

Alternative 5

Framework

Alternative 5 would recommend approximately 2,005,000 acres for new wilderness designation. It would result in the conversion of all portions of the 23 areas proposed for wilderness by HR 987 that are not already in wilderness, along with any additional areas identified by the 1999 Forest Plan Revision ROD as Areas of Special Interest, to the Recommended Wilderness LUD. There is substantial overlap in these two groups of areas. This alternative responds to Key Issue 1 at a moderate to high level by recommending areas of high public interest for long-term protection of fish, wildlife, scenic, and recreation values. It responds to Key Issue 2 at a low to moderate level by moderately reducing the area of development LUDs. Under this alternative, most existing LUD II areas would be converted to wilderness and there would be no change to existing wildernesses.

HR 987, which was introduced and passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1989, represented an alternative to the bill actually passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law as the Tongass Timber Reform Act. Included in this Bill was the proposed designation of 23 areas as wilderness. In TTRA, portions of these areas were designated as wilderness, portions were designated as LUD II, and portions were left undesignated. The lands recommended for wilderness in HR 987 included lands recommended for permanent protection by SEACC, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the United Fishermen of Alaska, the Sealaska Corporation, the Southeast Conference, the Governor of Alaska, and 11 Southeast Alaska communities. Protection of these areas was considered important by these entities for a variety of reasons, mostly for protection of fish, wildlife, scenic, and recreation values.

In the 1999 ROD, 18 Areas of Special Interest were identified where development LUDs would have been changed to mostly natural LUDs. These areas were identified by the public in comments and appeals on the Tongass Forest Plan EIS as having particularly high value for a number of resources. Because the 1999 ROD was vacated by court ruling in March 2001, the LUDs of these areas have not been changed from the 1997 Tongass Forest Plan.

New Wilderness or LUD II Areas

This alternative would result in the creation of 26 Recommended Wildernesses totaling approximately 2,005,000 acres. If designated by Congress, this would ultimately result in 7.8 million acres of wilderness. Approximately 45,000 acres of areas with LUD II designations would also remain. If designated, the 26 Recommended Wildernesses would result in 16 new wildernesses and 10 wilderness additions. The 26 areas are described in Table 2-12. The Alternative 5 map in the *Map* section of this SEIS displays the locations of the 26 areas.

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**Table 2-12
New Wilderness Recommendations for Alternative 5**

Area Recommended	National Forest System Acres	Wilderness Name or Addition
Part of Roadless Area 339 (Yakutat Forelands)	219,524	Addition to Russell Fiord Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 303 (Sullivan) – Sullivan Island	3,976	New Sullivan Island Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 301 (Juneau-Skagway Icefield) – Berners Bay LUD II Area	41,990	New Berners Bay Wilderness
Parts of Roadless Areas 311 (Chichagof) and 342 (Neka Mountain)	370,231	Addition to West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness
Roadless Area 328 (Hoonah Sound)	97,329	Addition to West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 312 (Trap Bay) – Trap Bay LUD II Area	6,408	New Trap Bay Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 330 (North Baranof)	23,839	New Saook Bay Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 302 (Taku-Snettisham)	49,185	Addition to Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 308 (Windham-Port Houghton)	81,901	Addition to Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 223 (Manzanita)	11,066	New Southeast Mitkof Wilderness
Parts of Roadless Areas 214 (South Kupreanof) and 215 (Castle)	101,746	Addition to the Petersburg Creek – Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness
Parts of Roadless Areas 242 (Camden) and 243 (Rocky Pass)	131,871	New Rocky Pass Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 244 (Bay of Pillars) and Roadless Area 245 (East Kuiu)	62,829	Addition to Tebenkof Bay – Kuiu Wilderness
Roadless Area 246 (South Kuiu)	63,063	Addition to Tebenkof Bay – Kuiu Wilderness
Roadless Area 209 (Anan) – Anan Creek LUD II Area	38,162	New Anan Creek Wilderness
Roadless Area 528 (Cleveland)	191,504	New Cleveland Peninsula Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 526 (Naha) – Naha LUD II Area	31,355	New Naha Wilderness
Parts of Roadless Areas 515 (Kosciusko) and 516 (Calder)	70,600	New Mt. Calder-Mt. Holbrook Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 518 (Salmon Bay)	24,488	New Salmon Bay Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 514 (Sarkar)	24,765	New Sarkar Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 511 (Thorne River)	66,208	New Honker Divide Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 503 (Outer Islands)	95,953	New Outside Islands Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 501 (Dall Island)	104,358	New Dall Island Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 504 (Sukkwan)	16,231	New Sukkwan Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 531 (Nutmwa)	51,893	Addition to South Prince of Wales Wilderness
Part of Roadless Area 507 (Eudora)	24,434	Addition to South Prince of Wales Wilderness

Land Use Designations

If Alternative 5 is selected, the LUD allocation acres shown in Table 2-13 would result. Figure 2-5 shows the distribution of LUDs across the Tongass under Alternative 5 according to three LUD groups (see Table 2-13 for definitions of the LUD groups). Table 2-14 displays selected outputs and other measures associated with this alternative.

**Table 2-13
Land Use Designations for Alternative 5¹**

Land Use Designation	Acres Allocated	Net Change from Current Forest Plan Acres ²
Wilderness LUD Group		
Recommended Wilderness	2,004,909	+2,004,909
Wilderness	2,642,241	0
Wilderness National Monument	3,114,231	0
Nonwilderness National Monument	159,681	0
Total for Wilderness LUD Group	7,921,062	+2,004,909
Natural Setting LUD Group		
Research Natural Area	24,400	-1,621
Special Interest Area	168,113	-6,009
Remote Recreation	2,002,102	-131,010
Enacted Municipal Watershed	45,242	0
Old-Growth Habitat	951,993	-223,452
Semi-Remote Recreation	2,498,427	-356,451
Recommended LUD II	0	0
LUD II	45,408	-675,760
Wild, Scenic, Recreational River	87,184	-32,453
Total for Natural Setting LUD Group	5,822,869	-1,426,756
Development LUD Group		
Experimental Forest	17,107	0
Scenic Viewshed	442,053	-38,805
Modified Landscape	542,414	-70,067
Timber production	2,055,743	-469,281
Total for Development LUD Group	3,057,317	-578,153

¹ When more than one LUD is applied to the same area, such as a Special Interest Area within Wilderness, only the acreage of the more restrictive LUD is included, except that total Wilderness, Wilderness National Monument, and LUD II acres are always shown. The acreage for Minerals LUD would be 154,527; these acres are not included in the table because the Minerals LUD is an overlay. No acreages have been calculated for the Transportation and Utility Systems LUD because it is a corridor. Totals may not exactly equal the sum of individual entries due to rounding.

² These changes from current Forest Plan acres are the differences from the decisions made in the 1997 Tongass Forest Plan Revision ROD, as amended. Except as they may be modified in this SEIS process by the selection of an alternative proposing Recommended Wilderness or Recommended LUD II, the current Forest Plan LUD allocations are outside the scope of this SEIS process.

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**Figure 2-5
Wilderness, Natural Setting, and Development LUDs on the Tongass National Forest under Alternative 5**

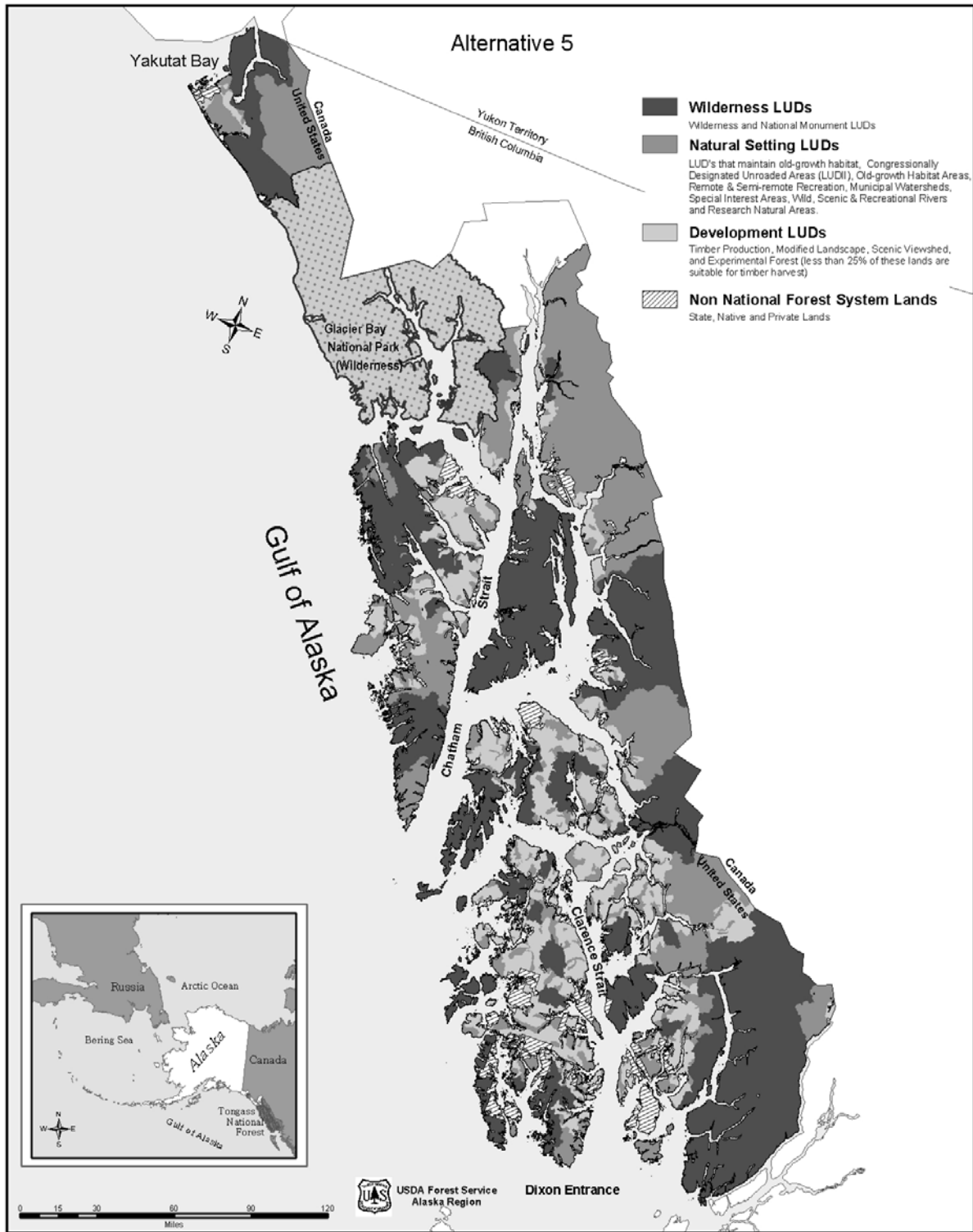


Table 2-14
Selected Outputs and Measures Associated with Alternative 5¹

Resource/Category	Output/Measure
Amount of Wilderness and LUD II Protection (millions of acres)	
Recommended Wilderness plus Current Wilderness and National Monument	7.9
Recommended LUD II plus Current LUD II	<0.1
Percent of Ecoregion Protected in Reserves	
Northern Pacific Coastal Forest	26%
Pacific Coastal Mountain Tundra and Ice Fields	38%
Productive Old-growth after 150 Years (millions of acres)	4.60
Estimated Land Suitable for Timber Production (acres)	580,000
Allowable Sale Quantity (million board feet) ²	
Non-interchangeable component I	172
Non-interchangeable component II	37
Total	209
Annual Road Construction during 1st Decade, based on the ASQ (miles)	83
Annual Timber Harvest during 1st Decade, based on the ASQ (acres)	7,200
Short-term Effects on Timber Industry	
Percent of Timber Sales Under Contract Affected	11%
Percent of Proposed Timber Sales (10-year plan) Affected	8%
Percent of Identified and Undiscovered Mineral Areas Withdrawn or Potentially Withdrawn	
Percent of Identified Mineral Tracts	34%
Percent of Undiscovered Mineral Areas	47%
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes after 150 Years (millions of acres)	
Primitive and Semi-primitive Non-motorized	12.3
Semi-primitive Motorized	1.3
Roaded Natural and Roaded Modified	3.3

¹ Unless otherwise noted, figures are average annual amounts for the next decade (2002 to 2012).

² All timber volumes are sawlog plus utility. Totals may not add exactly due to rounding.