

Appendix C

INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Trap Bay (312)

ACRES (NFS): 13,821

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: East Chichagof Island

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 19 (23)

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** The Trap Bay Roadless Area is located on the east side of Chichagof Island. Tenakee Inlet and Chatham Strait border the area to the north and east, respectively. Kook Lake and Basket Bay border the area to the south. Developed areas associated with the Corner Bay road system border the area to the west, south, and east. Juneau, the closest larger community, is located approximately 45 air miles northeast of the area.

Tenakee Springs, the closest community, is located approximately 4 miles northwest. Tenakee Springs has regular charter plane service and is on the Alaska Marine Highway ferry route. One may use the road system out of Corner Bay to access this roadless area. The area may also be accessed by boat and floatplane. Access into the interior is by foot or helicopter. There are no places suitable for landing wheeled airplanes.

(2) **History:** Tlingit tradition includes stories about the area, such as the fishermen of Angoon using the clouds at the top of Trap Bay Mountain as a weather barometer to tell the direction of the wind on Chatham Strait. Another story concerns an underground stream that flows from Kook Lake to Basket Bay and has a salmon run. Before entering Basket Bay, the stream passes through a cave into which the Natives would climb to hunt seals and to fish.

The Hoonah and Angoon Tlingit were using this area of Chichagof Island at the time of Euroamerican contact. Villages and sites for seasonal hunting, fishing, and collecting activities were located throughout the area.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The Trap Bay Roadless Area contains four well-defined ridge systems and three large drainages. About 80 percent of this area is mountainous with 40 percent being very rough and steep. The streamside zones total about 20 percent of the area. Elevations range from sea level to 3,870 feet in the west-central portion of the unit. Kook Lake borders the area to the south, but there are no sizeable lakes within the roadless area itself.

There are 10 miles of shoreline on saltwater. Other terrain features include 658 acres of alpine tundra, 39 acres of ice and snow, 821 acres of rock, and 4 acres of islands

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. This 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.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Trap Bay Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247C). This area is represented by one ecological subsection (see table below). The lithology of Kook Lake Carbonates Ecological Subsection is primarily comprised of

intrusive igneous and locally metamorphosed rocks and secondarily of limestone and marble. Inland, mineral soils with distinct organic layers dominate. Higher elevations support small alpine vegetative communities and the moderately sloped mountains support productive hemlock-spruce forests (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands	Kook Lake Carbonates	100%

(b) Soils: Glaciers played an important part in the placement and character of soil parent material in this area. The development of soils is influenced by high levels of rainfall, cool summer temperatures, a short growing season, and moderately low soil temperatures. Shallow soils with good drainage develop on steeper slopes due to rapid loss of material by erosion and efficient rainwater runoff. Deep, well-drained soils commonly occur below shallow soils on gentler slopes where transported soil materials have collected. Poorly drained soils are associated with low relief and impermeable subsurface layers.

In locations with poor drainage, deep organic soils (muskegs) tend to form. This situation occurs where the soil material fails to provide sufficient internal drainage or where topography prevents external drainage. Drainage improves with increased slope gradient, however, as slopes become oversteepened, soil depths become much shallower. In riparian areas, soil zones tend to contain sand and gravels as a result of flood deposition.

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

The 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 in these areas and consist mainly of stunted hemlock, lodgepole pine, and Alaska-cedar. Less than 100 acres of muskeg are mapped for the area, however, due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult.

Tideflats found at the heads of the bays and estuaries generally support sea milkwort, glasswort, and algae. Beach meadows 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 characterized by low shrubs, grasses, and sedges (approximately 656 acres are mapped as alpine). Subalpine forests and meadows occur at the interface between the forested communities and the alpine tundra.

There are approximately 9,601 acres mapped as forest land of which 7,058 acres or 74 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 3,500 acres or 50 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 979 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There are no acres of second-growth forest where timber harvest has occurred in the past.

(d) Fish Resources: There is one unnamed fish-bearing stream in this area, which provides habitat for coho, pink, and chum salmon, as well as Dolly Varden char.

Appendix C

(e) **Wildlife Resources:** Wildlife species diversity is relatively high. Species include brown bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, pine marten, mink, and river otter, as well as smaller mammals and several amphibians. Moose are reported to inhabit Chichagof Island (MacDonald and Cook, 1999), but neither they nor mountain goats have been reported here. There are relatively few resident bird species; however, the area is used by many migratory species. Eagles are common in the coastal zone.

(5) **Management Direction and Current Uses:** This area was allocated to five Land Use Designations (LUDs) in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These five LUDs are Timber Production, Scenic Viewshed, LUD II, and Old-growth Habitat.

LUD	Acres
Timber Production	5,819
Scenic Viewshed	325
LUD II	6,415
Old-growth Habitat	1,261

Approximately 44 percent of the roadless area was allocated to development LUDs (Timber Production and Scenic Viewshed). Approximately 42 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Timber Production LUD. In the Corner Bay area, approximately 2 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Scenic Viewshed LUD.

Approximately 56 percent of the roadless area was allocated to one of two non-development LUDs (LUD II, Old-growth Habitat). Around Trap Bay, approximately 46 percent of the roadless area was designated by Congress as LUD II in the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act. Old-growth Habitat LUD was assigned to approximately 9 percent of the roadless area.

There are three research cabins located in the Trap Bay area. Two belong to federal agencies - the Forestry Science Lab (Forest Service) and the National Marine Fisheries Service - and one belongs to the State of Alaska (ADF&G).

There is an identified anchorage in Trap Bay. The recreation activities taking place in this area are waterfowl and big game hunting, hiking, viewing wildlife/fish, saltwater shore recreation, stream and lake fishing, cross-country skiing, and powerboat use. There is a special use permit in VCU 238 for an electronic site. There are a number of outfitters and guides holding special use permits that use this area. Outfitter/guide use was reported at three locations in and adjacent to the area in 1999. A total of four groups and 12 clients were reported. Outfitter/guide use activities included fishing and brown bear hunting. Subsistence use occurs in the area. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) identified the four VCUs wholly or partially located within the area as subsistence use areas with a high sensitivity to disturbance.

The Trap Bay Roadless Area was historically part of the Alaska Pulp Corporation Long-Term Timber Sale Contract Area.

(6) **Appearance (Apparent Naturalness):** Other than the areas adjacent to locations developed for timber management, the Trap Bay Roadless Area appears natural and unmodified. The boundaries adjacent to the developed areas appear highly modified. From Chatham Strait, the area provides a natural background to the developed areas, which might be seen in the foreground. From the surrounding bays, the area appears to be unmodified.

(7) **Surroundings (External Influences):** Most of the Trap Bay Roadless Area is isolated from the rest of Chichagof Island by a strongly-defined ridge system that generally follows the south and west borders of the area. Tenakee Inlet borders the area to the north. The townsite of Tenakee Springs is located approximately 4 miles to the northwest, across the Inlet. Tenakee Springs is on the Alaska Marine Highway route and has regularly scheduled small plane service. Chatham Strait borders the area to the east. Boats and small planes use this area regularly.

The Kook Lake road system and associated developments border the area to the south and east. This road system is approximately five miles long and connects with the Corner Bay road system. Kook Lake and Basket Bay, located south of this developed area, are used heavily for subsistence and recreation. A Public Recreation Cabin is located on the western end of Kook Lake outside the roadless area. There is an unmaintained trail from Basket Bay to the southern shore of Kook Lake, and another from the Kook Lake road to the cabin and lake.

The Corner Bay road system and associated developments border the area to the west, south, and east. This area was initially developed in the early 1970s and associated management activities are ongoing.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: Trap Mountain is very rugged and imposing. The area to the north of the mountain is a large cirque. The area contains three inventoried recreation places, which cover 1,222 acres, or nine percent of the roadless area. Fishermen fishing Chatham Strait use Trap Bay as an overnight anchorage. Trap Mountain was special to the Alaska Natives because they used the clouds around the top of the mountain to see which way the wind was blowing on Chatham Strait. The chances of seeing brown bear and deer in this area are very good.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: The boundaries of this roadless area changed between 1989 and 2003. Ongoing development has occurred on the east side of the area during this period. These developments now extend along drainage channels into the area. Additional development occurred along the south border of the area. These developed areas are excluded from the boundaries of the 2003 area. Several small areas were excluded from the area between the Draft and Final SEIS to improve the potential manageability of the area as wilderness.

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: Little human modification has occurred in this area. The natural integrity of the area is basically intact. The only developments within this area are the three research cabins, which are unobtrusive and do not generally detract from the area’s apparent naturalness. There are no other readily apparent signs of human activities. However, the highly modified areas surrounding this roadless area reduce the natural integrity to moderate and apparent naturalness to high and, thus, the suitability of this natural appearing area for wilderness classification. There is an electronic site on the northeast corner of the roadless area, which is visible from Chatham Strait and Tenakee Inlet.

(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: There is a relatively high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation in this area. Boats and small planes use this area regularly. Because of lack of access and use, solitude would be easier to find further into the center of this area.

The character of the landforms provide a feeling of remoteness away from the shoreline. The Trap Bay Roadless Area is readily accessed by boat or small plane. The recreation activities taking place in this area are waterfowl and big game hunting, hiking, viewing wildlife/fish, saltwater shore recreation, stream and lake fishing, cross-country skiing, and powerboat use. Outfitter/guide use was reported at three locations in and adjacent to the area in 1999. A total of four groups and 12 clients were reported. Outfitter/guide use activities included fishing and brown bear hunting.

The area provides primarily semi-primitive recreation opportunities. 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
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	10,589	77%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	1,239	9%
Roaded Modified (RM)	1,984	14%

The area contains three inventoried recreation places, which cover 1,222 acres, or nine percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
SPNM	0	0
SPM	2	1,158
RM	3	64

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

Appendix C

There are no public recreation cabins in the Trap Bay Roadless Area.

(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 1989 rating for the Trap Bay Roadless Area was 14 out of 28 possible points. 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 19. This rating is more reflective of the topographic screening between the developed areas and the interior of the area, especially the Trap Bay watershed and the coastline. The Trap Bay watershed and LUD II area was also rated separately and received 23 points.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: This roadless area is located on the east side of Chichagof Island. The area is separated from other nearby roadless areas, Chichagof (#311) and Point Craven (#314), by forest roads and timber harvest units.

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment does not list this area as having primary sport fish or salmon producing areas. It is primarily a secondary salmon producer (ADF&G, 1998). Streams in the area provide spawning and rearing habitat for pink, chum, coho, and Dolly Varden char. There is one catalogued anadromous fish-bearing stream in this roadless area, draining into Trap Bay (ADF&G, 2000).

(b) Wildlife Resources: Wildlife species present in this roadless area include brown bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, pine marten, mink, and river otter, as well as smaller mammals and several amphibians. Moose are reported to inhabit Chichagof Island (MacDonald and Cook, 1999), but neither they nor mountain goats have been reported here. There are relatively few resident bird species; however, the area is used by many migratory species. Eagles are common in the coastal zone. The entire roadless area has been identified as habitat for the management indicator species of Sitka black-tailed deer, brown bear, pine marten, and red squirrel.

Based on harvest data compiled from 1985 to 1995, VCU 236 on Tenakee Inlet and partially located in this area was ranked in the second 25 percent of brown bear harvest areas on the Tongass (ADF&G, 1998).

This area has been identified as providing temporary habitat for migrating American peregrine falcons, which pass through the forests during spring and fall migration flights. The bald eagle, a protected species, uses the area for nesting and roosting.

(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. Inhabitants of late seral forests, Queen Charlotte goshawks, are closely associated with productive old growth. In addition, 12 sensitive plant species are known or suspected to occur in the Sitka Ranger District.

(d) Karst, Cave, and Other Geologic Resources: A portion of this area is underlain by limestone or marble and karst and cave resources are known to have developed there. Only limited inventory has occurred in this area so the extent of karst and cave development is not fully understood. The limestones and marbles found here are commonly the ridge forming rock types. Extensive karst systems are known from the intensity and numbers of features found described from the limited inventory and air photo interpretations. Paleontological discoveries are likely as well as archaeological finds. Because of the thickness of the limestone and marble in this area, vertical pits and cave systems of record depth are possible. Extensive areas of limestone and marble are exposed from sea level to the ridge tops in these glaciated valleys. The karst systems found here extend from the alpine or higher elevations to the sea providing increased productivity for the plant, animal, and aquatic communities found on the karst lands. The mapped karst resources encompass approximately 5,668 acres or 41 percent of the roadless area. Approximately 70 percent of the karst is classified as having high vulnerability to disturbance. There are no glaciers in this area; however, the area to the north of Trap Mountain contains a large cirque. No other unique geologic features are known.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: Trap Mountain is an impressive mountain with an exposed rock top, continuing into different types of alpine vegetation and finally into a heavy old-growth forest at the base. These features of exposed rock, different alpine vegetation types, and heavy timber growth are found all along the ridge systems in this area. The autumn colors in the alpine zone are spectacular in this area.

There are no Research Natural Areas in the Trap Bay Roadless Area. Tenakee Springs, located approximately 4 miles northwest of the area, is the closest community with school-age children. Juneau, the closest larger community, is located approximately 42 air miles north of the area.

(6) Scenic Values: The visual character type of this area is Admiralty-Chichagof. Landforms associated with this character type are generally rounded, low mountains; however, Trap Bay Mountain is a tall, steep, very-rugged mountain with craggy peaks and steep, sharply defined ridgelines. Rocky shorelines, interspersed with gravel beaches are found along the coastline. Streams are short and swift, flowing directly to saltwater. Small bays and estuaries are present and show a range of visual characteristics. Lower slopes are densely vegetated and interspersed with muskeg and small lakes. Upper slopes appear bare from a distance, but often contain muskeg, alpine tundra vegetation, and scattered tree cover. From Chatham Strait, the area provides a natural background to evidence of timber production, which might be seen in the foreground. The electronic site located on the northeast corner of the roadless area is visible from Chatham Strait and Tenakee Inlet. From the surrounding bays, the area appears to be unmodified.

Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan that are within or adjacent to the area, include Chatham Strait (which is part of Alaska Marine Highway), a tour ship route, a small boat route, and Corner Bay (which is identified as a boat anchorage).

The Trap Bay Roadless Area is inventoried as approximately 28 percent Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type), 51 percent Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type), and 20 percent Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity).

Much of the area (64 percent) is inventoried as Existing Visual Condition (EVC) I, which appears untouched by human activity. Approximately 36 percent of the area is inventoried as an EVC V, where changes to the landscape are obvious to the average visitor.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: Tlingit tradition includes stories about the area, such as the fishermen of Angoon using the clouds at the top of Trap Bay Mountain as a weather barometer to tell the direction of the wind on Chatham Strait. Another story concerns an underground stream that flows from Kook Lake to Basket Bay and has a salmon run. Before entering Basket Bay, the stream passes through a cave into which the Alaska Natives would climb to hunt seals and to fish.

The Hoonah and Angoon Tlingit were using this area of Chichagof Island at the time of Euroamerican contact. Villages and sites for seasonal hunting, fishing, and collecting activities were located throughout the area.

Appendix C

The recreation activities taking place in this area are waterfowl and big game hunting, hiking, viewing wildlife/fish, saltwater shore recreation, stream and lake fishing, cross-country skiing, and powerboat use. There are a number of outfitters and guides holding special use permits that use this area. Outfitter/guide use was reported at three locations in and adjacent to the area in 1999. A total of 4 groups and 12 clients were reported. Outfitter/guide use activities included fishing and brown bear hunting.

Subsistence use occurs in the area. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) identified all four VCUs wholly or partially located within the area as subsistence use areas with a high sensitivity to disturbance. One of the VCUs with a small part located within this area (VCU 239) was included among the VCUs with highest community use value and another (VCU 236) was included in the third most important group. It should, however, be noted that VCU 239 also includes Kook Lake and Basket Bay, which are located south of the Trap Bay Roadless Area.

(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: Manageability as wilderness is moderate to high, especially for the Trap Bay watershed and coastline. The coastline along Tenakee Inlet to the north provides an easily defined boundary. There are strong ridge systems to the south and west that separate the Kook Lake and Corner Bay road systems from the Trap Bay Roadless Area; however, developments have taken place along the borders of the area and extend along major drainages into the area. Activities on the southern boundary (along Kook Lake) detract from the area's manageability for wilderness.

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

(1) Recreation, Including Tourism Potential: The area is easily accessed via road or saltwater. The potential exists for increased recreation use. The potential also exists for more frequent outfitter/guide use of the area.

(2) Subsistence Uses: The existing patterns of subsistence activities in the area would not be affected by wilderness designation.

(3) Fish Resources: There are no fisheries enhancement projects planned for this area.

(4) Wildlife Resources: There is potential for the introduction of mountain goats in the Trap Bay Mountain area and on the adjoining ridge systems.

(5) Timber Resources: There are 7,058 acres mapped as productive old growth and no acres mapped as second growth due to harvest in the roadless area. There are no acres of second growth where timber harvest has occurred in the past. Of these acres, 966 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), 266 acres (2 percent) of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 115 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth, of these acres, less than 10 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

This area was historically part of the Alaska Pulp Corporation Long-Term Contract Area. The potential for managing timber in this roadless area is high. While the majority of the area is not suitable for timber management and 46 percent of the area has been assigned LUD II status, the Trap Bay Roadless Area is bordered by roads on three sides. In addition, roads extend along major drainages into the east side of the area. Large areas of mature/overmature timber that meet operability criteria, coupled with accessibility from existing road systems, make timber harvest a viable proposition in this area.

(6) Fire, Insects, and Disease: The area has no significant fire history. Endemic tree diseases common to Southeast Alaska are present. There are no known epidemic disease occurrences.

(7) Minerals: There are no inventoried sites with high mineral development potential in the area. This area contains 3,896 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources (Brew et al., 1990; USDA Forest Service, 1991). All of these acres are considered to have low potential for development.

(8) Transportation and Utilities: There are no proposed transportation or utility corridors within or adjacent to this area. The area is bordered to the north, south, and east by forest roads and associated harvest units. Roads extend along drainages into the area.

(9) Water Availability and Use: Three research cabins are located within this area and are the only existing facilities to create a water demand. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects in the area.

(10) Areas of Scientific Interest: The mapped karst resources encompass approximately 5,668 acres or 41 percent of the roadless area. There are no other known areas of scientific interest in this roadless area.

(11) Land Use Authorizations: There is a special use permit on the northeast corner of the roadless area for an electronic site. There are a number of outfitters and guides holding special use permits that use this area. The current special use permits will probably continue. The potential exists for more frequent outfitter/guide use of the area.

(12) Land Status: All land within the roadless area is part of the National Forest System. A small part of the roadless area in the southeast is encumbered.

IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

(1) Public and Congressional Interest:

(a) Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents: Much of the use within this area is associated with Tenakee Springs and areas that have been developed. There is boat use to Trap Bay from the surrounding towns and transit fishermen fishing on Chatham Strait.

Local issues include the continuing development of the timber lands, the effects of this development on fisheries and wildlife habitat, maintaining the visual quality of high-interest areas, maintaining lifestyles, location of log transfer facilities, the distribution of harvest volume classes, and the tradeoffs between environmental protection measures and the economics of timber harvest activities.

(b) Congressional Interest: In 1989, U.S. House of Representatives Bill HR 987 proposed to designate 23 areas as wilderness on the Tongass National Forest. This bill included the Trap Bay Wilderness. This area was proposed as wilderness in recognition of its world class brown bear hunting and highly valued scenic, recreation, fisheries, and subsistence resources. This portion of the roadless area is now a Congressionally designated LUD II area. In 2001, HR 2908 identified the area as a proposed Wilderness Addition. The developed areas that border the area to the south were identified for protection as Restoration Areas. The developed areas that border the area to the east and west were primarily identified as “roaded areas available for logging.”

(c) Public Input During Forest Plan Revisions and Appeals: This area was not specifically identified in public input during the Forest Plan revisions and appeals, but a number of comments were made with respect to Tenakee Inlet, which borders the area to the north. Many commenters (including the City of Tenakee Springs, Taku Conservation Society, 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 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. Timber industry representatives requested that Management Area (MA) C37, which includes the Trap Bay Roadless Area, be managed for timber production. Another commenter requested that logging not be permitted in MA C37 and other nearby areas until future tourism resources are assessed. The Sierra Club Juneau Group requested that no roads be built in this area. The Sitka Area State Park Advisory Board requested that MA C37 be managed to emphasize subsistence and wildlife.

The appeal filed by the Hoonah Indian Association et al. identified west Chatham Strait as a customary and traditional hunting and fishing area for Angoon and expressed concern that the alternatives presented in the

Appendix C

Forest Plan did not adequately protect this area from logging. They also noted that the west Chatham Strait area has lost substantial deer habitat from past logging. The appeal filed by the City of Tenakee Springs requested that no new roads be built in Tenakee Inlet until the Forest Service discloses its long-term road building plans for the area and the public has an opportunity to comment on them. They also requested that remaining patches of old-growth habitat left in the area be assigned to protected LUDs and future logging operations be limited to fully protect subsistence and sport use of deer.

(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: This area is not within the study area of any recently completed project-level EISs.

(f) Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game rated the Trap Bay Roadless Area as the ninth 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.

SEACC recommended Trap Bay for wilderness.

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

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

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: Other roadless areas in the immediate area include Tenakee Ridge (321) and Pavlof/East Point (319) (located to the north across Tenakee Inlet), and Chichagof (311) (located to the south and west). Other roadless areas in the general area include Point Craven (314), Game Creek (323), and North Baranof (330).

Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness is located approximately 6 miles east across Chatham Strait from the area. The West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness is located west across Chichagof Island, approximately 48 miles away.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	45	65
Sitka (Pop. 8,835)	30	90
Hoonah (Pop. 860)	25	45
Angoon (Pop. 572)	20	20

Tenakee Springs is the closest town that is on the regularly-scheduled route of the Alaska Marine Highway system. Other terminals are located at Hoonah and Angoon. Commercial airline service is available at Sitka and Juneau.

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The Trap Bay Roadless Area is located on the east side of Chichagof Island. Tenakee Inlet and Chatham Strait border the area to the north and east, respectively. Kook Lake and Basket Bay border the area to the south. Developed areas associated with the Corner Bay road system border the area to the west, south, and east. The Trap Bay Roadless Area contains four well-defined ridge systems and three large drainages. Elevations range from sea level to 3,870 feet in the west-central portion of the area. Trap Mountain is very rugged and imposing.

The area generally appears natural and unmodified especially the Trap Bay Watershed and LUD II area. The natural integrity and apparent naturalness is rated moderate to high. The area has high opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

The roadless area has moderate to high scenic quality; approximately 28 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive from a scenery standpoint. Approximately 41 percent of the area has well developed karst. No other outstanding or unique values or features are known in the area.

The roadless area includes about 3,500 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, approximately 979 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Trap Bay Roadless Area lies within the East Chichagof Island Biogeographic Province and makes up about 1 percent of the province. It is one of 12 inventoried roadless areas found in the province that collectively make up about 67 percent of the province. Approximately 79 percent of the province is unroaded. 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 25 percent of the province.

The Trap Bay Roadless Area lies completely within the Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Section. This portion represents 3 percent of the ecological section and is well represented in other non-development LUDs (26 percent) and a small portion (7 percent) is within LUD II.

This roadless area is completely within the Kook Lake Ecological Subsection. This portion of the roadless area represents 14 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which is well represented in non-development LUDs (31 percent, including 15 percent in LUD II).

The Trap Bay Roadless Area was rated at 19 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 70th from the highest (along with 13 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas. Another rating was done for the area that included the Trap Bay watershed and LUD II area only, which resulted in a score of 23.

There is both local and national support for managing the roadless area in an unroaded condition, but there has been relatively little support for designating the area as wilderness. Designation would create a small wilderness that has areas of well developed karst. The old growth in the area is mostly contiguous and in contrast to the more fragmented old growth stands in surrounding areas that have ongoing developments. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be moderate, particularly after separating out the Trap Bay watershed and LUD II area only.

V. Environmental Consequences

The Trap Bay Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 3, or 4 is implemented. Approximately 56 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur in the remaining 44 percent of the area. The land in the development LUDs provides an estimated 266 acres that are classified as suitable for timber production (1 percent of the suitable acres on the Hoonah Ranger District). Less than 10 of those suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. This area contains an estimated 3,896 acres of undiscovered, locatable mineral resources that are considered to have low potential mineral value. A special use permit for an electronic site is located in the area. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area outside the existing LUD II area could be affected by timber management activities allowed by the Forest Plan. The karst and most scenic and old-growth values of the roadless area are protected by the Forest Plan.

Under Alternatives 2 and 5, approximately 6,415 acres of this roadless area currently allocated LUD II would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. This would not affect timber sale projects because this area is currently allocated to LUD II. The total area suitable for timber production would not change from Alternative 1. The existing special use permit for the electronic site would continue. The potential for other development, including

Appendix C

recreation, mineral, and special uses, 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 existing LUD II portion of the roadless area, including the scenic, old-growth, and karst values, would continue to receive long-term protection if designated wilderness.

With Alternatives 6, 7, and 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, and mineral, could 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 scenic, old growth, and karst values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 312 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness		6,415			6,426	13,821	13,821	13,821
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	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,259			
Semi-remote Recreation								
Recommended LUD II								
LUD II	6,415		6,415	6,415				
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	325	325	325	325	325			
Modified Landscape								
Timber production	5,819	5,819	5,819	5,819	5,811			
TOTAL	13,821	13,821	13,821	13,821	13,821	13,821	13,821	13,821
Suitable Timber Lands	266	266	266	266	266	0	0	0