

**Rulemaking for Alaska Roadless Areas
Outfitter/Guide Use Area Review
April 2019**

The following review used changes in suitable old-growth acres in conjunction with information on existing outfitter/guide use to help focus on potentially affected outfitter/guide use areas.

Using information provided by outfitter/guides as part of their permit requirements, the Forest Service compiles data for 143 separate outfitter/guide use areas, which are used to identify and manage recreation use. These use areas are subdivisions of the Guide Use Areas that ADF&G uses to manage commercial big game guiding. Use areas are distinct geographic areas that range in size from about 500 acres to more than 1.3 million acres. Use was identified by outfitter/guide use area based on reported service days for 2013 to 2017.

The review consisted of an initial screening (Step 1), followed by a more detailed review (Step 2), which reduced the number of outfitter/guide use areas for further consideration to 26 and, then, 15 areas. This review considered only changes in suitable old-growth acres. A follow-up young-growth sensitivity review (Step 3) was conducted to see if any areas should be added back in based on potential changes in suitable young-growth acres.

The detailed results of this review process are provided in the attached excel workbook: Outfitter_Guide Use Area Review_02-19.xlsx

Step 1: Initial Screening

Step 1 used the initial screening criteria identified in Table 1 to remove outfitter/guide use areas in the order noted. The table also identifies the number of areas removed by criteria. Once an area was removed it was not evaluated further. Areas with no outfitter/guide use and no change in suitable old-growth acres, for example, are identified as dropped based on criteria 1.

As shown, a large share of the outfitter/guide areas (93 areas, 65 percent of the total) were removed from further consideration because there would be no change in suitable old-growth acres. In addition, 8 of the areas removed based on categories 1 and 2, also had no change in suitable old-growth acres.

Overall, 110 of the 143 areas (77 percent) had no change in suitable old-growth acres (93 + 8 areas) or less than 20 acres change (9 areas).

Table 1. Initial Screening of Outfitter/Guide Use Areas

Category	Criteria	Number of Areas	Percent of Total
1	No reported outfitter/guide use	9	6%
2	Less than 20 annual average outfitter/guide service days	6	4%
3	No change in suitable old-growth acres	93	65%
4	Less than 20 acres change in suitable old-growth	9	6%
	Total Removed	117	82%
	Areas Remaining	26	18%
	Grand Total	143	100%

Step 2: More Detailed Review

Step 2 reviewed the remaining 26 areas and eliminated a further 11 acres from detailed consideration based on the criteria in Table 2, which also identifies the number of areas removed by category.

Table 2. More Detailed Review of Outfitter/Guide Use Areas

Category	Criteria	Number of Areas	Percent of Total
5	Less than 100 annual average service days	5	3%
6	Limited use since 2013	3	2%
7	Limited change in suitable OG (up 811 acres)	3	2%
	Total removed	11	8%
	Overall total removed (Initial Screening + Detailed Review)	128	90%
	Areas Remaining	15	10%
	Grand Total	143	100%

Step 3: Young-Growth Sensitivity Review

The above analysis focused on changes in old-growth suitable acres because young-growth suitable acres would increase only slightly (3 to 6 percent) under the action alternatives. The assessments prepared for the 15 outfitter/guide use areas identified in steps 1 and 2 assessed impacts based on changes in both old-growth and young-growth suitable acres.

Step 3 reviewed the areas that were eliminated from further consideration based on no change (Category 3), minimal change (Category 4), and limited change (Category 7) in suitable old-growth acres to see if any of these areas would experience substantial changes in suitable young-growth acres.

This initial review identified 28 outfitter/guide use areas in Categories 3, 4, and 7 where there would be increases in suitable young-growth acres relative to Alternative 1. In nine of these areas the maximum estimated increase in suitable young-growth acres would be more than 100 acres, with increases ranging up to 361 acres. In all cases, the maximum increase would occur under Alternative 5.

In all but one of the nine areas with estimated changes in young-growth acres, there would no increase in old-growth acres. In the ninth area (P14 Keku Strait/Port Camden), there would be changes in both suitable old-growth and young-growth acres, with a combined change of 935 acres (811 acres OG; 124 acres YG). This combined change would be equivalent to 0.9 percent of the total outfitter/guide use area.

Based on this review no additional areas were added to the 15 outfitter/guide use areas identified in Steps 1 and 2.