

INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Whitestone (318)

ACRES (NFS): 5,747

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: East Chichagof Island

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 19

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** The Whitestone Roadless Area is on the north coast of Chichagof Island, directly south of Icy Strait. Whitestone Harbor lies in the southeast section; timber management development areas border the southern edge. The roadless area is approximately 5 air miles from Hoonah which has regular charter plane service and is on the Alaska Marine Highway route. The roadless area can be accessed via saltwater or from roads in the south. Access into the interior is by foot or helicopter. There are no places suitable for landing wheeled airplanes.

(2) **History:** There are prehistoric petroglyphs and evidence of the Russian traders using the harbors around this roadless area during the 1800's. There is a popular anchorage in the northwest corner of Whitestone Harbor. There was beach logging inside the harbor at the mouth of the Suntaheen Creek and there is evidence of an old 'steam-donkey' still on the beach.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The roadless area is a relatively flat expanse of land that is approximately 6 miles long and 2 miles wide. The highest point is less than 300 feet above sea level. There are approximately 13 miles of shoreline on saltwater. The roadless area does not include any acres mapped as ice, alpine, or rock features.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The roadless area is classified in 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 similar to Admiralty Island Province.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Whitestone 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 Freshwater Bay Carbonates Ecological Subsection has a bedrock mixture of carbonate and noncalcareous sedimentary rocks with bits of volcanic and intrusive igneous rocks. Many formations of almost pure carbonate form impressive mountains and ridges with extensive areas of exposed rocks containing pits and sinkholes. Atop the mountains, alpine vegetative communities thrive. The mid to lower elevations of the moderately sloped mountains have well drained soils that support productive hemlock spruce forests. In the valleys where glacial tills and glaciomarine sediments exist, non-forested wetlands are present. Where streams flow through calcareous colluvium, rich calcareous fens develop at the stream base creating a diverse and rare plant community (Nowacki et al., 2001).

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Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands	Freshwater Bay Carbonates	100%

(b) Soils: The roadless area has poorly drained soils because of 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. These areas are generally not well suited for road construction since the soil materials tend to be wet and have associated low bearing strengths. In riparian areas, soil zones tend to contain sand and gravels as a result of flood deposition.

(c) Vegetation: Western hemlock-Sitka spruce forests dominate the overstory of the Southeast Alaska rain forest. The understory is composed of such shrubs as red huckleberry, rusty menziesia, and devil's club, and 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, dominated by sphagnum mosses, sedges, and shrubs of the heath family, 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 1,587 acres of muskeg are mapped for the area; however, due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult.

There are approximately 4,149 acres mapped as forest land of which 2,841 acres or 68 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 51 acres or 2 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 127 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There are no acres of second growth.

(d) Fish Resource: Whitestone Head Creek is a major fish-bearing stream. The Anadromous Waters Catalogue (ADF&G, 2000) indicates that the stream produces coho, pink, and chum salmon and Dolly Varden char.

(e) Wildlife Resources: Wildlife species present in this roadless area include brown bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, and wolves. Small mammals include marten, mink, river otter, and red squirrel. Moose are reported to inhabit Chichagof Island but they have not been reported in this area. MacDonald and Cook (1999) do not list black bears or mountain goats as inhabiting Chichagof Island.

(5) Management Direction and Current Uses: This roadless area was allocated to four different Land Use Designations (LUDs) under the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These four LUDs are Timber Production, Scenic Viewshed, Transportation and Utility System (TUS) and Old-growth Habitat. The TUS LUD is a secondary LUD that overlays the other land uses.

LUD	Acres
Timber Production	3,099
Transportation and Utility System	NA
Scenic Viewshed	1,475
Old-growth Habitat	1,173

Approximately 80 percent of the roadless area (not including the LUD overlay) was allocated to a LUD that allows development. Most of the roadless area, or 54 percent, was allocated to the Timber Production LUD. Near the southwest shore of Whitestone Harbor and along Icy Strait, approximately 26 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Scenic Viewshed LUD. The Transportation and Utility System LUD overlay includes the potential Power Transmission Corridor on the north boundary of the roadless area.

The remaining approximate 20 percent of the roadless area was allocated to one non-development LUD. The Old-growth Habitat LUD is located on the north shore of Whitestone Harbor area.

An anchorage is located in the northwest corner of Whitestone Harbor. Recreation activities identified are hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, dispersed camping, saltwater shore fishing, beach combing, viewing wildlife/fish, and kayaking. There are no public recreation cabins or other developed recreation facilities in the Whitestone Roadless Area. One outfitter/guide permit was issued in 1999 for one service day. Except for this permit, there are no other special use permits in this area.

(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness): The roadless area appears unmodified and in a natural condition. The key viewpoints and travel routes are Icy Strait and the Hoonah road system.

(7) Surroundings (External Influences): To the north of the Whitestone Roadless Area are Icy Strait and the Alaska Marine Highway route. This passage is also heavily used by private boat owners. Whitestone Harbor, to the east of this roadless area, has an identified recreation anchorage in its northwest corner. A log transfer facility (LTF) was located on the southern shore of Whitestone Harbor and a road runs along the south shore. The road travels west adjacent to the Whitestone Roadless Area for approximately 3 miles and branches to the north and south into developed areas. The northernmost developed area continues for 5 miles along the southern boundary of the Whitestone Roadless Area. At that point, the land ownership changes from federal to Huna Totem Corporation lands. The National Forest System lands were developed in the early 1980's. The private lands extend west for approximately another 5 miles to Hoonah and have also been extensively developed. A small western portion of the Whitestone Roadless Area borders on private lands. This roadless area is easily accessible from these road systems with minimal walking involved.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: Whitestone Harbor is considered a desirable harbor; it receives constant use from the Hoonah population and transient mariners. There is a panoramic view of Icy Strait, Lynn Canal, and Chatham Strait from Whitestone Harbor. The area contains two inventoried recreation places, which cover 621 acres, or 11 percent of the roadless area.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: There are only minor differences between the 1989 and 2003 boundaries. These are the result of more accurately mapping the boundaries.

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: The Whitestone Roadless Area has been unmodified by human development. The area has a natural appearance from the Icy Strait and Whitestone Harbor. The natural integrity is high even though affected by timber harvest along the southern boundary.

(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: There are moderate opportunities for solitude and relatively high opportunities for primitive recreation in the area near the northern shoreline and in the interior of this roadless area but the area is heavily used by the residents of Hoonah and the possibility of encountering people is high, especially along the shoreline. Opportunities for solitude are affected by traffic on roads along the southern boundaries, especially during periods of active management, and by boat and floatplane along the shore.

The roadless area is small and nearly flat. With the exception of a possible encounter with a brown bear, the area offers little opportunity for adventure or challenging experiences. Dispersed recreation activities include hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, dispersed camping, saltwater shore fishing, beach combing, viewing wildlife/fish, and kayaking. There is an anchorage in the northwest corner of Whitestone Harbor.

The area provides primarily semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized 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	Acre	Percent of Total ROS
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	3,018	53%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	2,346	41%
Roaded Modified (RM)	382	7%

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The area contains two inventoried recreation places, which cover 621 acres, or 11 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
SPNM	0	0
SPM	1	569
RM	2	52

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

There are no public recreation cabins or other developed recreation facilities in the 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 process (referred to as RARE II). 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).

The inventoried roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest were rated according to this system in 1989 for the Analysis of the Management Situation developed in support of the Forest Plan Revision. At that time, the Whitestone Roadless Area was given a rating of 21 out of 28 possible points. The rating was re-evaluated for this updated version of the Analysis of the Management Situation. Based on this re-evaluation, the area was given a rating of 19. This rating reflects the degree of development and activities that occur on wilderness attributes on this relatively small area.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The roadless area is small; it borders a developed area in the south and private land in the west. It is not connected to any other roadless areas or wilderness. It has no known unique ecologic or geologic values.

(a) Fish Resources: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) rated fish resources as part of its Forest Habitat Integrity Program (1983). These ratings describe the value of VCUs for sport fish, commercial fish, and estuaries. Neither VCU in this roadless area was rated as having the highest value for sport or commercial fish or for estuarine values. A portion of VCU 207 lies within this roadless area, and was listed as a primary sport fish producer by the Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998).

The ADF&G Anadromous Stream Catalogue (1998) lists two fish-bearing streams in this roadless area. Whitestone Head Creek is a major fish-bearing stream, providing habitat for pink, coho, and chum salmon and Dolly Varden char.

(b) Wildlife Resources: Wildlife species present in this roadless area include brown bear and Sitka black-tailed deer. Small mammals include marten, mink, river otter, and red squirrel. MacDonald and Cook (1999) do not list black bears or mountain goats as inhabiting Chichagof Island. The Whitestone Roadless Area shoreline is considered critical deer habitat. The Peale's peregrine falcon passes through the area during the spring and fall migration flights.

(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, nine sensitive plant species are known or suspected to occur in the Hoonah 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 karst resources in this area are not mapped. 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.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: The area has opportunities to study forests, fish, wildlife, and geologic processes in an area accessible from Hoonah by road. There are several memorial sites in this area for people who have drowned along this coastline.

(6) Scenic Values: The visual character type of this area is Admiralty-Chichagof. This character type, particularly in this area, is characterized by somewhat insignificant geologic features; features (if present) are usually subordinate to other objects of the visual field. This roadless area is characterized by featureless shorelines, streams and minor lakes, ponds, and bogs. From the main travel routes, Icy Strait and Whitestone Harbor, the area appears unmodified.

Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan, that are within or adjacent to the area, include: Icy Strait, a part of the Alaska Marine Highway system and a tour ship and small boat route; and Whitestone Harbor, a small boat route, dispersed recreation area, and boat anchorage.

Approximately 80 percent of acreage in the area was inventoried in Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity). About 19 percent is in Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type).

The majority of this roadless area (approximately 68 percent) is in Existing Visual Condition (EVC) I; these areas appear to be untouched by human activity. Approximately 31 percent of the area is in EVC V. In these areas, changes in the landscape are obvious to the average person and appear to be major disturbances.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: There are prehistoric petroglyphs and evidence of the Russian traders using the harbors around this roadless area during the 1800's. There is a popular anchorage in the northwest corner of Whitestone Harbor. There was beach logging inside the harbor at the mouth of the Suntaheen Creek and there is evidence of an old 'steam-donkey' still on the beach. Recreation activities identified are hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, dispersed camping, saltwater shore fishing, beach combing, viewing wildlife/fish, and kayaking. There are no public recreation cabins or other developed recreation facilities in the Whitestone Roadless Area. One outfitter/guide permit was issued in 1999 for one service day. Except for this permit, there are no other special use permits in this area. The area receives subsistence use, primarily by the residents of Hoonah. None of the VCUs in the roadless area are listed by ADF&G as having the highest community fish and wildlife values.

(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: The entire roadless area (approximately 2 miles wide and 6 miles long) is low-lying and exhibits little terrain relief. Icy Strait borders the roadless area to the north and east. The Hoonah road system, the road to the LTF at Whitestone Harbor, and the private lands of Huna Totem Corporation bound the south and east portion of the Whitestone Roadless Area. Because of the relative smallness of this roadless area and the immediate external influences, management in a wilderness condition would be difficult to accomplish. There are no boundary changes that would create borders that are more definitive.

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

- (1) **Recreation, including Tourism Potential:** Tourism has been increasing in Southeast Alaska and is expected to continue to increase. Cruise ships travel through Chatham and Icy Straits enroute to Glacier Bay. Many people fly into the area to for sport fishing. There is the potential for some of these tourists to be drawn to fish, hunt, and camp in the roadless area. There is a potential for outfitter/guide permits to increase. Public recreation cabins could be built in Whitestone Harbor. Because of the area's easy accessibility to Hoonah residents, there is increased recreational hunting and gathering potential.
- (2) **Subsistence Uses:** Management as a wilderness would not conflict with current subsistence use.
- (3) **Fish Resource:** There are no fish enhancement projects currently planned within this roadless area.
- (4) **Wildlife Resources:** There are no wildlife enhancement projects currently planned within this roadless area.
- (5) **Timber Resources:** There are 2,841 acres inventoried as productive old-growth forest in the roadless area. None of the area is mapped as second growth. Of this, approximately 2,224 acres are categorized as tentatively suitable for timber harvest. Based on the Forest Plan LUDs assigned to this area (and estimated falldown and scheduling reduction factors), 439 acres or 8 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. None of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth or as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The potential for managing timber in this roadless area is dependent on the development of a road system in the adjoining roadless area to the south and west. There is a LTF in Whitestone Harbor. The existing nearby road systems and logging camp at Hoonah make timber harvest economical.
- (6) **Fire, Insects, and Disease:** The area has no significant fire history. Endemic tree diseases common to Southeast Alaska are present; there are no know epidemic disease occurrences.
- (7) **Minerals:** The 1984 U.S. Geological Survey did not identify the Whitestone Roadless Area as having potential for mineral development.
- (8) **Transportation and Utilities:** The roadless area contains a potential Power Transmission Corridor near the north boundary. There are no transportation corridors proposals at this time within the area.
- (9) **Water Availability and Use:** There are no recreation cabins or other facilities to create a water demand. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects within the roadless area.
- (10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** There are no known areas of particular scientific interest.
- (11) **Land Use Authorizations:** Increased use by outfitter/guides is likely to result in an increased need for authorizations.
- (12) **Land Status:** The roadless area is entirely National Forest System land, however; the western half of this roadless area is encumbered. The encumbered area borders land owned by the Huna Totem Village Corporation.

IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

- (1) **Public and Congressional Interest:**
 - (a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** The local issues include: continuing harvesting and roading of the timber lands; the effects on fisheries and wildlife habitat caused by logging; maintaining the visual quality of high interest areas; maintaining existing lifestyles; location of LTFs; the distribution of harvest volume classes; and the tradeoffs between environmental protection measures and the economics of the harvest activities. The people of Hoonah use this area for subsistence, gathering roots and berries, and hunting. The Natives feel these natural products are becoming scarce in their local area.

(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 did not include the Point Augusta Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 proposed that the roadless area be designated as LUD II and managed in an unroaded condition.

(c) Public Input During Forest Plan Revisions and Appeals: The Alaska Forest Association and other industry commenters were opposed to any additional wilderness. Others recommended that remaining roadless areas should be managed for primitive recreation of old-growth habitat and protected from logging and road building. One commenter suggested extending the 85341 road along the ridge between VCU 210 and VCU 211. A letter from Angoon with 48 signatures recommended that areas near the Chatham Strait be protected as subsistence areas. There should not be any logging, road building, or mining.

(d) Public Input During Roadless Area Conservation Rule and Road Management Policy Review: This area was not specifically identified in the public comments received during the Roadless Area Conservation Rule or Road Management Policy Review. However, some commenters wanted all unroaded lands on the Tongass to be protected from development.

(e) Public Input Expressed for Project-level EISs and Other Input: No comments on project level NEPA analysis are available for the roadless area.

(f) Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process: SEACC recommended Roadless Areas 317, 318, 319, 321, 323, and 325 for LUD II protection. They indicated it is more critical now than ever before that these remaining wild areas on Chichagof are protected. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Area 318 for permanent protection as LUD II.

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

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: There are no other roadless areas contiguous with Whitestone Roadless Area. Both Chilkat-West Lynn Canal (304) and Mansfield Peninsula (306) Roadless Areas are across major bodies of water. The Point Augusta (317) and the Freshwater (325) Roadless Areas are separated from the Whitestone Roadless Area by the Hoonah road system and the associated timber harvest. The closest wilderness is the Kootznookoo Wilderness on Admiralty Island, on the east side of the Chatham Strait. The West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness lies on the other side of Chichagof Island, approximately 28 miles to the west. These areas receive low to moderate recreation and subsistence use. Cruise Ships regularly visit Glacier Bay, in the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	30	45
Sitka (Pop. 8,835)	70	120
Hoonah (Pop. 860)	5	15
Angoon (Pop. 572)	45	50

The closest Alaska Marine Highway service to the Whitestone Roadless area is Hoonah.

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The Whitestone Roadless Area is located on the northeastern coast of Chichagof Island. The northern border follows Icy Strait, the eastern border follows Whitestone Harbor, and the southwestern and southeastern borders follow roaded areas. The roadless area is a relatively flat expanse of land that is approximately 6 miles long and 2 miles wide. The highest point is less than 300 feet above sea level. There are no large lakes or offshore islands in the roadless area.

Appendix C

Most of the roadless area is unmodified and has high natural integrity and apparent naturalness, except near roaded and harvested areas along the southern boundary. These developments affect the natural integrity of the portions of the roadless area. When viewing the area from Icy Strait, a natural appearance dominates the landscape. There are moderate opportunities for solitude and relatively high opportunities for primitive recreation in the area near the northern shoreline and in the interior of this roadless area. The area is heavily used by the residents of Hoonah and the possibility of encountering people is high, especially along the shoreline.

Approximately 19 percent of the roadless area is rated as distinctive for the character type from a visual perspective. The roadless area includes part of Whitestone Harbor, a protected harbor that receives high use and has a panoramic view of Icy Strait, Chatham Strait, and Lynn Canal.

The roadless area includes about 127 acres mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The roadless area is classified as being in the East Chichagof Island Biogeographic Province and makes up less than 1 percent of the province. It is one of 12 inventoried roadless areas found in the province that collectively make up about 72 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 Whitestone Roadless Area lies completely within the Northeast Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Section. This portion represents 1 percent of the entire ecological section, which is well represented in other non-development LUDs (26 percent) and a small portion (7 percent) is within LUD II.

This roadless area is entirely within the Freshwater Bay Carbonates Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 2 percent of the entire ecological subsection which is well represented in non-development LUDs (28 percent); however, it is not represented in existing wilderness or LUD II.

The Whitestone Roadless Area was rated at 19 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, it is ranked 70th from the highest (along with 13 other roadless areas) out of the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is national and some local support for managing the area in a roadless condition but there is little support for designating the area as a wilderness. The WARS score for the area is moderate to low relative to other areas of Southeast Alaska, and the Pleasant-Lemesurier-Inian Islands Wilderness and a portion of the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness are in the biogeographic province. Designation of the area would add Congressional protection to about 2 percent of the Freshwater Bay Carbonates Ecological Subsection, which currently contains no areas under Congressional protection. The roadless area is relatively small and it is adjacent to roaded and harvested areas. These factors indicate that the relative contribution to the National Wilderness System would be low to moderate.

V. Environmental Consequences

The Whitestone Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 is implemented. Approximately 20 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur in the remaining 80 percent of the roadless area. The land in the development LUDs provides an estimated 439 acres that are suitable for timber production (2 percent of the suitable acres on the Hoonah Ranger District). None of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area could be affected by developments allowed by the Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 6, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended LUD II. Mineral prospecting and development and recreation developments could continue, but no timber harvest would be allowed. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II. Designation of the area would add Congressional protection to 2 percent of the Freshwater Bay Carbonates Ecological Subsection, which currently contains no areas under Congressional protection.

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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, mineral, and hydroelectric, 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 would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness. Designation of the area would add Congressional protection to 2 percent of the Freshwater Bay Carbonates Ecological Subsection, which currently contains no areas under Congressional protection.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 318 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness								5,747
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	1,173	1,173	1,173	1,173	1,173		1,173	
Semi-remote Recreation								
Recommended LUD II						5,747		
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	1,475	1,475	1,475	1,475	1,475		1,475	
Modified Landscape								
Timber production	3,099	3,099	3,099	3,099	3,099		3,099	
TOTAL	5,747	5,747	5,747	5,747	5,747	5,747	5,747	5,747
Suitable Timber Lands	439	439	439	439	439	0	439	0