

INDIVIDUAL ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTION

ROADLESS AREA NAME: Woronkofski (231)

ACRES (NFS): 12,932

BIOGEOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Etolin Island and Vicinity

ECOLOGICAL SECTION: Inside Passage Fjordlands

2003 WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTE RATING: 20

I. Overview and Description

(1) **Location and Access:** The area is located on Woronkofski Island, which is bounded by Stikine Strait on the west, Zimovia Strait on the east, Sumner Strait to the north, and Chichagof Pass to the south. The city of Wrangell lies approximately 5 miles to the northeast, and is served by the Alaska Marine Highway and jet service. The roadless area encompasses the entire island with the exception of areas on the northwest and northeast sides of the island. Harvest activities and road building have occurred along the two major drainage channels on the northwest side of the island. An electric transmission line runs along the northeast shoreline of the island. Both of these areas are excluded from the roadless area. There are no sites on the roadless area suitable for landing wheeled aircraft. A small road system that is overgrown with alder exists on the island. The island is accessible from saltwater by boat or floatplane and several moorage sites exist. The logging roads on the northwest side of the island lead close to the boundaries of the roadless area, but they are inaccessible to all but foot traffic.

(2) **History:** The island was apparently used by several groups of the Stikine Tlingit as a hunting and fishing area. Hunting and/or trapping occurred on the north and south sides of the island, with shellfishing taking place in Circle Bay (Goldschmidt and Haas, 1998). They harvested deer, salmon, clams, seaweed, cockles, and mussels. Tlingit fort sites are believed to have been located on the north and south ends of the island. A cemetery is believed to have been located on the west side of the island (Goldschmidt and Haas, 1998). Several gold mine claims were made in 1900 at Paradise Cove and in Sunrise Cove near Elephants Nose, a prominent rocky feature on the north side of the island at the edge of the roadless area. Beach logging has occurred at a number of sites around the island, timber harvest and road development took place in the two drainages (Sunrise Creek and Ancon Creek) on the northwest side of the island in the 1960s, and the Tyee powerline was built along the north and northeast sides of the island in 1983.

(3) **Geography and Topography:** The area is generally characterized by steeply rising mountains reaching elevations of over 2,000 feet. The tallest, Mount Woronkofski, is over 3,200 feet in elevation. Also included in this area is about 163 acres in alpine. Two drainages originating in glacial cirques flow to the north. Freshwater lakes, including Sunrise Lake, centrally located within the northern portion of the island, make up about 55 acres. Elephants Nose is a prominent rocky feature on the north side of the area. The roadless area includes approximately 19 miles of saltwater shoreline. There are no ice or rock features mapped in this area.

(4) **Ecosystem:**

(a) **Classification:** Biogeographic Province. The area is in the Etolin Island and Vicinity Biogeographic Province. This province is generally subject to continental influence from the mainland and the Stikine River. Glacial flour is present in the marine environment in the northern part of this province nearly year round. All forest plant associations except those occurring only on outer coast areas are present. There are no unique or uncommon plant/soil associations or geologic formations in the area.

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Ecological Section/Subsection. The Woronkofski Roadless Area is contained entirely within the Inside Passage Fjordlands Ecological Section (M247E), Zimovia Strait Complex Ecological Subsection (see table below). Stratified sedimentary rock and volcanic intrusions lie beneath broad glacial valleys and rounded hills. Roughly half of the Zimovia Strait Complex Ecological Subsection includes mineral soils supporting productive hemlock forests with occasional stands of cedar or Sitka spruce (Nowacki et al., 2001).

Ecological Section	Ecological Subsection	Percent of Roadless Area
Inside Passage Fjordlands	Zimovia Strait Complex	100%

(b) Soils: Soils in this area are formed in a wide variety of parent materials, 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 and/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.

(c) Vegetation: Alpine vegetation (mapped as 163 acres) dominates above 2,500 feet elevation. The valley floors and poorly-drained areas between hills are generally covered with muskeg and scrub lodgepole pine. Steeper, more-well-drained hillsides support heavy stands of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, redcedar, and Alaska cedar.

There are approximately 12,277 acres mapped as forest land, of which 6,628 acres or 54 percent are mapped as productive old-growth forest. Of the productive old growth, approximately 3,476 acres or 52 percent are mapped as high-volume, old-growth forest. The productive old growth includes about 648 acres of high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. There are approximately 586 acres of second-growth forest where beach logging has occurred.

(d) Fish Resources: Coho salmon are thought to rear along the northeast shore of the island while pink and chum use the estuary along the south shore. Only a few short streams occur on the island. The Anadromous Waters Catalogue and Atlas (Alaska Department of Fish and Game [ADF&G], 1998) shows one unnamed stream as providing habitat for coho salmon. In general, the fish habitat on the island is low to moderate value from a regional perspective. Stikine River king salmon school in saltwater along the northwest shore in the spring.

(e) Wildlife Resources: Important species in this area include Sitka black-tailed deer and black bear.

(f) Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species: The area contains no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

(5) Management Direction and Current Uses: The area was allocated to two Land Use Designations (LUDs) under the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These two LUDs are Scenic Viewshed and Old-growth Habitat.

LUD	Acres
Scenic Viewshed	11,567
Old-growth Habitat	1,365

The majority of this roadless area, approximately 89 percent, was allocated to one development LUD. Scenic Viewshed is this widely allocated development LUD.

Approximately 11 percent of the area was allocated to one non-development LUD, Old-growth Habitat. This LUD is located in a small area on the south side of the island.

Harvest activities and road building have occurred along Sunrise Creek and Ancon Creek, the two major drainage channels on the northwest side of the island. The powerline from the Tyee hydroelectric project runs along the northeast shoreline of the island, as it connects Wrangell and Petersburg. The City of Wrangell was permitted to install and monitor stream gauges for investigation of a hydroelectric and drinking water project using Sunrise Lake as the water source. The city holds a preliminary permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the potential hydroelectric project. A-frame style beach logging occurred in the 1960s in areas on the northwest and southeast sides of the island.

The saltwater bodies surrounding the island receive moderately-heavy use by commercial and pleasure boats. The Alaska Marine Highway passes within one-half mile along the west and north sides of the roadless area. The shoreline receives moderate recreation use. There has been considerable subsistence use in the area. This roadless area accounted for greater than 15 percent of average annual Wrangell deer harvest between 1987 and 1994.

(6) Appearance (Apparent Naturalness): Overall, the area has high scenic quality with a natural appearing landscape and provides spectacular scenery from the surrounding saltwater areas. Harvest areas are located on the northeast, northwest, and southeast sides of the area and it is possible to see harvested areas, roads, and the transmission line from some locations within the area and from some marine locations. It is also possible to see some developments on Wrangell Island in the distance, from the northeast side of the island.

(7) Surroundings: The area is located on Woronkofski Island. Sights and sounds from the city of Wrangell are also apparent from some locations. Boats plying the adjacent saltwater may be visible from within parts of the area, but usually are not intrusive. The Alaska Marine Highway passes within one-half mile along the west and north sides of the roadless area. A Transportation and Utility System LUD is located along the northeast edge of the island and coincides with the existing utility corridor there.

(8) Attractions and Features of Special Interest: Elephants Nose is a prominent rocky feature on the north end of the island at the edge of the roadless area. There are three small subalpine lakes, including Sunrise Lake. Saltwater fishing is popular off the northern portion of the island. The area contains six inventoried recreation places, which cover 2,129 acres, or 16 percent of the roadless area. There are no improved trails in the area.

(9) Differences between the 1989 and 2003 Roadless Area Boundary: The 2003 roadless area boundary excludes those areas of Woronkofski Island where development and road-related timber harvest has occurred. The same general areas were excluded from the 1989 roadless area. However, the boundaries of these excluded areas are more closely defined in the 2003 area. Areas on the northwest and southeast sides of the island that have been beach logged were excluded from the 1989 Woronkofski Roadless Area. These areas are within the revised 2003 boundaries.

II. Capability for Management as Wilderness

(1) Natural Integrity and Apparent Naturalness: The majority of this roadless area (85 percent) is natural appearing, where only ecological and geological change has occurred. However, harvest activities and road building have occurred within the two largest drainages on the northwest side of the island and the Tyee powerline was constructed along the northeast shore of the island. Although these areas are excluded from the Woronkofski Roadless Area, they both affect it. The core of the island is the roadless area, but the roads that follow Sunrise Creek and Ancon Creek on the northwest side of the island extend into this core. Beach logging has occurred in areas on the northwest and southeast sides of the island. In other portions of this roadless area, natural integrity and apparent naturalness is high.

(2) Opportunity for Solitude, Serenity, Self-reliance, Adventure, Challenging Experiences, and Primitive Recreation: There is a moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation within the area, especially after one has gone a short distance inland from the shoreline. The character of the area generally allows the visitor to feel

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remote from the sights and sounds of human activity. Present recreation use levels are low except at the mouths of some streams. Generally, a person camped or traveling inland is likely to only occasionally see others.

Travel within the area is not especially challenging, requiring only moderate woods skills and experience. The presence of black bears, especially around salmon streams in the fall, does present a degree of challenge and a need for caution.

The area provides primarily semi-primitive recreation opportunities. The table below lists the acreage and percent of the various Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes that have been inventoried in the roadless area.

ROS Class	Acres	Percent of Total ROS
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	3,140	24%
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	7,590	59%
Roaded Modified (RM)	2,202	17%

The area contains six inventoried recreation places, which cover 2,129 acres, or 16 percent of the roadless area.

ROS Class	# of Rec. Places*	Total Acres
SPNM	0	0
SPM	3	1,356
RM	4	773

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

The area is accessible by boat from the community of Wrangell in less than one-half hour and from Ketchikan in approximately 7 hours. Visitors from Wrangell sometimes access portions of the roadless area by foot.

(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 Woronkofski Roadless Area was given a rating of 22 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 20. This rating reflects the current degree of development and ongoing activities, and their effects on the attributes of the area.

(4) Ecologic and Geologic Values: The majority of the roadless area is forested, with areas of old growth concentrated in lower elevation areas around the perimeter. The area encompasses all of Woronkofski Island with the exception of two relatively small areas on the northwest and northeast sides of the island.

(a) Fish Resources: The Tongass Fish and Wildlife Resource Assessment (ADF&G, 1998) does not identify this VCU as a primary salmon or sport fish producer.

Coho salmon are thought to rear along the northeast shore of the island while pink and chum use the estuary along the south shore. Only a few short streams occur on the island. The Anadromous Waters Catalogue and Atlas (ADF&G, 1998) shows one unnamed stream as providing habitat for coho salmon. In general, the fish habitat on the island is low to moderate value from a regional perspective. Stikine River king salmon school in saltwater along the northwest shore in the spring.

(b) Wildlife Resources: Important species in this area include Sitka black-tailed deer and black bear. Other species include river otter, marten, beaver, bald eagle, and marbled murrelets. High volume old-growth habitats occur near the shoreline, particularly along the southeast shore.

(c) Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species: The only federally listed threatened and 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. Four Forest Service Region 10 Sensitive Species are suspected or known to occur within the area: the trumpeter swan, osprey, Peale's peregrine falcon, and the Queen Charlotte goshawk. Trumpeter swans nest in the lowlands on small lakes and along major rivers and winter in ice-free areas throughout the Tongass. Present from April through September, ospreys are rare in Southeast Alaska where they reach the northern extent of their nesting range. Feeding almost exclusively on fish, ospreys typically nest in large snags near lakes or the coast where fish are abundant. Peale's peregrine falcons nest on cliff faces and islands and feed primarily on seabirds. Inhabitants of late seral forests, Queen Charlotte goshawks are closely associated with productive old growth. In addition, eight sensitive plant species are known or suspected to occur in the Wrangell Ranger District.

(d) Karst, Cave, and Other Geologic Resources: Elephants Nose is a prominent rocky feature on the northern end of the island. There are no known karst and cave resources in the area.

(5) Scientific and Educational Values: There are opportunities to observe and study wildlife. The area is relatively close to Wrangell (accessible by boat in less than 0.5 hour) and, therefore, is relatively accessible to school-age children.

(6) Scenic Values: The roadless area itself, is unmodified. Harvest areas are located on the northeast, northwest, and southeast sides of the area and it is possible to see harvested areas, roads, and the transmission line from some locations within the area. A person in a boat approaching the roadless area would see a combination of managed and natural scenery.

Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas identified by the Forest Plan, that are within or adjacent to the area include Stikine Strait, which is part of the Alaska Marine Highway and is also used by tour ships and Zimovia Strait and Chichagof Pass, which are both used by tour ships.

About 17 percent of this roadless area is inventoried as Variety Class A (possessing landscape diversity that is unique for the character type), and 83 percent is inventoried as Variety Class B (possessing landscape diversity that is common for the character type).

Much of the roadless area, 67 percent, has an Existing Visual Condition EVC Type I, where only ecological change has occurred on the landscape. Five percent of this roadless area is EVC Type III, where changes in the landscape are noticed by the average forest visitor, but the natural appearance of the landscape remains dominant. Twelve percent of the area is in EVC Type IV, where changes in the landscape are easily noticed by the average person, but resemble natural patterns. About 15 percent of the area has an EVC Type V, where changes in the landscape are obvious to the average person, and appear to be major disturbances.

(7) Social, Cultural, and Historical Values: The area is located approximately 5 miles southwest of Wrangell, which is the closest community. Wrangell is also the closest stop on the Alaska Marine Highway; Alaska State ferries pass within 1 mile of the west and north sides of the roadless area. The area contains six inventoried recreation places and is accessible by boat from Wrangell in less than one-half hour.

The island was apparently used by several groups of the Stikine Tlingit as a hunting and fishing area. They harvested deer, salmon, clams, seaweed, cockles, and mussels. Tlingit fort sites are believed to have been located on the north and south ends of the island. There was also a cemetery located near the shore on the southwest part of the island. Woronkofski Island accounted for more than 15 percent of Wrangell's annual average total deer harvest during 1987 to 1994, though deer harvest has greatly decreased on the island since 1994. This VCU (461) was not listed among the VCUs with highest community use value but was listed among the VCUs with the highest sensitivity to disturbance of subsistence areas (ADF&G, 1998).

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(8) Manageability as Wilderness and Boundary Conditions/Changes: The Woronkofski Roadless Area is generally defined by saltwater. However, a roaded area and the Tye powerline separate the roadless area from the shore along the northwest and northeast, respectively. Road construction and related harvest activities have occurred along two drainages on the northwest side of the island. As a result, this roadless area is irregularly shaped with the harvest units that follow the drainage channels extending a short distance into the core of the area. Manageability as wilderness is moderate.

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, developed trails, and cabins or shelters. This area, located less than 5 miles southwest of Wrangell, is relatively accessible by boat. As a result, there is also potential for use of off-road vehicles and snowmobiles if road systems were re-opened. The 1997 Stikine Area Recreation Use Carrying Capacity Report identified three recreation places in this roadless area with a combined total capacity of 168 net recreation visitor days (RVDs) for a managed season of use.

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

(3) Fish Resources: No fish habitat enhancement projects have been identified for this area.

(4) Wildlife Resources: As identified in the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan, amended 1985 to 1986, habitat improvement projects are planned in the area. These projects typically consist of thinning and planting.

(5) Timber Resources: There are approximately 6,628 acres mapped as productive old growth and 586 acres mapped as second growth due to harvest in the roadless area. Of these acres, 5,827 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), 2,216 acres or 17 percent of this roadless area are estimated to be suitable for timber production. Approximately 1,154 of the suitable acres are mapped as high-volume old growth; of these acres, 254 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Tongass National Forest 10-year action plan identifies a timber sale project on Woronkofski Island in 2005. The potential for managing timber in this roadless area is high. Roads could be extended from the existing system. However, a new log transfer facility would need to be constructed. There currently are no log transfer facilities on Woronkofski Island. Much of the area could be logged without constructing additional roads, by using helicopters and barges. Approximately 95 percent of this proposed sale would be in the roadless area.

(6) Fire, Insects, and Disease: The area has one stand on the southern shore of the island along Chichagof Pass that appears to be a fire-generated stand. Endemic tree diseases common to Southeast Alaska are present; there are no known epidemic disease occurrences.

(7) Minerals: The area generally has a low minerals rating and there are no known current claims. Several gold mine claims were made in 1900 in Sunrise Cove and Paradise Cove.

(8) Transportation and Utilities: There are no proposed transportation corridors within or adjacent to the area. The Tye powerline was built along the north and northeast sides of the island in 1983.

(9) Water Availability and Use: There are no developed recreation or other facilities located in this area. As a result, there is no demand for water for domestic use. The City of Wrangell was permitted to install and monitor stream gauges for investigation of a hydroelectric and drinking water project using Sunrise Lake as the water source. The city holds a preliminary permit from FERC for the potential hydroelectric project and an Initial Scoping Document has been issued. Data collection continues, but plans for development are on hold.

(10) **Areas of Scientific Interest:** The area does not contain any Research Natural Areas, and has not been identified for any other scientific value.

(11) **Land Use Authorizations:** The City of Wrangell has a special use permit to conduct hydrologic monitoring for a potential hydroelectric and drinking water project. A special use authorization exists for the Tyee Powerline, adjacent to the roadless area. Two lighthouse reservations exist; one is within the roadless area and one is in the roaded portion near the powerline.

(12) **Land Status:** The entire roadless area, including adjacent lands on the island, are National Forest System lands.

IV. Wilderness Evaluation (Need for Wilderness)

(1) Public and Congressional Interest

(a) **Interest Expressed by Local Users and Residents:** Most of the area use is by residents of Wrangell for recreation purposes. There has been no formal support for or opposition to maintaining this area in a roadless or wilderness condition.

(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 Woronkofski Roadless Area. In 2001, HR 2908 did not propose the area for wilderness, but did propose it to be classified as a Congressionally Designated LUD II area and managed in an unroaded condition.

(c) **Public Input During Forest Plan Revision and Appeals:** No specific recommendations for wilderness were made. The National Audubon Society and the Tongass Conservation Society identified Woronkofski Island as an important deer hunting area for Wrangell residents and requested that timber sales in Wildlife Analysis Area 1904 (Woronkofski and neighboring islands) be deferred indefinitely. These groups recommended that the area be allocated to primitive recreation.

Timber interests commented that, with the exception of some Scenic Viewshed or Modified Landscape areas along the ferry route, the area should be in timber production because harvest is more economical in already-developed areas.

Another commenting party recommended that the hydroelectric site at Sunrise Lake be allocated to the Transportation and Utility Systems LUD.

(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:** No project-level comments on this roadless area have been identified.

(f) **Public Input Expressed During Supplemental EIS Process:** 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.

SEACC recommended the remaining unlogged portions of Woronkofski, Zarembo, and North Etolin Islands be safeguarded through LUD II protection. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (a coalition of national and Alaska conservation groups) recommended Roadless Area 231 for permanent protection as LUD II.

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(2) Nearby Roadless and Wilderness Areas and Uses: The roadless area encompasses the entire island with the exception of areas on the northwest and northeast sides of the island. Harvest activities and road building have occurred along Sunrise and Ancon Creeks on the northwest side of the island. The Tyee powerline runs along the northeast shoreline of the island. The closest roadless area is the North Etolin Island Roadless Area, located to the south across Chichagof Pass from the Woronkofski Roadless Area. Roadless areas to the east and west are separated from the Woronkofski Roadless Area by water channels and areas of shoreline development. The nearest wildernesses are the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness, approximately 10 miles to the north, and the South Etolin Island Wilderness, approximately 15 miles to the south.

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

Community	Air Miles	Water Miles
Ketchikan (Pop. 14,070)	70	95
Wrangell (Pop. 2,308)	5	5
Petersburg (Pop. 3,224)	30	35
Juneau (Pop. 30,711)	150	155

Wrangell is the nearest stop on the Alaska Marine Highway.

(4) Relative Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System: The Woronkofski Roadless Area is located on Woronkofski Island, which is bounded by Stikine Strait on the west, Zimovia Strait on the east, Sumner Strait to the north, and Chichagof Pass to the south. The roadless area is generally characterized by steeply rising mountains reaching elevations of over 2,000 feet; the tallest is over 3,000 feet.

The area is mostly unmodified; however, it is influenced by developments, including the Tyee powerline, in adjacent areas. The natural integrity and apparent naturalness is very high for the area. The opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation is moderate.

Approximately 17 percent of the landscape is considered distinctive for the character type from a scenery standpoint. The area has high cultural and historic values.

The roadless area includes about 3,476 acres of high-volume, old-growth forest. Of these acres, 648 are mapped as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth.

The Woronkofski Roadless Area is classified as being in the Etolin Island and Vicinity Biogeographic Province and makes up about 2 percent of the province. It is one of 14 inventoried roadless areas found within the province that collectively make up about 54 percent of the province. The South Etolin Wilderness is located in this province and makes up about 16 percent of the province.

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

The Woronkofski Roadless Area lies completely within the Zimovia Strait Complex Ecological Subsection and represents 6 percent of the ecological subsection. Approximately 5 percent of the Zimovia Strait Complex Ecological Subsection is in existing wilderness and 26 percent is protected in other existing non-development LUDs.

The Woronkofski Roadless Area was rated 20 out of a possible 28 points under the Wilderness Attribute Rating System (WARS). As such, its WARS rating is ranked 53rd from the highest (along with 16 other roadless areas) among the 109 Tongass inventoried roadless areas.

There is both local and national support for management of the area in an unroaded condition, and little support for designation of the area as wilderness. Designation would create a wilderness that encompasses most of an island and other portions that are quite scenic. It would also include Sunrise Lake at which the City of Wrangell is

considering for hydroelectric generation. Overall, the factors identified here indicate that the relative contribution of this area to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be moderate to low.

V. Environmental Consequences

The Woronkofski Roadless Area would be managed under the existing Forest Plan if Alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 is implemented. Approximately 11 percent of the roadless area would be managed under non-development LUDs. Timber harvest and road development could occur in the remaining 89 percent. The land in the development LUDs provides an estimated 2,216 acres that are suitable for timber production (2 percent of the suitable acres on the Wrangell Ranger District). Approximately 254 of the suitable acres are classified as high-volume, coarse-canopy old growth. The planning for the City of Wrangell hydroelectric project at Sunrise Lake would continue. The timber sales, recreation, minerals, and special use programs would continue. The high cultural, historic and most of the scenic values of the roadless area are protected by the Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 6, the entire area would be converted to Recommended LUD II. The ongoing recreation, hydroelectric, minerals, and special use programs would continue similar to current conditions. No timber harvest would be allowed. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the cultural, historic and scenic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated LUD II.

Under Alternative 8, the entire roadless area would be converted to Recommended Wilderness. No timber harvest would be allowed and the ongoing recreation, hydroelectric, 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. The values associated with the natural settings of the roadless area, including the cultural, historic and scenic values, would be provided long-term protection if designated wilderness.

Land Use Designation Allocations and Suitable Timber Lands by Alternative for Roadless Area 231 (in acres)								
Land Use Designation	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 8
Recommended Wilderness								12,932
Wilderness								
Recommended Wilderness Nat. Mon.								
Wilderness National Monument								
Non-wilderness National Monument								
Research Natural Area								
Special Interest Area								
Remote Recreation								
Enacted Municipal Watershed								
Old-growth Habitat	1,365	1,365	1,365	1,365	1,365		1,365	
Semi-remote Recreation								
Recommended LUD II						12,932		
LUD II								
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River								
Experimental Forest								
Scenic Viewshed	11,567	11,567	11,567	11,567	11,567		11,567	
Modified Landscape								
Timber Production								
TOTAL	12,932	12,932	12,932	12,932	12,932	12,932	12,932	12,932
Suitable Timber Lands	2,216	2,216	2,216	2,216	2,216	0	2,216	0