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INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: North Baranof (330)

ACRES (NFS): 324,317

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: East Baranof Island and West Baranof Island

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Baranof-Chichagof Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 25

I. Overview and Description

(1) Location and Access: The area is located on the north end of Baranof Island. It is bordered to the north by Peril Strait, to the east by Chatham Strait, and to the south by the South Baranof Wilderness. Kakul Narrows and Neva Strait border the area to the northwest. The Sitka Urban Roadless Area (#331) borders the area to the west. The area also includes Catherine Island on the northeast corner of Baranof Island and a number of offshore islands and rocks.

The North Baranof Roadless Area is part of a larger roadless land area that stretches the length of Baranof Island. This area consists of four roadless areas and the South Baranof Wilderness. The four roadless areas that comprise this larger area are North Baranof (#330), Sitka Urban (#331), Redoubt (#333), and Port Alexander (#334).

The city of Sitka is located approximately 10 miles west and Juneau is approximately 65 miles northeast of the area. There are two primary forms of access to the North Baranof Roadless Area. The first is by floatplane, with Sitka the most frequent place of origin. The second access is by saltwater along all coastlines. Due to the numerous bays and fiords that provide sheltered anchorage for boats, and the proximity to Sitka, access to the area is generally good.

Areas developed for timber management border and extend into the area along drainages in a number of locations, providing motorized access to the edge of the area, including in the vicinity of Fish Bay, Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, and Catherine Island. The roads that extend into the area are excluded from the roadless area itself.

There are three National Forest System Trails within the area: the Lake Eva-Hanus Bay Trail, the Sadie Lake Trail, and the Warm Springs Bay Trail. The Lake Eva-Hanus Bay Trail, 2.9 miles in length, extends from Hanus Bay to the southwest end of Lake Eva. The Sadie Lake Trail, 0.8 miles in length, extends from near the mouth of Baranof Lake to the south end of Sadie Lake. The Warm Springs Bay Trail, 0.5 miles in length, begins at the Baranof Warm Springs and ends at the east end of Baranof Lake.

(2) History: This area has a long and varied history of use dating from Tlingit use in prehistoric and historic times to the present use by a variety of Alaska residents and visitors. Historic use of the area includes sawmills, salmon and herring salteries, fisheries enhancement facilities, and a variety of other occupancies and settlements. Remains of structures and other human cultural activity in varying degrees of deterioration can still be found. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified aboriginal use (including hunting/trapping, berrying, salmon, and shellfish) and structures along the shoreline of the area, including a fort, numerous smokehouse/cabin sites, and a number of commercial fish traps.

(3) Geography and Topography: The area is generally characterized as an irregular, rugged chain of mountains 2,000 to 5,300 feet in elevation with a steep eastern slope and a more gentle slope in the northern half of the area. The eastern coast is deeply indented with fiords while the northern shore is characterized by numerous large bays. Numerous rocky crests and sharp ridges are found at higher elevations. Snow can be seen all year round on higher summits with a few cirque glaciers and small permanent ice fields in the southern part of the area.

Streams are generally short and flow directly to saltwater with the longest about 10 miles long. Cascades are common and lakes are plentiful, especially in the southern portion of the area. The largest lake is Baranof Lake just west of the community of Baranof Warm Springs. It stretches approximately 3 miles and lies at an elevation of 145 feet.

There are 230 miles of shoreline along saltwater. A large portion of the area consists of alpine tundra, ice, snow, and rock. This includes 24,405 acres of alpine tundra, 13,439 acres of ice and snow, and 64,183 acres of rock. There are 16,009 acres of islands, including Catherine Island, located along the coastline and 3,480 acres of freshwater lakes in the area. Large lakes in the area include Hidden Falls, Carbon and Baranof Lakes, and Lake Eva.

(4) Ecosystem: Clear River Special Interest Area contains spruce and hemlock habitat with black cottonwood/willow communities and an estuarine environment. Both are unique to the area.

(a) Classification: Biogeographic Province. The area is classified as being in the East Baranof Island and West Baranof Island Biogeographic Provinces. Topographically, Baranof Island is the most rugged of all the islands in Southeast Alaska. Mountain glaciers occur along the divide between east and west Baranof. The southern half of this province is highly dissected by steep-sided fiords. The outer coast is dotted with hundreds of small islands. Plant associations on Eastern Baranof are similar to much of the mainland due to the steep topography and cold environment. All forest plant associations except those in the Western redcedar series and those found around large mainland rivers occur in the West Baranof Island Biogeographic Province.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The North Baranof Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Baranof-Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247B). This area is represented by four ecological subsections (see table below). The Central Baranof Metasediments Ecological Subsection, which represents about half of the roadless area, has the tallest peaks, roughest terrain, and greatest extension of glaciers, icefields, and snowfields of all islands in Southeast Alaska. U-shaped valleys with precipitous walls are characteristic of this subsection. The bedrock is a mixture of metasedimentary, sedimentary, and granitic rocks. Almost half of this ecological subsection is alpine and approximately 10 percent land cover is hemlock-spruce forest where alluvial fans are present. The North Baranof Complex Ecological Subsection, which represents about one-third of the roadless area, consists primarily of low-grade metamorphic rocks such as greenschist, phyllites, and greenstone. There are few permanent snowfields but no glaciers or icefields present. Glacial till deposits are abundant and support hemlock-spruce forests from shoreline to mid-elevation slopes. Above that, alpine communities dominate. The Sitka Sound Complex Ecological Subsection is relatively low in elevation and there are no glaciers, although there are some permanent snowfields. Mixed conifer and hemlock-spruce forests dominate the lower elevations and shorelines, and forested wetlands of lodgepole pine and mixed conifer are abundant (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Baranof-Chichagof Fjordlands	Central Baranof Metasediments	49%
	North Baranof Complex	31%
	Sitka Sound Complex	15%
	Peril Strait Granitics	5%

(b) Soils: Shallow mineral soils with good drainage can be found on steeper slopes due to rapid loss of material by erosion and efficient rainwater runoff. Deep, well drained soils commonly occur below the shallow soils on the gentler slopes where transported soil materials have collected. Poorly drained soils are found associated with low relief and impermeable subsurface layers. In locations with poor drainage, deep organic soils (muskegs) tend to form. In riparian areas, soil zones tend to contain sand and gravels as a result of flood deposition.

(c) Vegetation: The vegetation of this roadless area consists primarily of typical spruce-hemlock forests. Western hemlock-Sitka spruce dominate the overstory while the understory is composed of shrubs

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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, mapped as approximately 3,528 acres, are abundant within this area; however, due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult. These areas, dominated by sphagnum mosses, sedges, and shrubs of the heath family, are interspersed among low elevation timber stands where drainage is restricted. Trees within the muskegs are sparse and consist mainly of stunted hemlock, lodgepole pine, and Alaska-cedar.

Tideflats are found at the heads of many of the bays and estuaries and are usually associated with stream estuaries. The tideflats 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 generally above 2,000 feet, alpine plant communities (mapped at approximately 24,405 acres) are 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 179,448 acres mapped as forest land, of which 82,901 acres or 46 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 25,407 acres or 31 percent are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 1,499 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The area also includes 1,567 acres of second growth where beach harvest has occurred in the past.

(d) Fish Resources: There are numerous fish-bearing creeks in this area, including Baranof, Glacial, and Clear Rivers, and Takatz, Kasnyku, Rodman, Range, and Fish Bay Creeks. Most streams support runs of coho, chum, and pink salmon; cutthroat trout; and Dolly Varden char. Lake Eva also supports sockeye salmon and steelhead trout.

(e) Wildlife Resources: There are many varied wildlife resources in this roadless area. Bird and waterfowl rearing and nesting areas are abundant in this area. Generally, the area provides good habitat for Sitka black-tailed deer, mountain goats, and brown bear. Furbearers such as mink, river otter, and marten are also found here. Bald eagle habitat, including nesting and roosting trees, is found in this roadless area along the shorelines. MacDonald and Cook (1999) do not list black bears, moose, or wolves as inhabitants of Baranof Island. A Steller sea lion haul out is located at the southern tip of Catherine Island (USDA Forest Service, 1992).

(5) Management Direction and Current Uses: This roadless area was allocated to nine Land Use Designations (LUDs) in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These nine LUDs are Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed, Transportation and Utilities System (TUS), Remote Recreation, Old-growth Habitat, Semi-Remote Recreation, Special Interest Area, and Wild River. The TUS LUD is a secondary LUD that overlays the other land uses.

LUD	Acres
Timber Production	74,781
Modified Landscape	6,805
Scenic Viewshed	2,621
Transportation and Utility System	NA
Remote Recreation	102,764
Old-growth Habitat	77,623
Semi-Remote Recreation	44,647
Special Interest Area	11,661
Wild River	3,416

Approximately 26 percent of this roadless area (not including the TUS overlay) was allocated to a development LUD (Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Scenic Viewshed). The Timber Production LUD was assigned to approximately 23 percent of the roadless area. Land along sections of the area's shoreline was allocated to the Modified Landscape LUD, accounting for approximately two percent of the roadless area. The Scenic Viewshed LUD was allocated to approximately 1 percent of the roadless area, located mainly along Peril Strait and Sergius Narrows. A proposed state road corridor and a potential power transmission corridor that run through sections of this area were assigned to the Transportation and Utility System LUD overlay.

Approximately 74 percent of this area was allocated to non-development LUDs (Remote Recreation, Old Growth Habitat, Semi-Remote Recreation, Special Interest Area, and Wild River). Approximately 32 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Remote Recreation LUD. The Old-growth Habitat LUD was assigned to about 24 percent of this roadless area. Approximately 14 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Semi-Remote Recreation LUD. Around Clear River, approximately 4 percent of the roadless area was allocated to the Special Interest Area LUD, for zoological features. Approximately 10 river miles of Glacial River, or 1 percent of the roadless area, was allocated to the Wild River LUD.

Five parcels of land within or adjacent to the roadless area are under other ownership. These include land around Takatz Lake and at Baranof Warm Springs owned by the State of Alaska, and two small parcels in Rodman Bay and along Rodman Creek, and the recent conveyance of lands on the northeast portion of Catherine Island.

There are a number of authorized special uses located within the area. Northern Southeast Region 1 Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) has a special use permit for use of facilities at Takatz Bay for securing net pens for the rearing of salmon. The ADF&G has a special use permit for use of facilities located at the head of Kasnyku Bay for the Hidden Falls Fish Hatchery. These facilities include hatchery buildings, residential buildings, a hydroelectric site at Goat Lake, water and waste disposal systems, roads, trails, boardwalks, and docks. The permit covers over 18 acres. There is a Forest Service radio repeater located on Mount Furuhelm in the southern portion of the area. There are also electronic/radio sites on the ridge above the east arm of Rodman Bay, and a site on Manley Mountain just north of Baranof Warm Springs.

Recreational use of the area is primarily for hunting and fishing, and enjoying the scenery. This use is scattered across the area, with the usual concentrations near lakes, streams, and shorelines. Three National Forest System trails are located within the area, as well as four Public Recreation Cabins and a shelter. In addition, there is a Forest Service administrative cabin located in Hanus Bay. Outfitter/guide use was reported at 18 locations in and around the area in 1999, primarily within inlets and along the shoreline. A total of 216 groups and 883 clients were reported using the area. Activities pursued by these groups included brown bear, deer, and goat hunting; hiking, sightseeing; camping; and fishing. Subsistence use occurs in this area.

(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness): A vast majority of the area is considered unmodified except for those areas, primarily located near the shoreline, with evidence of current or historic use. Evidence of historic use includes old salmon and herring salteries, old cabins, and other historic occupancies. Developed areas border and extend into the roadless area along drainages in a number of locations. The roads that extend into the area are excluded from the roadless area. Older beach logging has also occurred within some sections of the area itself, primarily on the Duffield Peninsula and in the vicinity of Rodman Bay. These modifications are readily apparent to visitors to these specific sites and the areas in their immediate vicinity. However, overall the area displays natural characteristics when viewed from major travel routes or use areas and once within the area.

(7) Surroundings (External Influences): The area is bordered by saltwater along a large percentage of its boundary. As a result, external influences on those sides are limited to the sights and sounds of motorized boats. The area is bordered to the south by the South Baranof Wilderness and most of the western boundary adjoins the Sitka Urban Roadless Area (#331). The adjoining lands in both of these cases are in a natural condition. Developments and associated activities have taken place in several locations around the edge of the area. Most of this development has occurred in the northern portion of the area, such as Rodman Bay and on and near the northern portion of Catherine Island. These activities have had a noticeable influence on the roadless area in these more localized areas.

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(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: The Clear River Special Interest Area contains one of the most unique estuary environments in the outer islands. It contains habitat for a diverse number of birds, fish and plants. Three other features of special interest in the North Baranof Roadless Area are Kelp Bay, Baranof Warm Springs, and the Baranof Island glaciers. Kelp Bay is a large sheltered Bay with three arms and a number of subbasins. Baranof Warm Springs consists of a small group of lakes, a hot springs, and Warm Springs Bay. However, part of the Baranof Warm Springs area is now state-owned and excluded from the roadless area. Finally there is a string of glaciers, ice, and snow fields in the mountain ranges of the roadless area. These glaciers are the southernmost island glaciers in North America.

The area contains 48 inventoried recreation places, which cover 40,772 acres, or 13 percent of the roadless area. The natural features of the area, the scenery, and the opportunity to see wildlife are all considered attractions. High quality fishing opportunities in the streams and lakes also provide attractions. Three National Forest System trails are located within the area, as well as four public recreation cabins, one shelter and an administrative cabin.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: The boundaries of the roadless area changed in three ways between 1989 and 2003. First, beach logged areas (i.e., areas that were logged but not roaded) that were excluded from the 1989 area are included within the boundaries of the 2003 area. Second, Warm Springs Bay and the area immediately surrounding it is now state-owned and excluded from the roadless area. Additionally, the west side of the Baby Bear Bay area was conveyed to the State and is now a marine park. Third, several smaller areas near developed portions of the boundaries have been excluded 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: The area is unmodified except for the evidence of current and historic use of the area, primarily located near the shoreline. Developments border and extend into the area along drainages in several locations. The roads that extend into the area are excluded from the roadless area. Older beach logging has also occurred within the area itself, primarily on the Duffield Peninsula and in the vicinity of Rodman Bay. These impacts, although locally evident, have a very low overall effect on the natural integrity of the roadless area. Both the relative size of the developments and their location along the shoreline contribute to this low impact. The area's long-term ecological processes are intact and the effects of human influences on natural processes are unmeasurable. Overall, the area's natural integrity and apparent naturalness is very high and is suitable for wilderness classification.

(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: There is a very high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation within the area. Both the size of the area and the screening offered by the topography increase the opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Recreational use of the area is relatively limited and dispersed, so that encounters with other visitors are unlikely. Balancing those factors are the effects of the areas of previous timber activity and associated road systems. The sight or sound of airplanes overhead and boats along the coastlines can occasionally intrude on a visitor's solitude. Along Peril Strait and Neva Strait, ferries of the Alaska Marine Highway system can be observed or heard.

Outfitter/guide use was reported at 18 locations in and around the area in 1999, primarily within inlets and along the shoreline. A total of 216 groups and 883 clients were reported using the area. Activities pursued by these groups included brown bear, deer, and goat hunting, hiking, sightseeing, camping, and fishing.

The area provides a very high opportunity for primitive recreation as a result of its size, topographic screening, diversity of recreation opportunities, and physical challenges. The area has a highly irregular topography and diverse vegetation that combine to offer a setting capable of providing a variety of primitive recreation opportunities. There are lakes, ponds, streams, bays, rugged mountains, and a varied coastline that contribute to these opportunities. The absence of developed recreational facilities in certain areas further enhances the opportunity for primitive recreation.

The area provides primarily primitive and 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
Primitive (P)	171,544	53%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	128,487	40%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	13,609	4%
Roaded Modified (RM)	10,554	3%
Rural (R)	28	0%

The area contains 48 inventoried recreation places, which cover 40,772 acres, or 13 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
P	9	20,867
SPNM	14	11,331
SPM	15	7,219
RM	20	1,355
R	0	0

* 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 three National Forest System Trails within the area: the Lake Eva-Hanus Bay Trail, the Sadie Lake Trail, and the Warm Springs Bay Trail. There are also four public recreation cabins within the Roadless Area: Lake Eva, Appleton Cove, Piper Island and Baranof Lake. There is a shelter in the Kakul Narrows Areas.

(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 North Baranof Roadless Area Roadless Area was 25 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 also given a rating of 25.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The North Baranof Roadless Area is part of a larger roadless land area that stretches the length of Baranof Island. This area consists of four roadless areas and the South Baranof Wilderness. The four roadless areas that comprise this larger area are North Baranof (#330), Sitka Urban (#331), Redoubt (#333), and Port Alexander (#334). The Clear River Special Interest Area offers unique habitat to support a diverse number of bird, plant and fish species.

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) listed two of the 21 VCUs as primary salmon producers, 287 (Fish Bay) and 314 (Glacial River). Two VCUs were identified as primary sportfish producers, 295 (Lake Eva) and 326 (Warm Springs Bay).

There are numerous fish-bearing creeks in this area, including Baranof, Glacial, and Clear Rivers, and Takatz, Kasnyku, Rodman, Range, and Fish Bay Creeks. Most streams support runs of coho, chum, and pink salmon; cutthroat trout; and Dolly Varden char, while chinook salmon inhabit estuaries and bays. Lake Eva also supports sockeye salmon and steelhead trout. Kokanee are found in one lake in the Kelp Bay area (USDA Forest Service, 1992). The estimated annual peak escapements for Fish Bay Creek, Eva Creek and Lake, Clear River, and Baranof River are 59,800, 3,500, 55,400, and 13,200 pink salmon,

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respectively. Fish Bay Creek also has good coho smolt capability (ADF&G, 1998). The Lake Eva area represents a highly productive sockeye fishery and a popular area for recreational fishing.

(b) Wildlife Resources: There are many varied wildlife resources in this roadless area. Generally, the area provides good habitat for Sitka black-tailed deer, mountain goats, and brown bear. Furbearers such as mink, river otter, and marten are also found here. Bird and waterfowl rearing and nesting areas are abundant in this area. Marbled murrelets have been documented in the area. Bald eagle habitat, including nesting and roosting trees, is found in this roadless area along the shorelines. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified 280 bald eagle nest sites in the Kelp Bay area alone. The American peregrine falcon and Aleutian Canada goose may migrate through the area (USDA Forest Service, 1992). MacDonald and Cook (1999) do not list black bears, moose or wolves as inhabitants of Baranof Island. A Steller sea lion haul out is located at the southern tip of Catherine Island (USDA Forest Service, 1992).

Clear River Special Interest Area contains spruce and hemlock habitat with black cottonwood/willow communities and an estuarine environment. Both are unique to the area. This supports a diverse number of bird, plant and fish species

Based on harvest data compiled from 1985 to 1995, 2 of the 21 VCUs in the area were ranked in the first 25 percent of brown bear harvest areas on the Tongass. Three 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. Peale's peregrine falcons pass through the area during their spring and fall migration flights. 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: There are very limited karst resources in this roadless area. One high vulnerability karst area is west of the lower lake feeding Fish Bay Creek; the second high-vulnerability karst area is approximately 2 miles west. These areas represent 127 acres, or less than 1 percent of the roadless area. Approximately three quarters of the karst is rated as high vulnerability. There are a few cirque glaciers and small permanent ice fields in the southern part of the area. These glaciers are the southernmost island glaciers in North America.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: Clear River was designated as a Special Interest Area in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. Clear River was identified as a Zoological Special Interest Area. The area is considered one of the most unique estuary environments in the Outer Islands geographic province. Clear River (non-glacial) and Glacier River (glacial) converge into the same grassflat/intertidal zone, creating habitat for a diverse number of birds, fish and plants, and supporting high densities of brown bear and land otter.

There are no Research Natural Areas in this roadless area. Lake Eva was considered as one of over 60 potential candidate Research Natural Areas (RNAs) identified by the Research Natural Area Steering Committee, but was not included in the 30 of these areas that were recommended as "priority potential RNA proposals." The Lake Eva area was identified as a highly productive sockeye fishery with an active history of research. The North Baranof Roadless Area is located approximately 10 miles east of the city of Sitka and, therefore, readily accessible to school-age children.

(6) Scenic Values: The visual character type of this roadless area is classified as Baranof Highland. Terrain in this roadless area consists of an irregular, rugged asymmetrical chain of landforms 2,000 to 5,300 feet in elevation with a steep eastern slope and a gentler western slope deeply indented with fiords. Generally, landforms are visually

massive, bulky, and stark throughout the character type. Shoreline forms are very rugged with steep-sided fiord country on both east and west coasts.

Rugged headwalls, cliffs, and escarpments are common on the west side of the Baranof Highland character type, as a result of exposure to the sea wind and waves. Rock faces are sometimes visible on steep-sided fiords near saltwater throughout the roadless area. Numerous rocky crests, sharp ridges, horns, aretes, and cirques are found at higher elevations. Snow can be seen all year round on the higher summits with cirque glaciers and small permanent ice fields, especially in the southern portion of the area.

The North Baranof Roadless Area on the northern and eastern shore of Baranof Island is a typical representation of the Baranof Highland visual character type. This area displays a coastline deeply and repeatedly scalloped by fiords and bays. Combinations of historic glaciation and erosion from high levels of precipitation have further accentuated the carving of the topography. The glaciers, cirques, ice, and snow fields in the southern half of the area are characteristic of this type.

A vast majority of the area is considered unmodified except for those areas, primarily located near the shoreline, with evidence of current or historic use. Evidence of historic use includes old salmon and herring salteries, old cabins, and other historic occupancies. Current use includes fish enhancement activities and facilities, fish hatchery facilities, various short-term occupancies, and other evidence of use of the area and the surrounding waters. Developed areas border and extend into the area along drainages in several locations. These areas are excluded from the roadless area. Older beach logging has also occurred within the area itself, primarily on the Duffield Peninsula and in the vicinity of Rodman Bay. These modifications are readily apparent to some visitors to these specific sites and areas in their immediate vicinity. This timber harvest may also be apparent from travel routes and use area viewpoints. However, overall, the area displays its natural characteristics when viewed from major travel routes or use areas and once within the area. The natural appearance of the roadless area dominates the landscape background.

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

- Alaska Marine Highway: Peril Strait and Chatham Strait
- Tour Ship Routes: the West Coast of Baranof Island, Peril Strait, and Chatham Strait
- Recommended Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River: Glacial River
- Small Boat Routes: St. John Baptist Bay, Chatham Strait to Warm Springs Bay and Cosmos Cove, Nakwasina Passage, Peril Strait to Chatham Strait, Saook Bay, Rodman Bay, Appleton Cove, The Basin, Middle Arm (Kelp Bay), Echo Cove, Portage Arm (Kelp Bay), Deep Cove, and Peril Strait to Hanus Bay and Fish Bay
- Saltwater Use Areas: Fish Bay, Rodman Bay, and Deadman Reach
- Dispersed Recreation Areas: Baranof Island, Lake Eva, and Hidden Falls Hatchery and Archeology Site
- Public Recreation Cabins: Baranof Lake, Appleton Cove, Piper Island, and Lake Eva
- Hiking Trails: Warm Springs Lake #559, Sadie Lake, and Lake Eva #472
- Boat Anchorages: Warm Springs Bay, Cosmos Cove, Dead Tree Island, Point Moses, Schulze Cove, The Basin, Pond Island, Echo Cove, Echo Bay, and Saook Bay

Approximately 22 percent of the roadless area is inventoried Variety Class A, which possesses landscape diversity unique for the character type. Approximately 54 percent of this roadless area was inventoried as being Visual Variety Class B (possesses landscape characteristics common for the character type). About 23 percent was rated as Variety Class C (possesses a low degree of landscape diversity).

The majority of this roadless area, approximately 88 percent, is inventoried in Existing Visual Condition (EVC) I, which applies to areas that appear to be untouched by human activity. About 1 percent of the area is in EVC III, where changes in the landscape are noticed by the average person, but do not attract attention. Another 1 percent of the land is in EVC IV, where changes in the landscape are easily noticed by the average person and may attract some attention, but they resemble natural patterns. Approximately 9 percent of the area was in EVC V, where changes in the landscape are obvious to the average person and appear to be major disturbances.

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(7) **Social, Cultural, and Historical Values:** This area has a long and varied history of use dating from Tlingit use in prehistoric and historic times to the present use by a variety of Alaska residents and visitors. Historic use of the area includes sawmills, salmon and herring salteries, fisheries enhancement facilities, and a variety of other occupancies and settlements. Remains of structures and other human cultural activity in varying degrees of deterioration can still be found. Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) identified aboriginal use (including hunting/trapping, berrying, salmon, and shellfish) and structures along the shoreline of the area, including a fort, numerous smokehouse/cabin sites, and a number of commercial fish traps.

Recreational use of the area is primarily for hunting and fishing, and enjoying the scenery. This use is scattered across the area, with the usual concentrations near lakes, streams, and shorelines. Outfitter/guide use was reported at 18 locations in and around the area in 1999, primarily within inlets and along the shoreline. A total of 216 groups and 883 clients were reported using the area. Activities pursued by these groups included brown bear, deer, and goat hunting, hiking, sightseeing, camping, and fishing. Subsistence use occurs in this area. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) indicated that 5 of the 21 VCUs (lying between Kelp Bay and Krestof Sound) located in this area are subsistence use areas with a high sensitivity to disturbance. Three of the VCUs in this area were included among the VCUs with highest community use value. Two other VCUs in the area were included in the third tier of highest community use value (ADF&G, 1998).

(8) **Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes:** The North Baranof Roadless Area is generally well defined by topographic features. The boundaries determined by Neva Strait, Kakul Narrows, Peril Strait, Chatham Strait, and by the South Baranof Wilderness are easily described and recognized. Even the western boundary adjoining the Sitka Urban Roadless Area (#331) follows well-defined topographic divides. There are, however, exceptions to this in several areas where the boundary is defined by developments. In addition, there are five land parcels of other ownership within or adjacent to the roadless area which could create management problems. These include state-selected land around Takatz Lake, Baby Bear Bay, and Baranof Warm Springs, and two small private parcels in Rodman Bay and along Rodman Creek.

The feasibility of management of this area as wilderness or in an unroaded condition is good, as there are no significant motorized access or other current nonconforming uses within the boundaries of the area.

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

(1) **Recreation, Including Tourism Potential:** The varied terrain, diverse vegetation, and attractive scenery of this area provide unlimited recreation potential for dispersed recreation. Additional trails and cabins or shelters are possible. There may be opportunities for constructing a Cross Baranof Trail from Baranof Warm Springs to Sitka; extending the Lake Eva Trail to the Adirondack Shelter at the inlet to Lake Eva; constructing a Fish Bay Trail to the Fish Bay Hot Springs; and constructing a recreation facility at the Fish Bay Hot Springs.

In 1996, the Alaska Visitors Association (AVA) proposed the following recreation developments in this roadless area:

Kelp Bay: Backcountry recreation lodge for 250 persons/day, day use recreation for 150 persons/day, hut-to-hut hiking for 25 persons/day, day-use wildlife observatory for 50 persons/day, overnight wildlife observatory for 50 persons/day, leased proprietary camp for 15 persons, heli-hiking/skiing for 30 persons/day, equipment storage facility, flight-seeing landings for 100 persons/day, day boat docks for 50 persons/day, small cruise ship shore-walk for 25 person/day, and boardwalks, paths and trails.

Baranof Warm Springs: All prototypes with the possible exception of resorts, and a small cruise ship shore-walk for 25 persons/day.

Hanus Bay and Lake Eva Trail: Small cruise ship shore-walk for 25 persons/day.

The Katlian to Rodman Bay corridor: All uses (some uses conditional on road development) and hut-to-hut hiking for 25 persons/day.

Fish Bay Hot Springs: Backcountry recreation lodge for 250 persons/day.

St. John Baptist Bay, Olga/Neva/Salisbury Sound Corridor: Day-use recreation for 300 persons/day, hut-to hut hiking for 25 persons/day, day-use wildlife observatory for 50 persons/day, overnight wildlife observatory for 50 persons/day, leased proprietary camp for 15 persons, heli-hiking/skiing for 30 persons/day,

equipment storage facility, flight-seeing landings for 100 persons/day, day-boat docks for 50 persons, a cruise ship boardwalk for 25 persons/day, and boardwalks, paths and trails.

- (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 fish improvement projects planned for this area.
- (4) **Wildlife Resources:** There are no wildlife habitat improvement projects planned for this area.
- (5) **Timber Resources:** There are 82,901 acres mapped as productive old growth in the roadless area. There are also 1,567 acres of second growth where beach harvest has occurred in the past. Of these acres, 48,658 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), 6,521 acres or 2 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 1,693 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 46 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The potential for managing timber in this roadless area is dependent on higher market values.
- (6) **Fire, Insects, and Disease:** The area has no significant fire history. Endemic tree diseases common to Southeast Alaska are present in the area. There are no known epidemic disease occurrences.
- (7) **Minerals:** The area does not have a high mineral development potential and there are no known mining claims. However, the USGS Mineral Resource Data website (2001) indicates that there are several prospects for gold, copper, and zinc in this area. This area contains an estimated 85,730 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:** A proposed state road corridor and a potential power transmission corridor that run through sections of this area were assigned to the Transportation and Utility System LUD in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. This proposed road corridor was not included in the 1999 Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, 1999).
- (9) **Water Availability and Use:** The public recreation cabins and the special use areas (NSRAA at Takatz Bay and the ADF&G facilities at Kasnyku Bay) create the water demand in this roadless area. The ADF&G facilities include hatchery buildings, residential buildings, water and waste disposal systems, roads, trails, boardwalks, and docks. A hydroelectric site at Goat Lake is also a part of these facilities.
- (10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** The mapped karst resources encompass approximately 127 acres or less than one percent of the roadless area. Another feature of scientific interest is the area around Lake Eva, which has been identified as having potential for Research Natural Area (RNA) status. The Lake Eva area was identified because it represents a highly productive sockeye fishery with an active history of research. Forest types present are typical spruce and hemlock, which have the potential to serve as baseline monitoring sites for nearby areas that have had historic timber management. Lake Eva is a low elevation valley moraine lake.

Clear River was designated as a Special Interest Area in the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. Clear River was identified as a Zoological Special Interest Area. The area is considered one of the most unique estuary environments in the Outer Islands geographic province. Clear River (non-glacial) and Glacier River (glacial) converge into the same grassflat/intertidal zone, creating habitat for a diverse number of birds, fish and plants, and supporting high densities of brown bear and land otter. Management of the area as wilderness may restrict activities in the area.
- (11) **Land Use Authorizations:** Land use authorizations in the area include NSRAA's special use permit for use of facilities at Takatz Bay for securing net pens for the rearing of salmon and the ADF&G's special use permit for use of facilities located at the head of Kasnyku Bay for the Hidden Falls Fish Hatchery. The ADF&G facilities include hatchery buildings, residential buildings, water and waste disposal systems, a hydroelectric facility, roads, trails, boardwalks, and docks. The permit covers over 18 acres. There is a Forest Service Radio Repeater located on

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Mount Furuhelm in the southern portion of the area. There are also electronic/radio sites on the ridge above the east arm of Rodman Bay, and a site on Manley Mountain just north of Baranof Warm Springs.

(12) **Land Status:** All land within the roadless area is part of the National Forest System. Encumbered land within the roadless area is located in northeast Catherine Island. Four parcels of land within or adjacent to the roadless area are under other ownership and are not a part of the roadless area. These include land around Takatz Lake, Baby Bear Bay, and Baranof Warm Springs owned by the State of Alaska, and two small private parcels in Rodman Bay and along Rodman Creek.

IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

(1) Public and Congressional Interest:

(a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** Most use of the area is associated with recreational boating, hunting and fishing, and viewing wildlife and scenery of the 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 North Baranof Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 identified the area as a proposed LUD II addition. It also proposed that Fish Bay Creek and the shoreline from St. John Baptist Bay to Pogibshi Point be assigned Wild and Scenic River status. Some of the areas where timber harvest has occurred were identified for protection as Restoration Areas; others on the east side of the area were identified as roaded areas available for logging.

(c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revisions and Appeals:** Parts of this area were specifically addressed in public input received during the Forest Plan revision and appeal. Most commenters cited different combinations of scenic, recreation, subsistence, and wildlife values and uses in identifying areas of Baranof Island for protection or non-timber allocations. These areas included Kelp Bay and Catherine Island (high subsistence use), Peril Strait, and the ferry route to Sitka (hunting, winter range, and scenic quality). Catherine Island, Kelp Bay, and Saook Bay were identified as traditional use areas for the people of Angoon, with Kelp Bay identified as the most important subsistence area on the east side of Baranof Island. Commenters requested that Catherine Island, all three arms of Kelp Bay, and the coastline from Kelp Bay to Warm Springs Bay be assigned the Primitive Recreation (now Remote Recreation) or Old-Growth LUDs. Timber industry representatives requested that Management Areas (MA) C41, C42, and C43, which include Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, Kelp Bay, and Catherine Island, be assigned to the Timber Production LUD, and should have developed road systems with ties to log transfer facilities for better timber economics, and ties to Sitka for use by residents for roaded recreation. They also requested that MA C40, which is partially located within the North Baranof Roadless Area, be entirely assigned to Timber Production, with Modified Landscape along Neva and Olga Straits to take advantage of the existing road system.

Others requested that MAs C41 and C42 be protected from logging. The Sitka Conservation Society (SCS) identified the Hoonah Sound to Sitka ferry route and adjacent areas as the “heart of Sitka’s economy and lifestyle” and asked that recreation LUDs be applied to this area. A couple of commenters favored more roads in this area, or roads connecting Sitka with the east side of Baranof Island; others opposed more roads, or any road connection across the island. One commenter in 1996 recommended that North Baranof Island be managed for a local wood products industry.

The AVA proposed recreation developments for a number of locations within the area, including Kelp Bay, Baranof Warm Springs, Hanus Bay and Lake Eva Trail, Katlian to Rodman Bay corridor, Fish Bay Hot Springs, and the St. John Baptist Bay, Olga/Neva/Salisbury Sound Corridor. These proposals are summarized in Section III (1) above.

The appeal filed by the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) identified the VCUs along the north shore of the area (VCUs 287 to 289) as part of the Sitka Local Use Area and objected to parts of these VCUs still being “open to clearcutting.” This appeal also objected to East Saook Bay (the east half of VCU 294) still being open to intensive development. The appeal filed by the SCS also requested that East Saook

Bay be protected from timber harvest. The SCS appeal also noted its support of the “Citizens proposal” that identified a number of rivers in the Chatham/Sitka area, including Fish Bay River and Hot Springs, for Wild and Scenic River designation. The appeal also noted that forested wetlands within Fish Bay should not be included in the timber base. In addition, the SCS appeal identified Warm Springs Bay as one of a number of salt chuck areas that should be assigned special status so that “future plan revisions do not incorporate these areas in the timber base.”

The appeal filed by the Prince of Wales Conservation League identified north Baranof Island as an area where the location and distribution of roadless reserves for brown bear habitat should be re-evaluated. The appeal filed by the Hoonah Indian Association et al, requested that logging not be permitted along the “stretch of lands and islands on both sides of the various narrows that span from Sitka Sound to Hoonah Sound” because the subsistence harvest of deer in this area “already exceeds the sustainable hunting level by a wide margin” and logging would exacerbate this situation.

(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: Comments submitted in response to the proposed Kelp Bay Timber Sale in 1992 identified Little Lake Eva and the lake in the drainage east of Little Lake Eva as unique, citing the presence of kokanee salmon. Commenters noted that this, combined with the area’s high recreational value suggest that it has much higher value if left roadless. Comments also noted that the area is important for wildlife. Other commenters supported roads and logging in the Kelp Bay area.

(f) Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process: The U.S. Department of the Interior identified this roadless area as having important fish and wildlife habitat and populations; although not a top priority for protection, it ranked in their top third among all roadless areas.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game rated the North Baranof roadless area as the third 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 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 included this area in a contiguous complex of roadless areas consisting of Roadless Areas 330, 331, 332, and 333. They recommended this complex for permanent protection as LUD II. The combined area represents just over 500,000 acres. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) identified Roadless Areas 330, 331, 332, and 333 as a contiguous complex of roadless areas that should be considered one roadless area and recommended it for permanent protection as LUD II. The Natural Resources Defense Council requested that Saook Bay be accorded protected status.

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

Some individuals identified East Saook Bay as an area that needed protection. Others recommended the roadless area for protection. One individual noted that Saook Bay is no longer under contract and this should be changed on the maps and for the analysis.

(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: There are three existing wilderness areas located in proximity to the North Baranof Roadless Area. The South Baranof Wilderness borders the area to the south. The West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness lies directly northwest across Salisbury Sound from the area. The Admiralty Island National Monument-Kootznoowoo Wilderness lies directly east across Chatham Strait.

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The North Baranof Roadless Area is part of a larger roadless land area that stretches the length of Baranof Island. This area consists of four roadless areas and the South Baranof Wilderness. The four roadless areas that comprise this larger area are North Baranof (#330), Sitka Urban (#331), Redoubt (#333), and Port Alexander (#334).

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	65	90
Sitka (Pop. 8,835)	10	25
Hoonah (Pop. 860)	40	70
Angoon (Pop. 572)	10	10

The nearest stop on the Alaska Marine Highway is Sitka.

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The North Baranof Roadless Area is located on the north end of Baranof Island. It is bordered to the north by Peril Strait, to the east by Chatham Strait, and to the south by the South Baranof Wilderness. Kakul Narrows and Neva Strait border the area to the northwest. The Sitka Urban Roadless Area (#331) borders the area to the west. The area also includes Catherine Island on the northeast corner of Baranof Island and a number of offshore islands and rocks. The area is generally characterized by an irregular, rugged chain of mountains 2,000 to 5,300 feet in elevation. The eastern coast is deeply indented with fiords while the northern shore is characterized by numerous large bays. Numerous rocky crests and sharp ridges are found at higher elevations. Snow can be seen all year round on higher summits with a few cirque glaciers and small permanent ice fields in the southern part of the area. Lakes are plentiful, especially in the southern portion of the area. The largest lake is Baranof Lake which stretches approximately three miles and lies at an elevation of 145 feet.

The North Baranof Roadless Area is mostly unmodified. The natural integrity and apparent naturalness is very high. The opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation is very high to outstanding.

The roadless area has moderate to high scenic qualities; approximately 22 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive from a scenery standpoint. The area includes the Clear River Special Interest Area with high estuarine values, several cirque glaciers, and some localized karst development. Overall, these features are considered moderate for the roadless area.

The roadless area includes about 25,407 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, approximately 1,499 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The North Baranof Roadless Area is classified as being in the East Baranof Island and West Baranof Island Biogeographic Provinces. Approximately 82 percent of the roadless area is within the East Baranof Province and represents about 67 percent of the province. The other 18 percent of the roadless area is in the West Baranof Province and represents about 8 percent of that province. The North Baranof Roadless Area makes up nearly all of the roadless area within the East Baranof Province and the South Baranof Wilderness makes up about 23 percent of the province. The portion of the North Baranof Roadless Area that lies in the West Baranof Province is part of 8 inventoried roadless areas found within the province which makes up about 62 percent of that province. The majority of the South Baranof Wilderness is also within this province and makes up approximately 29 percent of the province.

The North Baranof Roadless Area lies completely within the Baranof-Chichagof Fjordlands Ecological Section. This portion represents 15 percent of the entire ecological section, which is well represented in existing wilderness (28 percent) and other non-development LUDs (35 percent) with an additional 13 percent in LUD II.

The largest ecological subsection in this roadless area is the Central Baranof Metasediments (49 percent). This portion represents 45 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which has approximately 20 percent existing wilderness and is well represented by non-development LUDs (64 percent). The North Baranof Complex Ecological Subsection represents 31 percent of the roadless area. This portion represents 77 percent of the

ecological subsection within the Tongass National Forest boundary and is well represented by non-development LUDs (36 percent), but not by wilderness or LUD II. The Sitka Sound Complex Ecological Subsection represents 15 percent of this roadless area. This portion represents 27 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which is well represented by non-development LUDs (67 percent), but not by wilderness or LUD II. The Peril Strait Granitics Ecological Subsection represents 5 percent of this roadless area. This portion represents 6 percent of the entire ecological subsection, which is well represented by non-development LUDs (40 percent, including 25 percent in LUD II).

The North Baranof Roadless Area was rated 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.

There is both local and national support for managing this area in an unroaded condition, and little support for designating the area as wilderness. Designation of the area would add Congressional protection to portions of the North Baranof Complex and the Sitka Sound Complex Ecological Subsections; neither of these subsections contain any areas under long-term Congressional protection. Designation would create a relatively large wilderness in conjunction with the South Baranof Wilderness and would include the moderate to high scenic qualities, Clear River Special Interest Area, small cirque glaciers, and localized karst. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be high.

V. Environmental Consequences

The North Baranof Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, or 4 is implemented. Approximately 74 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur within the remaining 26 percent of the roadless area. The land in the development LUDs includes an estimated 6,521 acres that are suitable for timber production (15 percent of the suitable acres on the Sitka Ranger District). Approximately 46 of the suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. This area contains 85,730 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources; all of which are considered to have low potential for development. The roadless area includes a potential road and power transmission corridor, although no actual proposals are being analyzed. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area are protected by the Forest Plan in most of the area. These values could be affected by developments in those areas where the Forest Plan allows development. The karst, geologic and most scenic values of the roadless area are protected by the Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 5 and 7, a 22,574-acre portion of the roadless area currently in lands allocated to Timber Production, Old-growth Habitat, and Semi-Remote Recreation would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. The land remaining in the development LUDs would include an estimated 5,052 acres that are suitable for timber production. Timber harvest would not be allowed in the area converted to Recommended Wilderness and the potential for other development, including recreation and mineral, would be significantly restricted. Mineral prospecting 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 Saook Bay portion of the roadless area would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Under Alternative 6, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended LUD II. Mineral prospecting, most special uses, and recreation use and developments could continue, but no timber harvest would be allowed. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the scenic, karst, and geologic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II. Designation of the area would add Congressional protection to portions of the North Baranof Complex and the Sitka Sound Complex Ecological Subsections; neither of these subsections contain any areas under long-term Congressional protection.

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

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add Congressional protection to portions of the North Baranof Complex and the Sitka Sound Complex Ecological Subsections; neither of these subsections contain any areas under long-term Congressional protection.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 330 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness					22,574		22,574	324,317
Wilderness								
Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.								
Wilderness National Monument								
Non-wilderness National Monument								
Research Natural Area								
Special Interest Area	11,661	11,661	11,661	11,661	11,661		11,661	
Remote Recreation	102,764	102,764	102,764	102,764	102,764		102,764	
Enacted Municipal Watershed								
Old-growth Habitat	77,623	77,623	77,623	77,623	74,668		74,668	
Semi-remote Recreation	44,647	44,647	44,647	44,647	44,576		44,576	
Recommended LUD II						324,317		
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River	3,416	3,416	3,416	3,416	3,416		3,416	
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	2,620	2,620	2,620	2,620	2,118		2,118	
Modified Landscape	6,805	6,805	6,805	6,805	6,805		6,805	
Timber production	74,781	74,781	74,781	74,781	55,735		55,735	
TOTAL	324,317	324,317	324,317	324,317	324,317	324,317	324,317	324,317
Suitable Timber Lands	6,521	6,521	6,521	6,521	5,052	0	5,052	0