

## INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

**ROADLESS AREA NAME:** Anan (209)

**ACRES (NFS):** 38,162

**BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:** Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula

**ECOLOGICAL SECTION:** Inside Passage Fjordlands

**2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING:** 22

### **I. Overview and Description**

(1) **Location and Access:** The area is located 25 miles southeast of Wrangell on the mainland (at the north end of the Cleveland Peninsula) and is bounded on the east by the Harding Roadless Area (207), on the west by the Frosty Roadless Area (210), on the south and southeast by North Cleveland Roadless Area (529), and on the north by Ernest Sound. The area is accessible by saltwater along Ernest Sound and Bradfield Canal. Floatplanes can land on Anan and Boulder Lakes, as well as other lakes within the area. Access to other portions of the roadless area is by foot or helicopter. There are no sites suitable for landing small wheeled aircraft.

(2) **History:** The area was inhabited by the Tlingit in prehistoric times. The mouth of Anan Creek and lagoon area were particularly important as a seasonal fish camp. Several Tlingit groups were able to use the site due to the abundant pink salmon run. More recent history includes construction of a trail in 1901 by the Sailor Fish Packing Company to support salmon harvesting activities, and a fish packing site in the lagoon area, run by the Alaska Packers Association. Several cultural sites are known and documented. In 1984, a 138 KV power transmission line was constructed along the northeast edge of the area. The strong salmon runs have been an important commercial resource. Fish enhancement and recreation facilities have been developed in the area.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The area is generally characterized as complex terrain, dominated by rounded mountains and hills, many of which reach elevations of over 2,000 feet. The tallest is over 3,000 feet. Between the mountains are deep, narrow valleys containing two forks of Anan Creek and two long, narrow lakes. Several smaller lakes exist near the headwaters and numerous small cirque lakes occur in the alpine. These lakes total approximately 1,471 acres. About 346 acres are classified as alpine, and 2,072 acres as rock. The area contains 6 miles of saltwater shoreline and it does not include islands.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is classified as being in the Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula Biogeographic Province. The province has a varied climate, with warmer and wetter conditions near the outer coast and much colder conditions near the mainland. This roadless area represents the colder portion of the province. It has relatively low, rounded landforms. There are no known areas of unique or uncommon plant/soils associations.

Ecological Section/Subsection. The Anan Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247E), represented by two ecological subsections (see table below). The Bell Island Granitics Ecological Subsection covers the majority of the Anan Roadless Area and is characterized by rounded hills and narrow, glacially scoured valleys. Well-drained, mineral soil is found on mountains, while poorly drained soils occupy lowlands, lake margins, and wetlands. The Eastern Passage Complex Ecological Subsection covers the remainder, approximately 19 percent, of the roadless area. Lying west of the Coast Range megalignment from Bradfield Canal to Thomas Bay, the geology of the Eastern Passage Complex Ecological Subsection is rugged sedimentary and volcanic formations, dissected by numerous streams. Mineral soils, of sedimentary and plutonic origin predominate, with

## Appendix C

organic soils relatively common on poorly drained sites. Productive hemlock and hemlock-spruce forests cover the majority of the subsection with the remainder in alpine vegetation (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Inside Passage Fjordlands	Bell Island Granitics	81%
	Eastern Passage Complex	19%

**(b) Soils:** Soils in this area are formed in a wide variety of parent material, including bedrock and glacial drift. In general, well- or moderately-well-drained soils are on moderate to steep mountain slopes with permeable parent materials. These soils are acidic, have cold soil temperatures, and are very high in organic matter. Rooting is largely limited to the surface organic layers and the top few inches of mineral soil. These soils are usually moist, sometimes wet, but are never dry.

More-poorly-drained soils developed on less-sloping areas or areas with impermeable soil materials. These soils have deep accumulations of organic matter and range from scrubby, forested wetlands to open muskeg.

Alpine soils, generally above 2,000 feet elevation, are mostly shallow, very wet organic soils or are extremely shallow and rocky. Estuary soils are found within the Anan Bay Lagoon area.

**(c) Vegetation:** Alpine vegetation (mapped as 346 acres) dominates above 2,500 feet elevations. Below that elevation, there are extensive areas of muskeg and scrub lodgepole pine. Less than 100 acres of muskeg are mapped for the area; however, due to their small size and association with forested sites, accurate acreage estimates are difficult. Hillsides and steeper slopes with better drainage are heavily forested with Sitka spruce and lesser amounts of western hemlock.

There are approximately 33,282 acres mapped as forest land of which 16,018 acres (48 percent) are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, 6,892 acres (43 percent) are mapped as high-volume old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 41 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There are about 21 acres of second-growth forest mapped in this area where timber harvest has occurred in the past.

**(d) Fish Resources:** Fish resources were rated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in its Forest Habitat Integrity Program (1983). These ratings describe the value of VCU for sport fish, commercial fish, and estuaries. The one VCU for this area, 522, is rated high for both sport and commercial values. The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) listed this VCU as a primary producer of pink salmon and sportfish.

Anan Creek produces the most pink salmon of any stream on the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts. Coho salmon and steelhead trout are also abundant, and the stream produces sockeye, chinook, pink, and chum salmon, as well as cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char. The Anadromous Waters Catalogue and Atlas (ADF&G, 2000) indicates that Boulder Lake provides habitat for coho salmon and Dolly Varden char.

**(e) Wildlife Resources:** The area has the largest concentration of black bears in Southeast Alaska. Brown bears are also present, along with Sitka black-tailed deer, wolves, beaver, marten, river otter, and mountain goat. Northern goshawk, marbled murrelets, and bald eagles inhabit the area. Bald eagles nest in the area, and gulls, ravens, and crows concentrate here due to the fish runs. Moose have not been reported in this area. Well used bear trails occur throughout the area, but are noteworthy along the southern portion of the Canal Old-Growth Reserve.

**(5) Management Direction and Current Uses:** The area was allocated to three Land Use Designations (LUDs) under the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These three LUDs are Transportation and Utility System (TUS), LUD II, and LUD II/Wild and Scenic River. The TUS LUD is a secondary LUD that overlays the other land uses.

<b>LUD</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Transportation and Utility Systems	NA
LUD II (including LUD II/Wild and Scenic River)	38,162

Only one development LUD overlay was allocated to the roadless area. The Transportation and Utility Systems LUD overlay was assigned to the potential power transmission corridor that runs east to west through the center of the roadless area.

In 1990, the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) designated the entire Anan Roadless Area to Land Use Designation II (LUD II) to be managed for primitive and semi-primitive roadless recreation. In the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan, Anan Creek (including Anan and Boulder Lake) and its East Fork were also allocated to the LUD II/Wild and Scenic River LUD. This accounts for approximately 19 percent of the roadless area and is managed under both LUD II and Wild and Scenic River. The LUD II/Wild and Scenic River LUD represents 0.5 river mile allocated as Scenic River LUD at the mouth of Anan Creek and 17.5 river miles allocated as Wild River LUD; these will be recommended for inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The area at the mouth of Anan Creek receives heavy use by people who come to fish, and observe the wildlife. An anchorage, frequently used by outfitters/guides, is found off the mouth of the creek. The Anan Creek drainage within 1 mile of Anan Creek downstream from the mouth of Anan Lake, including the area within a 1-mile radius from the mouth of Anan Creek Lagoon, is closed to taking black and brown bear. In the area near the mouth of Anan Creek, there is one public recreation cabin, an administrative site for seasonal interpreters, and a wildlife observatory deck and shelter. The trail from the recreation cabin to the observatory is approximately 1 mile in length and receives annual maintenance due to the high concentration of visitors in the summer season. Approximately 2,500 people visit the site from late June to early September every year to view the wildlife in the area. Nineteen outfitter/guides used the roadless area in 2000, for a total of 829 service days. There is also a public recreation cabin at Anan Lake, which is accessible only by float plane. Visitors using the Anan Lake Cabin do not have access to the more developed site at the mouth of Anan Creek.

Salmon have been gathered from this area for subsistence use in the past. A fish ladder in a tunnel beneath the wildlife observatory is managed by the ADF&G. Sealaska Corporation owns two small parcels near the mouth of Anan Creek. These are managed for cultural purposes; no timber harvest is permitted.

**(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness):** Most of the area appears natural and unmodified. However, the area at the mouth of Anan Creek contains cabins, a mooring float in Anan Bay, a trail, a wildlife observatory deck, and a fishpass. A public recreation cabin is also located at Anan Lake. All facilities are constructed of natural materials, blending well with the surroundings. A 138 KV power transmission line was constructed along the northern eastern edge of the area, affecting the naturalness of that portion of the roadless area, especially to people entering the area from Ernest Sound and Bradfield Canal.

**(7) Surroundings (External Influences):** The area is part of a much larger unroaded area on the Cleveland Peninsula and the mainland. Inventoried Roadless Areas border three sides of this area, with the Bradfield Canal to the north. Low-flying aircraft accessing the Tye power site, or landing on one of the lakes or in the outer bay, are not uncommon. Boats passing close by or anchored in Anan Bay may also be observed by users near the mouth of the creek. The powerline runs east through the northeastern corner of the area and into Roadless Area 207, directly to the east. Sealaska Corporation owns two small parcels near the mouth of Anan Creek. These are managed for cultural purposes. No timber harvest is allowed. The State manages the fishpass and cooperates with the Forest Service in providing for public viewing.

**(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest:** Many attractions and features are present. They include the opportunity to fish for, and observe, pink salmon and steelhead moving over a waterfall; observing black bears, eagles, gulls, seals, and occasional brown bears feeding on the salmon; hiking the trails; enjoying the scenery; and overnighting in the cabin. The Forest Service constructed a stairway from the wildlife deck to a platform, originally part of the State's fishpass structure, in 1999. The State has allowed a viewing blind to be constructed on the

## Appendix C

fishpass platform at the creek's edge to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities. The area contains four inventoried recreation places that cover 3,025 acres, or 8 percent of the roadless area.

The large salmon runs attract the concentrations of black and brown bear and other wildlife, which in turn contribute highly to its recreation values. Commercial guides are allowed to provide up to 1,200 service days per year for public viewing at the lower falls. Non-commercial visitors are not limited at this time. Total visitor use is approximately 2,500 during the time the site is staffed by Forest Service interpreters (late June through early September). Site use outside the staffed season is not recorded, but presumed to be low. A Forest Order is in effect between June 15 and September 15 annually, which prohibits dogs, food, and camping during this time and requires visitors to stay on the main trail between the public recreation cabin and the observatory deck. No visits are allowed to the upper falls during this time.

**(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary:** A small area north of the powerline, as well as, the area within the powerline right-of-way, were part of the original roadless area. The boundary is now the southern limit of the right-of-way. Dropping the powerline from the roadless area enhances the suitability of the remaining area for wilderness. There have been no other boundary changes since the 1989 analysis.

### II. Capability of Management as Wilderness

**(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness:** Except for the developed visitor and administrative facilities, the fishpass at the falls near saltwater, and the cabin site at Anan Lake, the area has not been modified. Continued public demand will likely decrease the high degree of natural integrity in the area between the lagoon and the lower falls. The roadless area is part of a larger roadless area, which is adjacent to the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness. The area's appearance contributes to its suitability for wilderness classification.

**(2) Opportunity for Solitude and Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation:** There is low opportunity for solitude in the bay. Opportunity increases as one moves away from the mouth of the creek, or in the off season. Boats or airplanes entering Anan Bay or airplanes landing on the lakes may commonly be observed by people in this roadless area, but such influences are not widespread. Because of the large expanse of adjacent roadless areas, the Anan Roadless Area still offers very high opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Present recreation use levels are low except around the mouth of the creek and at the cabin, which has high use. Generally, a person camped or traveling inland is unlikely to see others. The character of the landforms generally allows the visitor to feel remote from the sights and sounds of human activity. The area is accessible by boat from the community of Wrangell in less than 2 hours, and from Ketchikan in approximately 6 hours. Because floatplanes can access a number of lakes inside the area, it is not as remote as some nearby areas.

Travel on land is difficult, offering a high degree of physical challenge. As with all backcountry areas on the Tongass, the opportunity for challenge and risk in this area is high. The climate, the rugged terrain, the isolation and distance from population centers with medical facilities, the barriers to communication, and the presence of large wild animals all contribute to the need for good preparation and knowledge of backcountry survival skills for anyone using this area. Hypothermia and bear encounters are just two examples of the many risks that must be considered before traveling in the backcountry of Southeast Alaska.

The area provides primarily 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)	33,783	89%
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	2,861	7%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	1,358	4%
Roaded Modified (RM)	113	0%

The area contains four inventoried recreation places that cover 3,025 acres, or 8 percent of the roadless area.

<b>ROS Class</b>	<b># of Rec. Places*</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>
P	2	1,970
SPNM	1	648
SPM	1	390
RM	1	17

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

The area at the mouth of Anan Creek receives heavy use by people who come to fish and observe the wildlife. An anchorage, frequently used by outfitter guides, is found off the mouth of the creek. Nineteen outfitter/guides used the area in 2000. The recreation cabins, wildlife observatory, and trails have been improved and provide access within the 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 Anan Roadless Area was given a rating of 23 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 22. This rating reflects the degree of developments for wildlife viewing and recreation use in the area.

**(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values:**

**(a) Fish Resources:** The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) listed this VCU (522) as a primary producer of salmon and sport fish.

Anan Creek has been identified as one of the highest value freshwater habitats in the Wrangell Ranger District. Anan Creek produces the most pink salmon of any stream on the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts and is considered world class in terms of pink salmon production. Average annual peak escapement is 159,000. Coho salmon and steelhead trout are also abundant, and the stream produces all five species of Pacific salmon, as well as cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char. Anan Creek has increased in popularity with sport fishermen. There are Forest Service recreation cabins at Anan Bay and Anan Lake. The State of Alaska constructed a fish pass to help pink salmon over a partial barrier, but it has not been in use for many years. This creek is listed by the ADF&G as one of 19 High Quality watersheds in Southeast Alaska. Information from the Anadromous Waters Catalogue and Atlas (ADF&G, 2000) indicates that coho salmon and Dolly Varden char inhabit Boulder Lake.

**(b) Wildlife Resources:** The area has the largest concentration of black bears in Southeast Alaska. Brown bears are also present, along with Sitka black-tailed deer, wolves, marten, river otter, and mountain goat. Beaver are also abundant and a series of beaver ponds and channels are found above the falls of Anan Creek. Northern goshawk and marbled murrelets may be found here. In 1989, nine bald eagle nests were mapped in the area, and gulls, ravens, and crows concentrate here due to the fish runs. Information from the Canal Hoya Timber Sale EIS (USDA Forest Service, 1998) indicated high levels of use by many old-growth dependent species. Moose have not been reported from this area. Mountain goats are hunted in the Anan and Boulder Lakes vicinity.

The beach fringe is believed to be an important east-west travel corridor and is marked by extensive game trails. Well-used bear trails occur throughout the area but are noteworthy along the southern portion of the Canal Old-Growth Reserve. A low elevation, partially forested pass extends from Upper Hoya, through the Canal VCU and to the upper East Fork of Anan Creek.

## Appendix C

**(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. Goshawks have been seen in this roadless area. In addition, eight sensitive plant species are known or suspected to occur in the Wrangell Ranger District.

**(d) Karst, Cave, and Other Geologic Resources:** There are no karst or cave resources in this roadless area. There are no glaciers in this area. A salt chuck is present at the mouth of Anan Creek.

**(5) Scientific and Educational Values:** There are numerous opportunities to observe and study fish and wildlife, all within a small, easily-accessible area. Approximately 3,000 people visit the area each year. The pink salmon run is the largest run of pinks in any river on the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts.

**(6) Scenic Values:** Most of the area appears natural and unmodified. However, the area at the mouth of Anan Creek contains cabins, trails, a wildlife observatory, and fishpass. All facilities are constructed of natural materials, blending well with the surroundings. A mooring float for the Anan Bay public recreation cabin is also located within Anan Bay. The scale and concentration of the facilities reduces the natural character of the Anan Bay area. A cabin site is also located at Anan Lake. A 138 KV power transmission line crosses the northernmost edge of the area and is not evident to the visitor except at its marine terminus located at the water's edge. At this point, the powerline is evident as one approaches the bay from the north.

Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan, that are within or adjacent to the area include: Bradfield Canal and Ernest Sound, both marine travel routes; Anan Bay, a saltwater use area and boat anchorage; Anan Bay and Anan Lake Forest Service Cabins; Anan Bay Hiking Trails #448 and #557; Anan Creek, which is recommended as a Wild (17.5 miles) and Scenic (0.5 mile) River; and Anan and Boulder Lakes, for dispersed recreation.

About 23 percent of this roadless area is inventoried as Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type). Twenty-nine percent of the area is inventoried as Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type) and the remaining 48 percent is inventoried as Variety Class C (possessing a low degree of landscape diversity).

The majority of this roadless area, 98 percent, has an Existing Visual Condition (EVC) Type I, where only ecological change appears to have occurred on the landscape. One percent of the area has an EVC Type III, where changes in the landscape are noticed by the average forest visitor, but the natural landscape remains dominant. The remaining 1 percent of the area has an EVC IV, where alterations to the landscape are obvious but tend to blend with natural landscape features.

**(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values:** The roadless area is approximately 25 miles southeast of Wrangell. The area was inhabited by the Tlingit in prehistoric times. Several cultural sites are known. In 1984, a 138 KV power transmission line was constructed along the northeast edge of the area. The strong salmon runs have been an important commercial resource. Fish enhancement and recreation facilities have been developed in the area. The lower part of Anan Creek, from the lagoon to the lower falls, is a major tourist attraction, which draws visitors from throughout the world. There is limited subsistence use of the area. The VCU that covers this area was not listed among the VCUs with the highest sensitivity to disturbance of subsistence use areas or highest community use value (ADF&G, 1998).

**(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes:** The area is located on the mainland and is part of a much larger roadless area. It is bounded on the east and northeast by the Harding Roadless Area (207), on the west and southwest by the Frosty Roadless Area (210), on the south and southeast by North Cleveland

Roadless Area (529), and on the north by Ernest Sound and Bradfield Canal. These areas are adjacent to other roadless areas and to the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness to the southwest and to the Stikine-Leconte Wilderness to the northwest. However, much of the adjacent area to the east and west is currently allocated to LUDs that allow timber harvest and road building. The Canal Hoya Final EIS authorizes road construction and timber harvest in the portion of the Harding Roadless Area found south of Bradfield Canal, which is immediately to the east of the Anan Roadless Area.

The area is well defined by topographic features. Entry into the area is largely restricted to the single location at the mouth of Anan Creek. However, there are a number of other entry opportunities by floatplane or helicopter.

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

**(1) Recreation, Including Tourism Potential:** There is potential for additional outfitter and guide permits and for developed trails and additional cabins or shelters, as well as for further improvements to existing facilities for barrier-free access. This is dependent on the level of development and recreation experience desired at the Anan Bay area. There is also potential to provide barrier-free access to the Anan Wildlife Observatory. Nineteen outfitter/guides used the roadless area in 2,000, for a total of 829 service days. This is well below the 1,200 service days per year limit for commercial use set in the Anan Standards EA and Decision Notice (1996). The non-commercial visitor numbers are not currently limited, but are also below the desired amount identified by the Decision Notice (3,000 per year).

In 1996, the Alaska Visitors Association (AVA) proposed the following recreation developments for Anan Creek: a day use wildlife observatory with capacity for 50 persons per day and an overnight wildlife observatory for 50 persons. However, monitoring indicates that more than 20 visitors at a time may reduce the number of viewable bears using the lower falls (Anan Management Standards Decision, Changed Condition Analysis, 2000).

**(2) Subsistence Uses:** The existing patterns of subsistence activities in the area would not be affected by wilderness designation or management in an unroaded condition.

**(3) Fish Resources:** The State of Alaska constructed a fish pass below the wildlife observatory deck on Anan Creek in 1977 to help pink salmon over a partial barrier, but this pass has not been used for many years, with no plans for actual use as a fishpass structure in the future. No other fish habitat enhancements are planned.

**(4) Wildlife Resources:** No wildlife habitat improvement projects are planned in the area. Public demand to observe the black and brown bear concentrations has increased dramatically in the past few years. However, monitoring indicates that the current level of use is not adversely affecting the bears (Anan Management Standards Decision, Changed Condition Analysis, 2000).

**(5) Timber Resources:** There are approximately 16,018 acres mapped as productive old growth in the roadless area. In addition, 21 acres of second growth have resulted from beach logging. None of these acres are categorized as tentatively suitable for timber production, because of the Congressional designation of this area. Thus, no timber sale projects are planned for this area.

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

**(7) Minerals:** The roadless area contains an estimated 1,326 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. There are no known mining claims in this area. Neither the U.S. Bureau of Land Management nor the USGS list this area as having potential for mineral development.

**(8) Transportation and Utilities:** The area is managed for its roadless character under the 1997 Forest Plan ROD and due to its Congressional designation. No roads are planned or are likely to be planned.

## Appendix C

- (9) **Water Availability and Use:** Developed recreation and administrative facilities create water demand within this roadless area. There are no existing or planned hydroelectric or domestic water projects.
- (10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** The area contains no designated Research Natural Areas. An area was previously recommended as an "other recommended Research Natural Area," and not as a priority area.
- (11) **Land Use Authorizations:** The 138 KV Tyee power transmission line crosses the northeastern edge of the area. An Alaska Native historic site has been selected in the Anan Bay area. It is managed to protect the cultural values of the site. Several outfitter guides operate frequently in the Bay area.
- (12) **Land Status:** The entire roadless area is National Forest System land.

### IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

#### (1) **Public and Congressional Interest:**

- (a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** Many local people from Wrangell, Petersburg, and Ketchikan visit the area during the salmon run, and often take visitors there to observe the wildlife.
- (b) **Congressional Interest:** In 1990, the Anan Roadless Area was designated Land Use Designation (LUD) II in the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA). In 1989, U.S. House of Representatives Bill HR 987 proposed to designate 23 areas as wilderness on the Tongass National Forest, including the Anan Roadless Area. The final wilderness legislation did not designate this area as wilderness but it did designate it as LUD II, to be managed in a unroaded condition. In 2001, HR 2908 did not propose this area for wilderness either, but it did propose that it remain a Congressionally Designated LUD II area to be managed in an unroaded condition.
- (c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revision and Appeals:** The Alaska Visitors Association (AVA) proposed the following recreation developments for Anan Creek: a day use wildlife observatory with capacity for 50 persons per day and an overnight wildlife observatory for 50 persons. Other comments were against roads or a transportation corridor in the roadless area.
- (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 Forest Plan revision appeals. 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:** Anan bears are an important economic resource for Southeast Alaska (including guided tours to view the bears). Anan Creek is the best, or one of the best, places to view both brown and black bears feeding on fish together. Both populations would be adversely affected by roads and logging.
- (f) **Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process:** The U.S. Department of the Interior identified this roadless area as one of the 13 roadless areas they considered to have outstanding fish and wildlife values. They indicated that, along with three other roadless areas that form the Cleveland Peninsula, it serves as a corridor for many mainland species to colonize the archipelago of Southeast Alaska. They also indicated that protection of this area, in combination with the Harding (#207) and North Cleveland (#529) Roadless Areas, would conserve valuable remaining undisturbed forested habitats on the mainland of southeast Alaska. Large tracts of undisturbed wilderness are necessary to support the bear densities in the region because there is a hierarchy amongst bears, and between species of bears. They commented that the important wildlife values provided by this area warrant management that ensures the long-term integrity of its habitats, ecosystem processes, and ecological functions.

In comments relative to the 1997 Forest Plan, the Governor of Alaska recommended that logging and construction of logging roads be avoided in important public interest areas such as the Cleveland Peninsula

(most of RA# 528, 529, 209, and 210). This comment was reiterated by the Governor in scoping comments regarding the SEIS and in comments by the Division of Governmental Coordination on the Draft SEIS.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommended permanent roadless status for the Cleveland Peninsula in their comments on the Draft SEIS.

The city of Petersburg said they were opposed to designation of this area as wilderness because of the potential long-term economic impacts on the city.

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.

The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) identified Roadless Areas 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 528, and 529 as a contiguous complex of roadless areas that should be considered one roadless area and recommended it for permanent protection as LUD II. SEACC identified the Anan roadless area as part of the Cleveland Peninsula, which includes Roadless Areas 209, 210, 528, and 529. They recommend this entire area as LUD II.

Many individual commenters identified the Cleveland Peninsula as an area in need of protection. Some individuals recommended this area for permanent protection as wilderness.

**(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses:** The Anan area is part of a larger mainland unroaded land mass that is located between the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness on the northwest, the roadless Canadian mountains to the north, and Misty Fiords National Monument on the southeast. The mainland areas receive light use inland away from saltwater access.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	40	75
Wrangell (Pop. 2,308)	25	35
Petersburg (Pop. 3,224)	60	65
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	175	185

Wrangell is the nearest stop on the Alaska Marine Highway and the "gateway" to this area.

**(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System:** The Anan Roadless Area is located 25 miles southeast of Wrangell on the mainland (at the north end of the Cleveland Peninsula), and is bounded on the east by the Harding Roadless Area (207), on the west by the Frosty Roadless Area (210), on the south and southeast by North Cleveland Roadless Area (529), and on the north by Ernest Sound. The area is generally characterized as complex terrain, dominated by rounded mountains and hills, many of which reach elevations of over 2,000 feet. The tallest is over 3,000 feet. Between the mountains are deep, narrow valleys containing two forks of Anan Creek and two long, narrow lakes. Several smaller lakes exist near the headwaters and numerous small cirque lakes occur in the alpine.

The roadless area is mostly unmodified; however, it is influenced by the developments associated with Anan Bay and the Anan Wildlife Observatory and their very high recreation uses. The area has high natural integrity and apparent naturalness. The opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation is rated very high, especially when one is away from the Anan Bay area.

Approximately 23 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery standpoint. The lower part of Anan Creek, from the lagoon to the lower falls, is a major tourist attraction, which draws visitors from throughout the world. The primary attraction here is to observe the high concentration of black and brown bears feeding on the large runs of fish. The salt chuck at Anan Bay also provides rich fish and wildlife habitats. This roadless area was designated by Congress as LUD II in 1990.

## Appendix C

The roadless area includes about 6,892 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 41 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Anan Roadless Area is classified as being in the Revilla Island/Cleveland Peninsula Biogeographic Province and makes up about 3 percent of the province. It is one of 12 inventoried roadless areas found within the province that collectively make up about 60 percent of the province. Part of the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness is located in this province and makes up about 18 percent of the province. The province also includes two Congressional designated LUD II areas (Naha and Anan) which make up about 5 percent of the province.

The Anan Roadless Area lies completely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section and represents 1 percent of the ecological section. Approximately 20 percent of the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section is in existing wilderness, with an additional 2 percent in existing LUD II and 30 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs.

The majority (81 percent) of the roadless area is in the Bell Island Granitics Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 9 percent of the entire ecological subsection, 14 percent of which is in existing wilderness, 9 percent in LUD II, and is well represented by other existing non-development LUDs (57 percent). The balance (19 percent) of this roadless area is within the Eastern Passage Complex Ecological Subsection; this portion of the roadless area represents 3 percent of the entire ecological subsection. Approximately 23 percent of this ecological subsection is in existing wilderness, 3 percent is in existing LUD II, and an additional 29 percent is protected by other existing non-development LUDs.

The Anan Roadless Area was rated 22 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 38th from the highest (along with 8 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is considerable local and national support for management of the area in an unroaded condition, but little support for designation of the area as wilderness. Designation would create a wilderness that includes the Anan Observatory and the high visitor use associated with it. This level of use would not likely be consistent with wilderness objectives. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be moderate.

### **V. Environmental Consequences**

The Anan Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 3, 4, or 6 is implemented. All of the roadless area would be managed under LUD II, a non-development LUD, which provides long-term protection of the natural setting related values of the area while allowing compatible recreation uses. The roadless area contains an estimated 1,326 acres of undiscovered locatable mineral resources; all of these acres are considered to have low potential for development. The recreation, minerals, and special use programs would continue.

Under Alternative 2, 5, 7, or 8, the entire area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness, which would provide long-term protection of the natural setting related values of the area. The ongoing recreation, minerals, and special uses programs could be restricted. Mineral prospecting would be allowed up to the time that the area is actually designated as wilderness by Congress.

## Appendix C

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 209 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness		38,162			38,162		38,162	38,162
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								
Semi-remote Recreation								
Recommended LUD II								
LUD II	38,162		38,162	38,162		38,162		
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed								
Modified Landscape								
Timber Production								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,162</b>	<b>38,162</b>	<b>38,162</b>	<b>38,162</b>	<b>38,162</b>	<b>38,162</b>	<b>38,162</b>	<b>38,162</b>
Suitable Timber Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0