

Appendix A

Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Suitability Analysis

Introduction

Suitability analysis is the foundation for presenting information as to whether an eligible river is suitable for recommendation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such analysis considers the values, opportunities, tradeoffs and potential conflicts in designating a river to the National System on an individual river basis and for representation on a regional basis. The Tongass National Forest can be divided into seven Geographic Provinces, based on climate and geography. The seven provinces are Interior Islands, Coast Range, Lynn Canal, Northern Interior Islands, Northern Outer Islands, Southern Islands, and Yakutat. These were used to help define the regional context for identifying outstandingly remarkable river values and which rivers to recommend for designation. Each province except Yakutat is represented by at least one recommended river. Within provinces, outstandingly remarkable river values were compared to identify those rivers most worthy of representation, and to consider rivers having most of the values of a particular province.

For each individual river, the Forest Supervisors were concerned with how rare, superior, or unique the identified values were, and what effects long-term management would have on those values if the river were not designated. Most commonly present in the rivers they selected are outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, fisheries, and wildlife values. The Forest Supervisors were equally concerned with resource tradeoffs, and potential conflicts with other Forest uses. Potential water resource uses, recreation developments, transportation and utility corridors, high mineral values, timber values in or adjacent to a river corridor, and adjacent private and public land uses, were among the values considered. Maintaining access to private lands or for future resource needs was also important, as were possible conflicts with the potential major transportation or utility systems identified by the State of Alaska. These considerations were important in selecting suitable rivers, and also in recommending the appropriate classification (wild, scenic or recreational) for those determined to be suitable.

Finally, public interest in individual rivers, either for or against designation, was a major factor in the final selections. Several locally-popular rivers (Farragut, Lisianski) are recommended, as well as several rivers of regional or national interest (Kadashan, Salmon Bay, Sarkar, and the Thorne/Hatchery system--the Honker Divide canoe route). Local concerns, often over potential transportation or utility system conflicts or potential effects on commercial fishing, led to not recommending certain rivers (Eagle River between Wrangell and Ketchikan, and rivers in the Yakutat province).

The 32 rivers recommended for designation total 541 miles. Of the 853 eligible miles not recommended, a total of 411 miles of rivers are already protected by other statutes (wilderness and LUD II). Another 224 miles are protected by the Forest Plan's other non-development LUD allocations. Only 218 miles, 16 percent of the 1,394 miles of eligible rivers, are in LUD's that allow moderate or intensive development. None of this planned development will affect the free-flowing character of these rivers.

The Analysis Process

Thus two levels were analyzed in making a recommendation. The first level focused on the individual river, while the second level took a more regional approach. Below is a summary of the main criteria used in determining whether a river is suitable for recommendation to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

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Individual River

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The number, kind, and extent of values in the river corridor were considered. Unique and exemplary features, and recognition by agencies such as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as important watersheds were considerations as well. Another consideration was the impact to the values if the river were not designated.

Transportation: This includes any potential transportation corridor which might use or cross the river corridor, such as future State highways identified by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Forest Service needs for timber access and administration, access needs for private landowners, and access into areas with mineral development potential. The likelihood or potential for development was also a consideration in recommendations and classifications.

Minerals: All areas with high minerals potential within or adjacent to the river corridor were considered, including existing claims, potential for new claims, access needs, and minerals potential identified by the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

Utilities: This includes any potential for future utility corridors across or adjacent to the river. The powerline intertie network identified by the Alaska Power Administration is the primary source used.

Timber: This entails consideration of the tradeoff in timber made available as a result of designating a river. Several factors were considered, such as the amount of timber in the river corridor, timber outside of the river corridor that would be subject to management with an emphasis on visual quality, and economic factors such as isolated stands, logging systems, and access.

Water Resources: This includes an examination of all pending or potential uses for water. Two main considerations in this category were power withdrawals and interest, and potential for water export by the State of Alaska.

Public Interest: The level of public interest for or against designation was reviewed and considered. Blanket comments were made by organizations supporting and opposing designation for some or all rivers. Individual comments were made as well from individuals, local governments and local organizations, expressing both viewpoints.

Land Uses: This includes an analysis of the adjacent land uses. Land ownership patterns were considered, as well as existing and potential uses of the land.

Regional Context

Geographic Province: While the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not specifically require regional representation, it does speak of outstandingly remarkable values in a national and regional context. Southeast Alaska is recognized as one of the physiographic divisions of Alaska, yet is large enough to make comparisons of rivers within the division difficult. The southeast panhandle has been classified into seven geographic provinces based on their climatic, vegetative, and geologic characteristics. Representation from each of the seven geographic provinces identified for the Tongass was sought, transcending administrative boundaries.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: These values were also examined in the regional context. Comparisons were made for similar values present in several rivers within each province, to identify the most significant rivers for representation in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Efforts were made to recommend rivers which encompassed most of the outstandingly remarkable values present within a geographic province.

A discussion of each of the 32 rivers determined suitable for designation is provided in Section A. The 80 river segments discussed in Section B are unsuitable for designation as components of the National Wild

and Scenic Rivers System. A summary of the rationale for these determinations is provided for each river, discussed by geographic province. A detailed discussion of each of the 112 eligible rivers may be found in Appendix E of the Final EIS.

Section A – Rivers Determined Suitable for Designation

Listed below, and grouped by Geographic Province, are the 32 rivers recommended for designation to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and the classification recommended (wild, scenic, or recreational). A brief discussion of each river highlights its outstandingly remarkable values, often within the regional context of the Geographic Provinces. The reasons why some river segments are recommended for classifications below the "maximum protection" for which they are eligible (e.g., as scenic or recreational instead of wild) are also summarized below.

Interior Islands Geographic Province

Anan Creek (17.5 miles wild, .5 miles scenic). Anan Creek has a nationwide reputation as a place to view black bears and other wildlife eating salmon. It contains habitat for all species of salmon, as well as most species of trout present in Southeast Alaska, and is one of the "high-value" watersheds on the Tongass. The area was congressionally designated a LUD II by the Tongass Timber Reform Act. Existing recreation developments include a cabin, trail, and viewing shelter. This stream is highly representative of a variety of features considered by visitors to typify Southeast Alaska.

The lower .5-mile segment of Anan Creek is recommended for scenic rather than wild designation because the former classification better accommodates the high summer visitation and the facility development needed to reduce impacts to wildlife and other resources.

Blind River (5 miles recreational). The Blind River is a highly popular recreation area accessible from Petersburg by road and one of the few road-accessible rivers on the Tongass. Recreation developments include trails, picnic sites, and a wildlife viewing shelter. The river corridor also contains a fish hatchery which has provided an enhanced king salmon fishery. There's strong local support for management of the area in its present condition with no additional timber harvest.

Fall Dog Creek (4 miles wild). Located on the northern portion of Kuiu Island, Fall Dog Creek is a locally known name for the creek flowing into the head of Security Bay. The creek is short in length compared to most other rivers in the Interior Islands Geographic Province, yet the creek is high in cultural and fisheries values. The large chum salmon runs in the fall attract black bears, and subsistence users from nearby Kake and other communities. The grass flats and salt chuck around the estuary provide for good scenery as well as waterfowl habitat.

Gokachin, Mirror, Low, and Fish Creek and Lake System (30 miles wild). This stream and lake system on Revillagigedo Island offers outstanding fish, scenic, recreation, wildlife, and historical values. The potential for a 30-mile canoe route make the recreational values unique within the Interior Islands Geographic Province. The extensive cultural and historic sites, including prehistoric sites along Fish Creek and the remnants of Sealevel, a town from the Gold Rush era located near the mouth of Gokachin Creek, are also unique within the Province.

Kadake Creek (23 miles recreational). Kadake Creek is high in historic, recreation and fisheries values. The excellent runs of steelhead, coho salmon, and cutthroat trout have provided for native use in past and present times. They also attract black bears. The scenic estuary provides for large concentrations of waterfowl. Hunting and fishing are popular activities, facilitated by the public recreation cabin near the mouth of the creek.

Five miles of the Kadake Creek system, including two segments, are eligible for designation as a wild river. These segments are recommended for recreational designation in order to allow for other

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resource-management activities. This designation will adequately protect the outstandingly remarkable values of the Kadake Creek system, which are concentrated at the mouth of the creek.

Kah Sheets Creek and Lake (5 miles wild, 4 miles scenic). This is an exemplary sockeye salmon spawning and rearing area, typical of this ecological link between lakes that are accessible to salmon. There are low timber values in this part of Kupreanof Island. Two public cabins are popular recreation destinations, one on Kah Sheets Lake, and another at the mouth of the river. A trail parallels the river, somewhat unique in Southeast Alaska, and connects the two cabins.

The 4-mile tributary to the west of the main stream, which is eligible for wild designation, is instead recommended for scenic designation in order to allow for other resource management activities. This will not affect the outstandingly remarkable values, because recreational values are found on the main stream, and fisheries values are well protected by the Forest Plan's standards and guidelines.

Kutlaku Creek and Lake (2 miles wild). Kutlaku has an important sockeye salmon run and high quality spawning and rearing habitat. Its fish values are of regional significance because of the sockeye salmon and steelhead runs and because of the potential for sockeye enhancement. The sockeye salmon run has been an important subsistence resource for local native people for generations.

Naha River (17 miles wild, 2 miles scenic). This is a popular and heavily used sport fishing river. The river and its chain of lakes provide varied recreational opportunities, and high wildlife values. It is readily accessible to residents of Ketchikan.

Orchard Creek and Lake (10 miles wild, 16 miles recreational). This river system includes a beautiful double waterfall where the creek empties into saltwater, and excellent cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden char, and kokanee salmon resources. It includes high concentrations of black bear, Sitka black-tailed deer and furbearers. Moose and trumpeter swans also use the area.

Although the lower 16 miles of this river system meets the criteria for classification as a wild river, it is being recommended for recreational designation to allow for the potential development of a transportation or utility system across the creek, while still protecting its outstandingly remarkable features.

Petersburg Creek (7 miles wild). One of the "high value" watersheds on the Tongass, Petersburg Creek is an outstanding fishery for salmon and steelhead with good access from the community of Petersburg. There is a paralleling trail and a recreation cabin, as well as historic features that provide recreational interest. There is strong local support for managing this stream in its natural condition. Because it is in Wilderness, there is no apparent conflict with other resource management needs.

Santa Anna Creek and Lake Helen (4 miles scenic). Santa Anna Creek is unique in that the lake can be entered at extreme high tide by kayak or canoe from saltwater providing access to the lake and creek for recreational use. Santa Anna has high sport fish values.

Santa Anna Creek and Lake Helen meet the criteria for wild river classification, but are recommended for scenic designation because this designation recognizes the fish and recreational values while allowing limited road crossings of the river corridor to permit timber and possible mineral management on adjacent lands.

Wolverine Creek and McDonald Lake (6 miles wild). This area has outstanding fishing, hunting, and other recreational opportunities. All five species of Pacific salmon are present, as well as cutthroat and rainbow trout, grayling, western brook lamprey, and Dolly Varden char. Wolves, brown and black bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, mountain goats, wolverine, beaver, otter, mink, marten, weasel, and porcupine are all found here, as well as an occasional moose and trumpeter swan.

Coast Range Geographic Province

Aaron, Oerns, and Berg Creeks (21 miles scenic, 16 miles recreational). These streams form a single stream system which flows into Blake Channel after passing through an extensive grass flat and estuary. The juxtaposition of the estuary, grass flats and old-growth forest provide a spectacular, scenic setting for recreation. There is an exceptional combination of fishery, recreation, and wildlife resources in this one watershed including a number of species of large wildlife (bear, moose, goats and wolves), the presence of king salmon, large numbers of waterfowl, and the existing recreation access by trail and boat.

Although this stream system meets the guidelines for wild river classification, its suitability as a scenic and recreation river stems from the potential of the area for mining and to provide a transportation (road) link to Canada. The scenic and recreational designations would protect and recognize the outstandingly remarkable recreation and scenic resources while allowing potential mineral prospecting and possible long-term development of a road link to Canada.

Blue River (26 miles wild). The Blue River, with its recent lava flows and volcanic soils, has geological and ecological values unique to the Province and the entire Tongass. Shear mountains rise 3,000 feet above the river valley, providing spectacular scenery. The river also has high wildlife values, and brown bear are abundant.

Chickamin River (94 miles wild, 2 miles scenic). This river system, the longest (96 miles) in the Tongass, displays outstanding examples of present and past glaciation. Two-thirds of the system provides anadromous fish habitat, and the diversity of wildlife, including moose and waterfowl, is high. The scenery is outstanding and representative of the lower coast range. The Chickamin is one of only a few Tongass rivers currently used for river rafting.

Farragut River (29 miles wild, 1 mile scenic). A large mainland river typical of the coast range, it has a significant run of king salmon, and high wildlife values including moose. Designation would maintain current recreational use patterns. The area received a high level of public interest from the residents of Petersburg, the nearest community.

Harding River (16 miles scenic). The presence of four salmon species, steelhead, and Dolly Varden char provide for high fisheries values of the Harding River. This stream produces trophy-size chum salmon. Brown bear, black bear and mountain goats inhabit the area in good numbers as well. Typical of the coast range, the river has high recreation values for fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and use by outfitters and guides.

Although the river meets the guidelines for wild river classification, it is more suitable for scenic designation which maintains a potential long-term road linkage to Canada and mineral development opportunities. Opportunities for fishery enhancement have been identified which would also be preserved with scenic designation.

LeConte Glacier (6 miles wild). LeConte Glacier, the southernmost tidewater glacier in the United States, is one of the primary sightseeing destinations on the Tongass, both by aircraft and cruise ship visitors. There would be no apparent resource conflicts with wild designation, as the glacier is within the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness. This river of ice is also recommended in part to include at least one flowing glacier in the National Wild and Scenic River System as representative of the geologic role of glaciers in river origin and formation. As a glacier that "flows" to tidewater, this candidate is particularly suitable for inclusion.

Virginia Lake and Creek (9 miles recreational). Virginia Lake and Creek has high recreation values. It is readily accessible via a short charter flight from Wrangell, or by boat to access the existing trail which runs from saltwater to the outlet of the lake. A fully accessible, barrier-free public recreation cabin is available at the upper end of the lake. Activities include fishing for trophy size cutthroat trout

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as well as other fish, and viewing wildlife such as moose. On-going fishery habitat improvements have public support and have increased the potential of the lake for sockeye spawning.

This stream and lake meets the guidelines for scenic classification but is more suitable for recreational designation, which maintains the potential for mineral exploration and road construction options which would benefit timber access on adjacent lands.

Lynn Canal Geographic Province

Gilkey River (9 miles wild). Numerous glaciers feed this river, which has braided channels and silty water typical of glacial outwash systems. Moose, brown bear, black bear, wolves, and mountain goats are all found in the area.

Katzehin River (10 miles wild, 2 miles unsuitable). The Katzehin is typical of the glacier-fed rivers of this Geographic Province. The reduced rainfall and colder temperatures in Lynn Canal result in a different ecology than other portions of Southeast Alaska. I am not recommending the lower two miles of this river for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This segment, at the mouth of the river, has been deemed unsuitable for such designation because of the transportation corridor proposed by other public agencies between Juneau and Haines and the presence of State-selected lands.

Northern Interior Islands Geographic Province

Hasselborg River and Lakes (24 miles wild). Hasselborg River is part of the cross-Admiralty canoe route, and is highly valued for its multiple fish, wildlife, subsistence, and recreational values. Its brown bear habitat is representative of Admiralty Island.

Kadashan River (8 miles scenic). Kadashan is typical of the streams of Chichagof Island. Its fish and wildlife values make it a popular subsistence and recreation area locally.

Although the entire 8 miles of the Kadashan River meet the criteria for wild river classification, I recommend scenic designation to maintain future options for road and power transmission corridor development, although no such options are currently being pursued.

King Salmon River (8 miles wild). This is one of only two rivers of the islands of Southeast Alaska with a native run of king salmon. It also has high wildlife values.

Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province

Glacial River (10 miles wild). This is the only active glacial river of Baranof Island, and typifies the ice-age origins of the topography of the Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province. The scenery, including many hanging valleys and waterfalls, is outstanding.

Lisianski River (5 miles wild). This river is representative of outer islands rivers that have brown bear concentrations in areas with anadromous fish. The river provides subsistence and recreational opportunities for local residents.

Southern Islands Geographic Province

Essowah Lakes and Streams (13 miles wild). This system includes five major lakes, several smaller lakes, and five streams. It is the only eligible stream and lake system on the outer islands of the Southern Islands Geographic Province. It offers excellent fishing for trout and four species of salmon, provides wintering habitat for trumpeter swans, serves as a stopover for migratory birds, and has outstanding scenic values.

Kegan Lake and Streams (9 miles wild). This stream and lake system has nationally significant fisheries, recreational, and scenic values. The recreational fishing for coho salmon, steelhead, and rainbow trout are considered world class. Cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden char, and sockeye and pink salmon are also present. The two Forest Service recreation cabins in the vicinity draw clientele from across the nation. The scenic values are also outstanding, with both cabins located in old-growth forest, and a waterfall adjacent to one of them.

Niblack Lakes and Streams (5 miles wild). This stream and lake system includes three major lakes, several smaller lakes, and several streams. The area is well known for its excellent fisheries values. The Niblack system is an important producer of pink, chum, and coho salmon, and also contains Dolly Varden char. It is listed by the State of Alaska as one of the 65 most important watersheds in Southeast Alaska for its fisheries values.

Salmon Bay Lake and Stream (4 miles wild, 2 miles scenic). This system is an important producer of anadromous fish, and typifies the lake and outlet stream systems found throughout Southeast Alaska. It is highly scenic, and an important wintering area for trumpeter swans. The lower portion is road accessible.

Sarkar Lakes (14 miles wild, 3 miles scenic, 2 miles recreational). Sarkar Lakes, and the connecting streams, form a rich and complex fish and wildlife habitat network. Recreational opportunities include canoeing between the lakes. The area has local and national support for maintenance of its natural values.

Thorne River and Hatchery Creek (24 miles scenic, 18 miles recreational). These two rivers are also known as the Honker Divide canoe route. They are connected by a low divide affording a 2-3 mile canoe portage, with the opportunity for a 30-mile canoe trip. Portions of the river are accessible by road, it has several recreation cabins, and the fish and wildlife values are outstanding.

Although 36 miles of this river system meet the criteria for scenic river classification, the lower 12 miles of this river system is recommended for designation as a recreational river to allow for the development of potential recreation facilities and enhance public access to this river system.

As mentioned above, no rivers are recommended in the Yakutat Geographic Province. Only two rivers in this province were found to be eligible, and neither received specific public support. In fact, local public comment advised against such designation in the Yakutat Geographic Province.

Section B – Rivers Unsited for Designation

Eighty rivers have been determined as non-suitable for wild, scenic or recreational designation. The values of these rivers are adequately represented by others being recommended for designation. Moreover, the Forest Plan's riparian standards and guidelines and other direction will adequately protect most of the values of these rivers while allowing competing resource management objectives to be met. In addition, the public comment on these rivers is mixed. A summary of the rationale for each non-suitability finding is included below.

Interior Islands Geographic Province Unsuitable Rivers:

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Castle River. This river is typical of rivers in the Kupreanof Lowlands, and is not unique within the Province. It is similar to Kadake Creek and Petersburg Creek, both of which are being recommended for designation as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. If so designated, those two creeks will adequately represent the Kupreanof Lowlands in the System. At a broader scale, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

In addition, Castle River's outstandingly remarkable fish, recreation, and wildlife values are concentrated at the mouth of the river and upstream about two miles. This area is allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation LUD, which would maintain the outstandingly remarkable values of this river. The Forest Plan's riparian and fish habitat standards and guidelines will protect the fish values of the upstream portions of the river that are allocated to the Timber Production LUD by the Plan. Designation of this river would limit or eliminate potential timber harvest opportunities, could affect access to timber resources, and may require additional roads, at potentially higher costs. Given the adequate representation of this river's values by others being recommended for designation, and the protection offered by the land allocations and standards and guidelines described above, the Castle River's contribution to the multiple use of other resources outweighs its value as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Cathedral Falls Creek. This creek is typical of rivers in the Kupreanof lowlands, and is not unique within the Province. The outstandingly remarkable scenic and recreation values at Cathedral Falls and the associated trail to the falls are all within the Cathedral Falls Recreation Place. Recreation Places are given consideration when any development is planned. The land within and adjacent to Cathedral Falls Creek is allocated to the Modified Landscape LUD, which allows some timber harvest. The outstandingly remarkable values of this river will be protected by the Forest Plan's riparian standards and guidelines. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Duncan Salt Chuck and Creek. The lower 4 miles of this creek are within the Petersburg Creek - Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness. Such designation will maintain the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this segment of the creek. The remainder of the creek flows through land that has been allocated to the Timber Production LUD. Designation of this segment as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System would limit opportunities for timber harvest, potentially foreclosing access to some timber. It could also limit opportunities for a transmission line corridor proposed by the Alaska Power Authority. Fisheries values in this segment of the river corridor will be maintained by the Forest Plan's riparian and fish habitat standards and guidelines. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles. Given the adequate representation of this creek system's values by others being recommended for designation, the protection offered by the land allocations and standards and guidelines described above, and the resource management opportunities that would be foregone by designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Duncan Salt Chuck and Creek does not warrant the tradeoffs inherent in such designation.

Earl West Creek. The State of Alaska has selected land on the lower portion of this creek which, will likely result in development adjacent to the creek. Earl West is typical of smaller non-glacial streams in this Geographic Province, and is not unique within the Province. The area surrounding the creek is well roaded and developed. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Falls Creek and McHenry Lake. This stream system is typical of small streams with lakes on Etolin Island. It is similar to Hatchery Creek and Lake, Porcupine Creek, and Olive Creek, and is not considered unique within the Province. This system is also entirely within the South Etolin Wilderness, which will maintain the system's outstandingly remarkable fish and scenic values. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

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Hamilton Creek. This creek is typical of rivers in the Kupreanof Lowlands, and is not unique within the Province. It is similar to Petersburg Creek and Kadake Creek, which are both recommended for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Outstandingly remarkable fish values would not be adversely affected if the creek were not designated. Fish habitat values and sport fishing are adequately protected by the Forest Plan's riparian and fish habitat standards and guidelines. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Hatchery Creek and Lake. This creek and lake are similar to other rivers on Etolin Island and is not unique within the Province. This creek and lake are within the South Etolin Wilderness; consequently the outstandingly remarkable values will be maintained. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Irish Creek and Keku Creek. These creeks are typical of rivers in the Kupreanof Lowlands and are not unique within the Province. They are similar to Kadake Creek and Petersburg Creek, both of which are recommended for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. Outstandingly remarkable fish values would not be adversely affected if Irish and Keku creeks were not designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Fish habitat values and sport fishing will be adequately protected by the Forest Plan's fish habitat and riparian standards and guidelines. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Kunk Creek and Lake. This system is typical of small streams on Etolin Island and is not considered unique within the Province. Designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System could preclude road development, which would impede access to timber or other resources on adjacent lands. The Forest Plan allocates the Kunk Lake watershed to the Old-growth Habitat LUD, which will maintain the outstandingly remarkable recreation, fishery and wildlife resources associated with the lake and creek. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Kushneahin Creek. This creek is typical of rivers in the Kupreanof Lowlands, and is not unique within the Province. It is similar to Petersburg and Kadake Creeks, which are both being recommended for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. If so designated, these two creeks will adequately represent the Kupreanof Lowlands in the System. Moreover, both Kah Sheets and Kutlaku Creeks, which are also recommended for designation, have important sockeye salmon runs and steelhead trout runs, so Kushneahin Creek's sockeye and steelhead runs are not unique within the Province. The Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

The Forest Plan allocates Kushneahin to the Timber Production LUD. The applicable riparian and fish habitat standards and guidelines will protect the outstandingly remarkable fish values and free-flowing characteristics of this creek. The creek possesses no other outstandingly remarkable values. Designation of Kushneahin Creek could impede access to timber resources in the area, and make road construction more difficult and costly.

Given the adequate representation of the values of this creek by other rivers recommended for designation, the protection offered to these values by the Forest Plan's standards and guidelines, and the resource management opportunities that would be foregone, Kushneahin Creek does not warrant designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Olive Creek. This creek is typical of small streams on Etolin Island and is not unique within the Province. It is similar to Falls Creek and McHenry Lake, Porcupine Creek, and Kunk Creek and Lake. The suitability of Falls Creek and McHenry Lake is still being considered; it may still be recommended for designation. Both Porcupine Creek and Kunk Creek and Lake, as well as much of Olive Creek, are

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within the Old-growth Habitat LUD. Outstandingly remarkable values of creeks on Etolin Island, including those at Olive Creek, will be maintained by virtue of the Forest Plan's land allocations and standards and guidelines.

In addition, designation of Olive Creek might preclude or impede road development and access to timber and potential mineral resources on adjacent lands. The lower portion of the creek has already been developed with road access and timber harvest. There is a substantial portion of non-Federal land at the mouth of the creek, the uses of which could eventually come into conflict with management as a Wild and Scenic River. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Porcupine Creek. This stream is typical of small, low-gradient streams in Southeast Alaska and is not unique within the Province. The watershed in which this creek is located is allocated by the Forest Plan to the Old-growth Habitat LUD, which will maintain the outstandingly remarkable fish values associated with this creek. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Portage Creek. This area is in the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness, which will maintain the creek's outstandingly remarkable values, primitive character, and free-flowing characteristics. In addition, the creek is not unique within the Interior Islands Geographic Province, which would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Spring Creek and Shelokum Lake. Designation of this creek and lake as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System would preclude the potential recreational development of the hot springs in the area. Moreover, the designation of the area as a Special Interest Area under the Forest Plan is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values of this creek and lake. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Tunehean Creek. This creek is typical of rivers in the Kupreanof Lowlands and is not unique within the Province. It is similar to Kadake Creek and Petersburg Creek, both of which are being recommended for designation as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. If so designated, these two creeks will adequately represent the Kupreanof Lowlands in the System. At a broader scale, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Tunehean Creek's outstandingly remarkable fish values would not be adversely affected if the river were not designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Fish habitat values and sport fishing are adequately protected by the Forest Plan's riparian and fish habitat standards and guidelines. The creek possesses no other outstandingly remarkable values. In addition, designation could preclude road development and impede access to timber, minerals, and other resources on adjacent land, or require additional roads outside the river corridor at potentially higher cost. Given the adequate representation of this creek's values by others being recommended for designation, the protection offered by the Forest Plan's standards and guidelines, and the resource management opportunities that would be foregone, Tunehean Creek does not warrant designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Ward Creek and Lake. The outstandingly remarkable recreation and fisheries values of this system are adequately represented by recreational river status recommended for the Kadake and Blind River systems within this Geographic Province. Moreover, the designation of the area as a Special Interest Area under the Forest Plan is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values of this creek and lake. Finally, the Interior Islands Geographic Province would be adequately represented by designation of the 12 rivers in this Province that I am recommending, which total 153 miles.

Coast Range Geographic Province Unsuitable Rivers:

Alpine Creek. This creek is located within the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness. Such designation will protect the outstandingly remarkable features and free-flowing characteristics of Alpine Creek. The creek is typical of small streams on the mainland with steep gradients and is not unique within the Province. Finally, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Andrews Creek. This creek is located within the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness. Such designation will protect the outstandingly remarkable features and free-flowing characteristics of Andrews Creek. The creek is typical of streams on the mainland and is not unique within the Province. The south fork of Andrews Creek has been identified by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities as a potential transportation link that would connect Wrangell to Petersburg. This link is dependent on construction of a road from Petersburg to Canada along the Stikine River and would require congressional approval. Finally, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Baird Glacier. This glacier is typical of glaciers originating on the mainland and is not unique within the Province. It is similar to the LeConte Glacier but it does not reach saltwater. LeConte Glacier is the better glacier to represent this Province and will provide the diversity of rivers/glaciers in the Province. Outstandingly remarkable wildlife, scenic and recreation values will not be adversely affected if the Baird Glacier is not designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. All the land within and adjacent to the corridor is allocated to the Remote or Semi-remote Recreation LUD's. Designation could impede future development of the tourism industry in the area.

Glaciers to the north and south of the area are in designated Wilderness areas, so representative glaciers in the Coast Range will be kept in a natural condition. Finally, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Bakewell Creek and Badger Lake. This creek system is located within the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the system's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing character. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Big Goat Creek and Lake. This creek system is located within the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this system's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Blossom River. This system is located within an area of high mineral development potential. It is unsuitable for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System because such designation could preclude road building and future development needs of the Quartz Hill project. It is also within a potential power transmission corridor between Swan Lake and British Columbia. The 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Bradfield River (East Fork). There are on-going fishery habitat enhancement projects that might be precluded if this river were designated as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The State of Alaska has selected several thousand acres of land at the head of the Bradfield Canal, part of which encompasses the lower two miles of the corridor, in anticipation of a possible road linkage to Canada. The existing and possible future developments surrounding the river are reasons it has been found non-suitable for designation. In addition, other candidates in this Province have higher values.

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Finally, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation.

Bradfield River (North Fork). There is an existing special-use permit in the North Fork drainage for a powerline from an existing power plant in the area to the Canadian border. The State of Alaska has proposed the North Fork for a road corridor to connect Southeast Alaska to Canada. This proposal is considered the most favorable access route from Southeast Alaska to Canada. Although recreational classification would not affect the above developments, other rivers in the Province have higher values given the degree of development. Finally, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Cascade Creek. This area lies within an executive withdrawal for hydroelectric power generation. The Thomas Bay Power Authority holds a power site withdrawal. Development of hydroelectric power from Cascade Creek is uncertain but could occur if demands for electric power increase. This might affect the free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable values of this creek. All the land within and adjacent to Cascade Creek is allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation LUD. This means no timber harvest would take place even without designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Finally, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Chuck River. This river is located within the Chuck River Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this river. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Eagle River and Lake. This river and lake system is not unique within the Province; rather, it is typical of smaller rivers with a lake system that originate on the mainland, such as Anan Creek, Harding River, Virginia Lake and Creek, and Marten Lake and Creek. The first three of these are recommended for designation as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. If so designated, these three river systems will adequately represent stream and lake systems on the Wrangell Ranger District. At a broader scale, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In addition, there is an existing special-use permit for a power transmission line that connects the Tyee Power Plant to the City of Wrangell. Currently the powerline crosses Eagle Bay just below the river corridor. Ketchikan Public Utilities has proposed that a power transmission line be constructed along the Eagle River Valley to connect the City of Ketchikan to the Tyee Power Plant. Other alternative routes between Tyee and Ketchikan were determined to be infeasible due largely to terrain limitations. Thus, designation of the Eagle River as a Wild River would prevent powerline development except as provided for in ANILCA Title XI and could affect future electric power supplies to Ketchikan.

Designation as a Scenic or Recreational River would limit options for powerline development.

Non-designation would allow for road and powerline construction along the river valley, which could modify the scenic and recreational values. Such construction would incorporate mitigation measures to reduce such impacts. Fisheries values would be protected by the Forest Plan's standards and guidelines for riparian and fish habitat. Many respondents in several communities were opposed to designating the Eagle River, in order to provide for powerline development options. The City Council of Petersburg, Alaska passed a resolution in November 1991 opposing designation of this river. Other respondents supported designation.

Given the adequate representation of this river system's values by others being recommended for designation, the protection offered by the Forest Plan's standards and guidelines, the substantial

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resource development opportunities that would be foregone, and the considerable public support for alternative management of the area, the Eagle River and Lake does not warrant designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Fish Creek. This 4-mile creek is eligible for recreational designation due to its outstandingly remarkable fish values. These values, which are not unique within the Coast Range Geographic Province, will be adequately protected by the Forest Plan's riparian and fish standards and guidelines and other management direction applicable to the Scenic Viewshed LUD to which this area has been allocated under the Forest Plan. This area receives considerable recreation use, and includes land that has been selected by the State of Alaska under the Statehood Act and numerous parcels of private land. There are also potential recreational facilities that may be developed in the area. Finally, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Granite Creek and Manzoni Lake. This creek system is located within the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this river's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Hulakon River. This river is located within the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this river's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Humpback Creek and Lake. This creek system is located within the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this system's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Keta River. This river is unsuitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such a designation would preclude use of the area for support facilities associated with mineral development of the Quartz Hill project. The existing powerline corridor, fisheries enhancement projects, and potential road construction all contribute to this system's unsuitability. The 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Klahini River. This river system is located within the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this river. In addition, the area is currently used for chinook salmon research projects. Finally, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Marten Lake and Creek. This system is typical of small rivers on the mainland with a lake system, and is not unique within the Province. Its values are considered less outstanding than other candidates. The U.S. Bureau of Mines lists the area as having potential for mineral extraction. Wild classification could affect access for mineral exploration. Scenic or recreational classification could limit access as well. In addition, the State of Alaska has identified potential road corridors which would cross the river. Finally, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Marten River. This river is located within the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this river's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

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Nooya Creek. This creek is located within the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this creek's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. The 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Patterson River. This river is typical of small rivers on the mainland that originate from glaciers and is not unique within the Province. It is similar to Farragut River, which is recommended as a suitable river in the Coast Range Geographic Province. Future options for timber harvest could be limited if the river were designated. Finally, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Punchbowl Creek. This creek is located within the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this creek's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Rudyard Creek. This creek is located within the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this creek's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Salmon River. This 10-mile river is eligible for recreational designation due to its outstandingly remarkable geological values, related primarily to the area's glacially carved topographic relief. These values, which are not unique within the Coast Range Geographic Province, will be adequately protected by the management direction applicable to the Scenic Viewshed and Semi-remote Recreation LUD's to which this area has been allocated under the Forest Plan. Designation of this system could limit opportunities for potential timber harvest and recreation facility development. The area also includes substantial State and private land and unpatented mining claims. Finally, The 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Scenery Creek. This creek is typical of small streams on the mainland, and is not unique within the Province. Outstandingly remarkable scenic values would not be adversely affected if the river were not designated as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The land within and adjacent to Scenery Creek is allocated to the Semi-remote Recreation LUD by the Forest Plan, one of the non-development LUD's. Finally, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Shakes Slough. This slough is within the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness. This designation will maintain the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of the slough. Moreover, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the seven rivers in this Province totaling 220 miles that I am recommending for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Sockeye Creek and Hugh Smith Lake. This creek system is located within the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this creek and lake. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Stikine River. This river is located within the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness. Such designation will protect the river's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, The 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in

the Coast Range Geographic Province. Finally, the Stikine River is used heavily for navigation into Canada, as a source for gravel, and for other purposes. Designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System would limit these opportunities.

Taku River. The Taku River is not being recommended for designation because the area has greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. The primary conflicting use is a potential road corridor connecting Juneau and Canada, with possible routes on either side of the river. In addition, a Canadian mining company has proposed a road along the Taku. The land use allocation for the Taku River is Semi-remote Recreation, which has little potential for activities that may change the characteristics that make the river eligible for Scenic River classification. Designation of the Taku River as a Scenic River would not necessarily foreclose options for location of the road corridor, but could significantly restrict development. In addition, the Coast Range Geographic Province will be adequately represented in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by designation of the seven rivers I am recommending in this Province, all of which have a high level of outstandingly remarkable values but do not impede development of a transportation link to Canada.

Unuk River. This river is located within the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this river's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Walker Creek and Lake. This creek and lake are located within the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect this system's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Moreover, the 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Whiting River. The Whiting River has not been recommended for designation because the area was considered to have greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. The land use allocation for the Whiting is Semi-remote Recreation, which will likely result in maintaining the outstandingly remarkable values which make the Whiting River eligible for Wild River classification. In addition, the Coast Range Geographic Province is adequately represented by the recommendation of seven rivers totaling 220 miles which I am recommending for designation as part of the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Wilson River and Lake. This system is not suitable for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System because such designation could limit future mineral development associated with the Quartz Hill project. A potential powerline corridor falls within this area. The 220 miles of seven rivers in this Province that I am recommending adequately represent river systems in the Coast Range Geographic Province.

Lynn Canal Province Unsuitable Rivers:

Antler River. The Antler River is not being recommended for designation because the area has greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. The primary conflicting use is a potential road corridor connecting Juneau and Skagway or Haines. The Antler River is in the Remote Recreation LUD. The standards and guidelines associated with this LUD will protect the river's outstandingly remarkable values. Designation of the Antler as a Wild River could significantly restrict options for location of the corridor. Non-designation could lead to changes in the river's characteristics through implementation of the road corridor or future minerals development. If a decision is made not to construct the road across the Antler River, the entire river could be considered in the future for Wild designation, or for Scenic or Recreational designation even if the road is built across the river.

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Berners River. The Berners River is not being recommended for designation because the area has greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. The primary conflicting use is a potential road corridor connecting Juneau and Skagway or Haines. The Berners River is in the Legislated LUD II and Remote Recreation LUD's. The standards and guidelines associated with these LUD's will protect the river's outstandingly remarkable values. Designation of the Berners as a Wild River could significantly restrict options for location of the corridor. Non-designation could lead to changes in the river's characteristics through implementation of the road corridor or future minerals development. If a decision is made not to construct the road across the Berners River, the entire river could be considered in the future for Wild designation, or for Scenic or Recreational designation even if the road is built across the river.

Eagle River. The Eagle River has not been recommended for designation because the area was considered to have greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. The land use allocation for the Eagle River is Semi-remote Recreation which will likely result in maintaining the outstandingly remarkable values of this river.

Endicott River. Most of this river is within the Endicott River Wilderness. This designation will protect the river's outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. The lower 2-1/2-mile segment of the river that is not in the Wilderness is not suitable because of both a potential road corridor from Juneau to Haines and the presence of over 500 mining claims and eight mill sites. The mineral potential was recognized when the Wilderness was created; therefore, the decision is to not preclude the development opportunities in this stretch of the river. While designation as a Wild River would not necessarily prevent development, there would be severe restrictions. Non-designation could lead to changes in the river's characteristics through implementation of the road corridor or future minerals development. If a decision is made not to construct the road across the Endicott River, the entire river could be considered in the future for Wild designation, or for Scenic or Recreational designation even if the road is built across the river.

Herbert River. The Herbert River has not been recommended for designation because the area was considered to have greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. The land use allocation for the Herbert River is Semi-remote Recreation which will likely result in maintaining the outstandingly remarkable values of this river

Lace River. The Lace River is not being recommended for designation because the area has greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. The primary conflicting use is a potential road corridor connecting Juneau and Skagway or Haines. The Lace River is in the Legislated LUD II and Remote Recreation LUD's. The standards and guidelines associated with these LUD's will protect the river's outstandingly remarkable values. Designation of the Lace as a Wild River could significantly restrict options for location of the corridor. Non-designation could lead to changes in the river's characteristics through implementation of the road corridor or future minerals development. If a decision is made not to construct the road across the Lace River, the entire river could be considered in the future for Wild designation, or for Scenic or Recreational designation even if the road is built across the river.

Northern Interior Islands Geographic Province Unsuitable Rivers:

Gambier Bay Tributaries. The Gambier Bay Tributaries lie within the Admiralty Island National Monument/Kootznoowoo Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this stream system. In addition, the Northern Interior Islands Geographic Province is adequately represented by the recommendation of the Hasselborg, Kadashan, and King Salmon Rivers, all of which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Kook Creek and Lake. This system is not recommended for designation because the area has greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. In addition, the Northern Interior Islands Geographic Province is adequately represented by the recommendation of the Hasselborg, Kadashan, and King Salmon Rivers, all of which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Mud Bay River. This river is not recommended for designation because the area has greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. In addition, the Northern Interior Islands Geographic Province is adequately represented by the recommendation of the Hasselborg, Kadashan, and King Salmon Rivers, all of which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Pavlof River and Lake. This system is not recommended for designation because the area has greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. In addition, the Northern Interior Islands Geographic Province is adequately represented by the recommendation of the Hasselborg, Kadashan, and King Salmon Rivers, all of which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Sitkoh Creek. This creek is not recommended for designation because the area has greater value for its contribution to the multiple use of other resources, and to the balance of those uses in the land use allocation patterns across the Forest. In addition, the Northern Interior Islands Geographic Province is adequately represented by the recommendation of the Hasselborg, Kadashan, and King Salmon Rivers, all of which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province Unsuitable Rivers:

Benzeman River and Lake. The Benzeman River lies within the South Baranof Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this river system. In addition, the Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province will be adequately represented by recommendation of the Glacial and Lisianski Rivers, which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Big Branch Inlet Stream. The Remote Recreation LUD to which this river has been allocated will protect the free-flowing characteristics and the outstandingly remarkable values of this stream. Moreover, the locale of this river presents little potential for change to the characteristics which make the stream eligible for designation as a Wild River. Finally, the Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province will be adequately represented by recommendation of the Glacial and Lisianski Rivers, which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Black River. The Black River lies within the West Chichagof - Yakobi Wilderness. This designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this river. Moreover, the Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province will be adequately represented by recommendation of the Glacial and Lisianski Rivers, which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Freds Creek. Under the Forest Plan, Freds Creek is within the Mount Edgecumbe Special Interest Area. The standards and guidelines applicable to this LUD will protect the outstandingly remarkable values of Freds Creek. In addition, the Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province will be adequately represented by recommendation of the Glacial and Lisianski Rivers, which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Maksoutof River. The Maksoutof River lies within the South Baranof Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this river. Moreover, the Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province will be adequately represented by

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recommendation of the Glacial and Lisianski Rivers, which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Red Bluff Bay Tributaries. These streams lie within the South Baranof Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this river system. Moreover, the Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province will be adequately represented by recommendation of the Glacial and Lisianski Rivers, which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Trail River. This river has been allocated as a LUD II, which will adequately protect the outstandingly remarkable values of this river. Moreover, the Northern Outer Islands Geographic Province will be adequately represented by recommendation of the Glacial and Lisianski Rivers, which have a higher level of outstandingly remarkable values.

Southern Islands Geographic Province Unsuitable Rivers:

Alecks Creek and Lake. The majority of the Alecks Creek and Lake watershed lies within the Tebenkof Bay Wilderness Area. Outstandingly remarkable fish, historic, and recreational values would not be adversely affected if this creek system were not designated as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These values are adequately protected by the Wilderness designation of the area and by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. As a representative example of rivers in the Interior Island Geographic Province, it is similar to Kutlaku Creek and Lake (located six miles north) and is not unique. Kutlaku is recommended for Wild River designation. Finally, the 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Big Creek. This creek is not suitable for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System because much of the river corridor is now in private ownership. Of the approximately 1,800 acres of river corridor that were eligible for designation, about 570 acres have been conveyed to Haida Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; an additional 360 acres are being withdrawn and will probably be conveyed to Haida Corporation. It is expected that Haida Corporation will harvest the timber in the Big Creek drainage when the conveyances are completed. Finally, the 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Canoe Point Stream. The entire corridor of this stream is within the area that the Sealaska Native Regional Corporation may select under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. If not designated, the stream would retain its outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics in accordance with provisions of a Semi-remote LUD under the Forest Plan, unless the area is conveyed to the Sealaska Corporation. Finally, the 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Harris River. Approximately two miles of this river corridor has been conveyed to the State of Alaska. The benefits of designation do not outweigh the need to develop transportation systems to access suitable forest lands outside the corridor nor the opportunity to harvest approximately 820 acres of suitable timber within the corridor. In addition, the Harris River is not unique since it is similar in character to the Thorne River which is recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Finally, the 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Hunter Bay Lakes and Streams. When compared with the other rivers in the Southern Islands Geographic Province, this stream and lake system has no features that would be considered unique. Approximately half of the system is within the South Prince of Wales Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this portion of the system. The portion of the river corridor that lies outside the Wilderness lies within an area of high mineral potential and is adjacent to numerous mining claims. Semi-remote LUD of the surrounding area serves to protect those outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics associated with this system outside the Wilderness boundary. Designation as a Wild River would withdraw the corridor from mineral entry and might preclude future mineral development. Scenic or recreational classification could impede such development. Finally, the 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Johnson Lake and Streams. This system is unsuitable for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System because designation would remove approximately 1,100 acres of tentatively suitable forest land from consideration for timber harvest and would preclude the development of a transportation corridor needed to facilitate economic timber harvest. The Forest Plan's fish habitat and riparian standards and guidelines will adequately maintain the outstandingly remarkable fish values of this lake and stream system. Finally, the 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Karta River and Salmon Lake. The Karta River and Salmon Lake system is in the Karta River Wilderness. Such designation is adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics of this river system. In addition, this system was reserved as a power withdrawal on November 14, 1927 by the Department of the Interior, (U.S. Geological Survey power site). To date, there has been no exercise of rights for the power withdrawal. There is currently a power site at nearby Black Bear Lake, which is not part of the Wild and Scenic River consideration. With the construction of the Black Bear power site, it is unlikely that the Karta site will be developed. Due to the Wilderness designation, water resource projects could occur only if approved by the

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President. Nonetheless, the reservation of the Karta River and Salmon Lake system for a power site makes this system inappropriate for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Finally, the 94 miles of river and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Klakas Lakes and Streams. This system, located within the South Prince of Wales Wilderness, is not suitable for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System because the outstandingly remarkable features (fisheries, wildlife, and scenic values) are very similar to those of other streams in the Southern Islands Geographic Province. These features, and the streams' free-flowing characteristics, will be protected by the Wilderness designation. The 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Nutkwa Streams. This system, located entirely within the congressionally designated Nutkwa LUD II, is not suitable for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System because it is not considered unique when compared to other streams in the Southern Islands Geographic Province. Adequate protection of its outstandingly remarkable values will be provided by LUD II designation. In addition, the 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Shipley Creek and Lake. This system falls within the congressionally designated Mt. Calder/Mt. Holbrook LUD II. If not designated, the river would retain its outstandingly remarkable values in accordance with provisions of the LUD II allocation. The 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Soda Creek and Lake. The outstandingly remarkable feature of this system is the carbonate mineral springs and associated tufa deposits and formations along Soda Creek near saltwater and around Soda Lake. This area is proposed as a Special Interest Area due to the geologic features. The Special Interest Area designation will maintain the outstandingly remarkable values and the free-flowing characteristics of this creek system for the duration of the Forest Plan, unless the land is conveyed to the Sealaska Native Regional Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) or to the State of Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act. The entire corridor lies within an area withdrawn for potential selection by Sealaska under ANCSA; an application has been filed for conveyance of the lower one-half mile of Soda Creek, starting at saltwater in Soda Bay. In addition, a portion of the river corridor lies within an area selected by the State of Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act. These pending land selections within the corridor render this creek system unsuitable for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Finally, the 94 miles of six rivers and lake systems recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System adequately represent river systems in the Southern Islands Geographic Province.

Yakutat Forelands Geographic Province Unsuitable Rivers:

Dangerous River. This river was considered for recommendation in the SDEIS and RSDEIS as a Scenic River for 16 miles and Wild River for the Harlequin Lake segment. Harlequin Lake is located within the Russell Fiord Wilderness, and the Dangerous River is bound to the east by Legislated LUD II and to the west by a Semi-remote Recreation LUD under the Forest Plan. These designations will maintain the outstandingly remarkable values of the this river system. The recommendation was reconsidered in response to comments by the City and citizens of Yakutat, Alaska expressing concern about the recommendation, and the river was found unsuitable for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

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Lost River and Tawah Creek. This system was found eligible for a Recreation River designation. The City and citizens of Yakutat expressed concerns that the designation would lead to increased visitation that would change or destroy characteristics that make the area popular with the local residents. Accordingly, I conclude that this river system is unsuitable for designation as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The complex is located within a Scenic Viewshed Land Use Designation under the Forest Plan. The Plan's standards and guidelines, including those for riparian areas and fish habitat, will maintain the outstandingly remarkable fish and wildlife values of this river system.