revision EIS (USDA Forest Service, 1997) indicated that incubation boxes were scheduled to be installed on Mud Bay River. A weir on Kadashan River was discontinued by the ADF&G in 1987. Currently, some adult coho are being collected at Kadashan River, incubated at the Medvijie Hatchery in Sitka, and then stocked into the Indian River near Tenakee Springs to build up a coho run there. Fish passage was constructed around the barrier falls near tidewater at the Indian River in 1998 and 1999. Stocking is planned to occur for 3 to 4 years until a coho salmon run is established.
- (4) **Wildlife Resources:** No wildlife habitat enhancement projects are identified at this time.
- (5) **Timber Resources:** There are 173,601 acres mapped as productive old growth in the roadless area. In addition, approximately 1,029 acres of second growth have resulted from beach logging activities. Of these acres, 53,380 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), approximately 11,164 acres (2 percent) of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 2,807 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 262 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The potential for managing timber in this roadless area is good in those areas with operable timber stands. The larger areas of mature/overmature timber that are operable and accessible, combined with the existing road systems and log transport facilities in the vicinity, makes timber management feasible in those areas.

The 1996 Record of Decision for the Eight Fathom Timber Sale(s) (USDA Forest Service, 1996) proposed additional developments within this roadless area. The 10-year Action Plan for the Tongass National Forest identifies one existing and four future timber sales as part of the Eight Fathom Timber Sale(s) EIS. The existing sale is the Humpback/Gallagher Timber Sale, which is outside the boundaries of the Chichagof Roadless Area. The four proposed sales are expected to take place in 2002 (two projects), 2005, and 2006, and range in size from 2.3 to 9.2 million board feet (MMBF). The two projects proposed for 2002 are expected to involve the harvest of 7.4 to 9.4 and 4.3 to 5.3 MMBF of timber within the roadless area. The Action Plan also includes a future potential timber sale project of about 20 MMBF in the Corner Bay and False Island planning areas. The Finger Mountain Timber Sales Draft EIS (USDA Forest Service, 1999) indicated alternatives with about 11 to 22 MMBF in a planning area located south of Tenakee Inlet. A Final EIS is expected in 2003.
- (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:** In 1984, several areas within the Chichagof Roadless Area were identified as having a high potential for development of locatable minerals. These include the area from Idaho Inlet east to the edge of the area, along the east and southwest shore of Lisianski Inlet, and all of the north shore of Peril Strait and the south shore of Tenakee Inlet. Mineral development potential is also high along the west shoreline of Lisianski Inlet and similar potential exists just south of this shoreline. Several mining operations, including the Apex and Bohomia mines, have occurred or are occurring presently within the Chichagof Roadless Area.

This area contains 8,802 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having a high to moderate potential for experiencing mineral exploration and development of locatable minerals (Coldwell, 1990; USDA Forest Service,

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1991). A total of 4,699 of these acres are allocated to the Minerals LUD. The Minerals LUD is intended to encourage the prospecting, exploration, development, mining, and processing of locatable minerals in areas with the highest potential for minerals development. This is to ensure that minerals are developed in an environmentally sensitive manner, and that other high-valued resources are considered when minerals developments occur. In addition, this area contains 108,988 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991); 12,698 of these acres are considered to have a relatively high potential for development.

(8) Transportation and Utilities: A potential power transmission corridor that extends along the portion of the Kadashan River in this area was assigned to the Transportation and Utility System LUD in the 1997 Tongass Land Management Plan Revision. There are no current plans for this corridor, which is part of the future power grid for communities of Southeast Alaska. Other local roads, primarily to support timber management activities, would be needed to access those areas that have suitable timber and are available for development under the Forest Plan.

(9) Water Availability and Use: The Elfin Cove and Pelican communities are located within this roadless area and create a demand for water. A hydroelectric power plant is proposed for the Elfin Cove area on the Inian Peninsula.

(10) Areas of Scientific Interest: The Kadashan area and the area between Lisianski Inlet and North Hoonah Sound are of special interest because they contain two intact Sitka spruce old-growth ecosystems outside of wilderness on the northern half of the Forest. These groves, between 400 and 500 years old, are considered to have high fish, timber, and wildlife values.

The Tonalite Creek Research Natural Area contains pristine examples of Sitka spruce, western and mountain hemlock, and yellowcedar forest types, productive bear and fisheries habitat, and muskegs. Management as wilderness may restrict the research activities.

There are extensive karst resources in this roadless area, encompassing 21,231 acres (4 percent) of the area. Neka Hot Springs is located in the area. There are reported hot springs at the head of the North Arm of Hoonah Sound.

(11) Land Use Authorizations: There are 11 special use permits in the area for activities such as electronic sites, isolated cabins, an agriculture residence, a resort, a cabin and weir for research studies, and a helicopter site. A number of outfitter/guides permittees use the Chichagof Roadless Area. The Forest Service uses two radio repeater sites within the area.

(12) Land Status: All land within the roadless area is part of the National Forest System. There are several locations of encumbered lands within the roadless area, including areas on the Inian Peninsula, upper Tenakee Inlet, and adjacent to land owned by Sealaska Regional Corporation in the east.

IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

(1) Public and Congressional Interest:

(a) Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents: People from the surrounding towns and logging camps use this roadless area. These population concentrations include Pelican, Elfin Cove, Hoonah, Gustavus, Tenakee Springs, Eight Fathom Bight, Corner Bay, Juneau, Sitka, and Angoon. It is possible to access the area by most methods of transportation, including boats, all-terrain vehicles, and planes. Use from outfitter/guides occurs throughout the area. Subsistence uses take place throughout most of the area and include hunting, fishing, and gathering.

Each community has its own emphasis issues. Elfin Cove, Pelican, and Tenakee Springs would like to see roading and logging techniques now being used changed so the impacts to the land are not so great. They would also like to see a change to the amount of logs being taken off the land. Hoonah's opinions vary. They would like to see a sustained cut for economic reasons, but would also like the land protected for subsistence use and protection of the Alaska Native way of life. There has been opposition to logging the Kadashan drainage from the communities of Tenakee Springs, Juneau, and Sitka. They advocate leaving it

in a natural state because of the many complete ecosystems and the number of years the drainage has been used as a research area.

Local issues include the continuing harvesting and roading of the area, the continuation of jobs in the local area, the effects of logging on fisheries and wildlife habitat, maintaining the visual quality of high-interest areas, maintaining lifestyles, the location of log transfer facilities, the distribution of harvest volume classes, and the tradeoffs between environmental protection measures and the economics of harvest activities.

(b) Congressional Interest: In 1989, U.S. House of Representatives Bill HR 987 proposed to designate 23 areas on the Tongass National Forest as wilderness. Three separate parts of the Chichagof Roadless Area were proposed as wilderness areas. These three areas were identified as Kadashan River, Point Adolphus-Mud Bay Wilderness, and Chichagof Wilderness. In 2001, HR 2908 identified the majority of the area that is not already allocated to LUD II as a proposed LUD II addition. This bill requested that the areas currently allocated to LUD II remain under this allocation, with the exception of the LUD II area surrounding the Kadashan River, which was identified as a proposed wilderness addition. The bill identified Kadashan River, Tonalite Creek, and a number of major streams in the area for protection as wild and scenic rivers. It also proposed that part of the headland between Saltery and Crab Bays be protected as a Special Management Area.

(c) Public Input During Forest Plan Revisions and Appeals: This area was addressed in public input received during the Forest Plan revision and appeal. Many specific areas on Chichagof Island were identified for non-timber allocations or simply for “protection.” Recreation and subsistence values, wildlife habitat, and scenic quality were cited most often as reasons. The scenic qualities of Chichagof Island in general were mentioned as very important to the tourism, tour boat, and guide service industries. Areas mentioned by name included Hoonah Sound, the Kadashan drainage, Lisianski Inlet, and Upper Tenakee. A minority of commenters asked for logging or road building in some of these same areas.

Many commenters (including the City of Tenakee Springs, Taku Conservation Society, Juneau Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, and Tenakee Fish and Game Advisory Board) stated that the important scenic, wildlife, fishing, and (especially) subsistence values and habitats of Tenakee Inlet, which borders much of the area to the north, must be protected. They felt that the area has many natural values warranting protection and that there is much public support for protection and reducing timber harvest. Specific areas mentioned as needing protection by name included the drainages of Seal and Long Bays (which have some of the highest concentrations of deer in the Tongass), Goose Flats, and all important deer wintering habitat in Crab and Saltery Bays.

The Sitka Conservation Society identified the Hoonah Sound to Sitka ferry route, including Peril Strait, which partially borders the Chichagof Roadless Area to the south, as “the heart of Sitka’s economy and lifestyle” and asked that Recreation LUDs be applied.

Commenters, including the city of Tenakee Springs and the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC), were strongly opposed to any utility or transmission corridors, powerlines or roads being built through the Kadashan drainage because this type of corridor is inconsistent with the reasons that the area was designated as LUD II. Timber industry interests felt that the road should be completed to provide a connected road system for recreation and timber access and allow more economic management of the area.

Non-timber prescriptions or LUDs (most commonly Remote or Semi-remote Recreation) were favored for the Lisianski Inlet and Strait area, especially around Lisianski Inlet and River. Important subsistence values, wildlife habitat, fishing and recreation (including a kayak route) and scenic quality (both for locals and tourists) were cited as reasons. The Soapstone area was identified as an important anchorage and kayak destination that required protection. Protection was requested from logging in Idaho Inlet. The community of Elfin Cove stated that the maintenance of the LUD II area was of the utmost importance to the community.

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The AVA proposed the following recreation developments for the Hoonah Sound-Lisianski Pass area: hut to hut hiking for 25 persons, a day-use and an overnight wildlife observatory for 50 persons. They proposed trails/boardwalks and small cruiseship shorewalks in Three Hill Island, Gull Cove and Idaho Inlet. They also proposed recreation developments at Basket Bay and a small cruiseship shorewalk along Tenakee Trail.

A number of comments were received by Management Area (MA) or VCU. Comments addressing MAs wholly or partially within the area include the following:

- MAs C34 and C37 should be managed to emphasize subsistence and wildlife (Sitka Area State Parks Advisory Board).
- MAs C24, C25, C27, and C28 should have “far less logging than planned” and many places should be allocated to Primitive (Remote) Recreation. MAs C26, C35, C36, and C37 should have “no roads, period” (Sierra Club Juneau Group).
- MAs C27, C32, and C37 should all be in timber production; there is no justification for the Scenic Viewshed or Modified Landscape allocations (Alaska Forest Association, Timber Industry).
- No timber harvest in VCU 202 and 223; the shoreline of MA C29 and C34 should be allocated to the Modified Landscape LUD; VCU 202 should be in Scenic Viewshed.
- MA C29 should be managed as Wilderness, Primitive Recreation, or Old Growth, for its high value wildlife habitat and high scenic value.
- MA C29 should be managed for Timber Production; this is needed for an economic harvest; there isn’t much use in this area (Alaska Forest Association, Timber Industry).
- VCUs 225, 226, 228, and 229 should have the “strongest possible protection” because this area is highly important for subsistence, hunting and fishing, and for wildlife habitat value.

Parts of this area were also identified in a number of Forest Plan appeals. The large majority of these appeals requested that specific areas within the Chichagof Roadless Area be protected from logging and identified rivers that should receive Wild and Scenic River designation. Areas specifically mentioned in these appeals included, but were not limited to, Upper Tenakee Inlet, Kadashan, Long Bay, Seal Bay, and Goose Flat Rivers. Organizations filing appeals that favored increased protection included SEACC, the Narrows Conservation Council, Sitka Conservation Society, Prince of Wales Conservation League, and the City of Tenakee Springs. Parts of the area were mentioned in an appeal that contested the redesignation of land in the Eight Fathom Timber Sale area and VCU 179 from timber production into Old Growth Habitat. This appeal was filed by Whitestone Southeast Logging, Inc.

(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 lands in the Tongass to be protected from development.

(e) Public Input Expressed for Project-level EISs and Other Input: Parts of the Chichagof Roadless Area were included in three project-level studies conducted over the past decade. These studies were the Southeast Chichagof Project Area FEIS (USDA Forest Service, 1992), Eight Fathom Timber Sale(s) EIS (USDA Forest Service, 1996), and the Southeast Chichagof Landscape Analysis (USDA Forest Service, 1999). Public comment expressed on the Southeast Chichagof Timber Sale EIS included concerns with the potential effect of road building across the Mud Bay LUD II area and on recreation and tourism. Concerns were expressed about adverse effects on fish and wildlife that would, in turn, adversely affect recreation and tourism. Concerns were also expressed about the effects of new roads on subsistence hunting and the effects on karst within the roadless area.

Public comment expressed on the Eight Fathom Timber Sale included a request by the Tenakee Springs Fish and Game Advisory Committee that the Forest Service reinstate Seal Bay and Long Bay to LUD II. Another commenter noted that Seal and Long Bays were incorrectly designated as LUD II areas in the old Forest Plan but are now correctly allocated to a LUD that allows commercial harvest. Concern was expressed that roads would create easy access for motorized hunting and be detrimental for deer

populations and villagers who hunt by hiking. The Kadashan area was specifically identified as an area that should not be harvested or roaded because of its high scenic quality. Commenters also requested that there be no road access at the head of Crab Bay.

Comments on the Finger Mountain Draft EIS included a desire to not further develop unroaded lands; if a timber sale was going to be authorized that it should be for smaller sales that use the existing road systems with only minor extensions of that system; and support for more development of the unroaded timber lands available under the Forest Plan.

(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 there is high local and national support for managing this area in an unroaded condition, and local and national support for designating at least portions of this roadless area as wilderness. They recommend including the Pt. Adolphus/Mud Bay LUD II area within this conservation unit. They also 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.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game rated the Chichagof Roadless Area as the highest priority for protection in northern Southeast Alaska. 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 Tenakee Springs passed a resolution recommending wilderness or LUD II protection for Crab Bay (VCUs 231-234), Seal Bay (VCUs 229-230), Long Bay (VCU 228), Upper Tenakee Inlet (VCUs 223-227), and Finn Cove (VCU 236).

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.

SEACC recommended the remaining unlogged portions of Chichagof Island for a LUD II designation. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Area 311 for permanent protection as LUD II. Audubon Alaska recommended that Upper Tenakee Inlet should be protected from logging and road building.

Some members of the Southeast Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council identified the need for further protection of this area because of its importance for subsistence.

The president of the Hoonah Indian Association asked for the protection, conservation, and responsible management of this roadless area because of its special interest to the Huna People.

A number of cave/karst experts and other individuals noted that karst in the eastern portion of this area deserves more protection than it has now.

Many individuals recommended that upper Tenakee Inlet be protected because of the fish and wildlife (including brown bear) it produces and its beautiful, scenic natural areas. Seal Bay, Long Bay, Fat Lady Flats, and the end of the inlet were cited as prime examples. Some thought that upper Tenakee Inlet had valuable low elevation forest that should be protected. Some identified Crab Bay and Kadashan valley as important and some recommended the entire area for protection. Some individuals supported wilderness protection for the area around Point Adolphus and Mud Bay. Some individuals recommended it because of world-class scenery, abundant wildlife and habitat, and almost unilateral support for wilderness protection. Some individuals requested protection for Broad Finger and Broad Creeks.

Appendix C

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: The West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness borders the Chichagof Roadless Area to southwest. The Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness is located approximately 9 miles east across Chatham Strait from the area. The Pleasant-Lemesurier-Inian Island Wilderness is located approximately one mile north of the area at its closest point. Glacier Bay National Park and Monument is located across Icy Strait to the north.

The north portion of the area is partially bordered to the east by the Neka Mountain Roadless Area (#342). The Neka Bay Roadless Area (#343) is also located in this vicinity separated from the Chichagof Roadless Area by an area of development. Other roadless areas within the immediate vicinity are Hoonah Sound (#328) (across Hoonah Sound to the west), North Baranof (#330) (across Peril Strait to the south), Point Craven (#314) (to the southeast and separated by roads and harvest units), Trap Bay (#312) (to the east and separated by roads and harvest units), Tenakee Ridge (#321) (to the north and east across Tenakee Inlet), and Game Creek (#323) (to the east across Port Frederick).

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	45	50
Sitka (Pop. 8,835)	30	45
Hoonah (Pop. 860)	10	15
Angoon (Pop. 572)	15	25

Gustavus has regular jet service in the summer and scheduled small plane service in the winter. Hoonah and Pelican have year-round scheduled small aircraft service. There is a charter service to Tenakee Springs and Elfin Cove. The Alaska Marine Highway serves Hoonah and Tenakee Springs on a regular basis and Pelican on a monthly basis.

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The Chichagof Roadless Area is located on Chichagof Island. It is oriented from northwest to southeast and includes most of the central portion of the island. The area is bordered to the south and southwest by Lisianski Inlet, the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness, Hoonah Sound, and Peril Strait from Soapstone Cove to False Island. The southeast portion of the area is bordered by areas developed for timber management that extend inland from False Island on Peril Strait and from Little Basket Bay on Chatham Strait. Chatham Strait and non-National Forest System lands border the area to the east. Most of the Chichagof Roadless Area is very mountainous with flatter areas primarily around the estuaries and tidal flats. There are high mountain lakes in the northern portion of the area. This roadless area is typical of recently glaciated terrain with rugged mountains dissected by steep-sided, U-shaped valleys and stream courses. There are many creeks and rivers, lakes, bays, and fiords in the area. Many large lakes such as Kook Lake, and lake chains such as those in the Meadow Creek area, are found throughout the roadless area. Major streams include the Lisianski, Trail, Kadashan, and Mud Bay Rivers, and Tonalite Creek. Saltwater bays and estuaries are numerous and exhibit much variety. The shoreline is rocky and difficult to access. Elevations range from sea level to 3,788 feet at the highest point, approximately 1.5 miles north of the mouth of the Lisianski River. Peaks exceeding 3,000 feet are scattered throughout the area. Elevations on the small islands are less, ranging to about 1,160 feet.

The Chichagof Roadless Area is unmodified except at some isolated areas primarily where old beach logging has occurred. Developments on adjacent lands occur in a few areas, but they do not detract from the wilderness attributes of the area. The roadless area has very high natural integrity and apparent naturalness. Because of the large size of the area, six portions were rated separately for natural integrity and apparent naturalness. The larger LUD II area has outstanding natural integrity and very high apparent naturalness. The smaller Kadashan LUD II area has high natural integrity and apparent naturalness. The non-LUD II area north of the portage at the head of Tenakee Inlet has high natural integrity and moderate apparent naturalness. The non-LUD II area from the portage to the east side of Seal Bay has outstanding natural integrity and very high apparent naturalness. The non-LUD II area from Seal Bay to Kadashan LUD II has high natural integrity and apparent naturalness. The non-LUD II to the east of Kadashan LUD II has moderate natural integrity and low apparent naturalness. The opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation in the Chichagof Roadless Area is very high to outstanding.

Approximately 15 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive from a scenery standpoint. There are extensive karst resources, hot springs, the Tonalite Creek Research Natural Area, and extensive cultural resources in the roadless area.

The roadless area includes about 62,350 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, approximately 11,396 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. It ranks among the top five Tongass roadless areas in terms of acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth; the vast majority of this old growth is contained within non-development LUDs.

The Chichagof Roadless Area occurs in the East Chichagof Island and the West Chichagof Island Biogeographic Provinces. Approximately 90 percent of the roadless area is within the East Chichagof Island Biogeographic Province and makes up about 43 percent of that province. It is one of 12 inventoried roadless areas found in the province that collectively make up about 72 percent of the province. The province contains the Pleasant-Lemesurier-Inian Islands Wilderness and a portion of the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness, which make up 6 percent of the province. The province also includes all or portions of three LUD II areas, which make up approximately 27 percent of the province. The remaining 10 percent of the Chichagof Roadless Area is in the West Chichagof Island Biogeographic Province and makes up approximately 18 percent of that province. It is the only inventoried roadless area found in the province. The province contains West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness, which makes up 81 percent of the province. The province also includes portions of LUD II areas, which make up 6 percent of the province. Part of the LUD II areas are in the Chichagof Roadless Area.

The Chichagof Roadless Area lies within two ecological sections; it represents 23 percent of the Baranof-Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Section and 11 percent of the Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Section. The Baranof-Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Section is well represented by existing wilderness and LUD II (28 and 13 percent, respectively) with an additional 35 percent in other non-development LUDs. The Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Section is well represented in non-development LUDs (26 percent) plus a small portion (7 percent) is within LUD II.

The majority of this roadless area (57 percent) is within the North Chichagof Granitics Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 75 percent of the entire ecological subsection within the Tongass National Forest boundary. Approximately 19 percent of this ecological subsection is in existing wilderness, an additional 38 percent is in existing LUD II, and an additional 15 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs. The Peril Strait Granitics Ecological Subsection represents 33 percent of the roadless area; this portion of the roadless area represents 75 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which is well represented in non-development LUDs (40 percent, including 25 percent in LUD II). The Kook Lake Carbonates Ecological Subsection represents 7 percent of this roadless area; this portion of the roadless area represents 35 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which is well represented in non-development LUDs (31 percent, including 15 percent in LUD II). The Point Adolphus Carbonates Ecological Subsection represents 3 percent of this roadless area; this portion of the roadless area represents 16 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which is well represented in non-development LUDs (48 percent, including 16 percent in LUD II). The Outer Coast Wave-cut Terraces Ecological Subsection represents less than 1 percent of the Chichagof Roadless Area. This portion of the roadless area represents 1 percent of the entire ecological subsection and is well represented in existing wilderness (75 percent) and other non-development LUDs (21 percent). The Ushk-Patterson Bay Granitics Ecological Subsection represents less than 1 percent of this roadless area. This portion represents 0.2 percent of the entire subsection, which has approximately 19 percent in existing wilderness area and 49 percent in other non-development LUDs (including 43 percent in LUD II).

The Chichagof Roadless Area was rated at 25 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 12th from the highest (along with 12 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas. It is tied for 1st among the 12 roadless areas in the East Chichagof Island Province. Because of the large size of the roadless area, several smaller areas were rated separately. A rating was done for the two larger existing LUD II areas, which resulted in a score of 26. A rating of 23 was given to the smaller existing LUD II area around Kadashan. A rating of 22 was given for the non-LUD II area north of the portage near upper Tenakee Inlet. A separate rating of 26 was given for the non-LUD II area from the portage to the east side of Seal Bay. A separate rating of 23 was given for the non-LUD II from Seal Bay to the Kadashan LUD II. Another separate rating of 20 was given to the non-LUD II area east of the Kadashan LUD II.

Appendix C

There is high local and national support to manage this area as unroaded, and local and national support for designating at least portions of the roadless area as wilderness. The roadless area contains one of the highest acreages of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth among Tongass roadless areas. Designation as wilderness would create a large addition to the nearby West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness that would include very high to outstanding wilderness attributes and moderate to high supplemental features including karst resources, hot springs, the Tonalite Creek Research Natural Area, and extensive cultural resources in the roadless area. This is especially true when areas adjacent to developed areas and near communities is separated from the main roadless area. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be very high.

V. Environmental Consequences

The Chichagof Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 3, or 4 is implemented. Approximately 61 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur in the remaining 39 percent of the area. The land in the development LUDs provides an estimated 11,164 acres that are suitable for timber production (18 percent of the suitable land on the Hoonah and Sitka Ranger Districts). Approximately 262 acres of the suitable lands are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. This area contains approximately 8,802 acres of land identified as a mineral activity tract having a high to moderate potential for experiencing mineral exploration and development of locatable minerals. In addition, this area contains approximately 108,988 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources; 12,698 of these acres are considered to have moderate potential for development. There are 11 special use permits within the area. There is a potential powerline route along the Kadashan River. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area outside of designated LUD II areas could be affected by developments allowed by the Forest Plan. The cultural, karst, geologic and most of the scenic values are protected by the Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 2, the 238,456-acre portion of the roadless area currently allocated to LUD II would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. This would not affect timber sale projects because this area is currently allocated to a non-development LUD. The total area mapped as suitable for timber production would not change from Alternative 1. The potential for other development, including recreation, some special uses, the potential powerline, and mineral, could be restricted. Mineral prospecting and development 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 current LUD II portion of the roadless area, including the cultural, scenic, karst, and geologic values, would continue to be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Under Alternative 5, 348,599 acres of the roadless area currently allocated to LUD II, Timber Production, Old-growth Habitat, Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed, and Semi-Remote Recreation would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. This would affect those current timber sale projects inside the converted area (part of Finger Mountain) and would affect future potential projects. Lands suitable for timber production would be reduced to 5,570 acres. The potential for other development, including recreation, some special uses, the potential powerline along the Kadashan River, and mineral, could be restricted. Mineral prospecting and development 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 cultural, scenic, karst, and geologic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Under Alternative 6, most of the roadless area outside of existing LUD II would be converted to Recommended LUD II and the remainder would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. Mineral prospecting and development, some special uses, and some recreation developments could continue, but no timber harvest would be allowed. The potential powerline along the Kadashan River may not be allowed. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the cultural, scenic, karst, and geologic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II and wilderness.

Under Alternative 7, 349,291 acres of the roadless area currently allocated to LUD II, Timber Production, Old-growth Habitat, Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed, and Semi-Remote Recreation would be converted to

Recommended Wilderness. This would affect those current timber sale projects inside the converted area (part of Finger Mountain), and would affect future potential projects. Lands suitable for timber production would be reduced to 5,569 acres. The potential for other development, including recreation, some special uses, the potential powerline along the Kadashan River, and mineral, could be restricted. Mineral prospecting and development 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 majority of the roadless area west and south of Tenakee Inlet, including the cultural, scenic, karst, and geologic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

With Alternative 8, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. Timber sale projects would not be allowed, and the potential for other development, including recreation, special uses, powerline, and mineral, would be significantly restricted. Mineral prospecting and development 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 cultural, scenic, karst, and geologic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 311 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness		238,456			348,599	33,003	349,291	534,310
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	39,507	39,507	39,507	39,507	15,967		15,286	
Semi-remote Recreation	40,682	40,682	40,682	40,682	40,011		40,010	
Recommended LUD II						295,314		
LUD II	238,456		238,456	238,456	34,248	205,993	34,245	
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	4,065	4,065	4,065	4,065	2,438		2,438	
Modified Landscape	4,918	4,918	4,918	4,918	2,405		2,405	
Timber production	206,681	206,681	206,681	206,681	90,642		90,634	
TOTAL	534,310	534,310	534,310	534,310	534,310	534,310	534,310	534,310
Suitable Timber Lands	11,164	11,164	11,164	11,164	5,570	0	5,569	0