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NOTICES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

New Wilderness Areas and Other Congressionally Designated Areas; Tongass National Forest, AK

Monday, July 20, 1992

*31999 AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; availability of maps and legal descriptions.

SUMMARY: The Tongass Timber Reform Act of November 28, 1990, added six areas of the Tongass National Forest to the National Wilderness Preservation System and established in perpetuity twelve areas of the Forest as Land Use Designation II ("LUD II") Management Areas. Legal descriptions and maps of these areas are now available for public inspection at the offices listed under ADDRESSES in this notice.

ADDRESSES: Legal descriptions and maps are on file for public inspection any may be reviewed by interested parties at the following locations:

*32000 Forest Service, USDA, Auditors Building, Recreation, Cultural Resources, and Wilderness Management Staff, 4th Floor Central, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

Regional Forester, R-10, Federal Office Building, Juneau, Alaska 99802

Forest Supervisor, Tongass-Chatham Area, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, Alaska 99835

Forest Supervisor, Tongass-Stikine Area, Petersburg, Alaska 99835

Forest Supervisor, Tongass-Stikine Area, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerald Stokes, Forest Service, Recreation, Cultural Resources, and Wilderness Management Staff, call (202) 205-0925.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The six additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System established by the Tongass Timber Reform Act are as follows:

Pleasant/Lemesurier/Inian Islands Wilderness

Young Lake Addition--added to Admiralty National Monument, and added to the Kootznoowoo Wilderness.

South Etolin Wilderness

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Chuck River Wilderness
Karta River Wilderness
Kuiu Wilderness.

The twelve congressionally designated Land Use Designation II areas are as follows:

Yakutat Forelands
Berners Bay
Anan Creek
Kadashan
Lisianski River/Upper Hoonah Sound
Mt. Calder/Mt. Holbrook
Nutmka
Outside Islands
Trap Bay
Point Adolphus/Mud Bay
Naha
Salmon Bay.

The twelve areas were chosen for special management because of their critical importance for fish and wildlife habitat and their high value to tourism and recreation. The Tongas Land Management Plan provides the following specific management criteria for LUD II areas:

(1) Purpose: Areas allocated to LUD II are to be managed in a roadless State to retain wildland character, but this would permit wildlife and fish habitat improvement and primitive recreational facility development.

(2) Management implications: Commerical timber harvesting is not permitted. Timber can be salvaged only to prevent significant damage to other resources. Examples are removal of windfall in an important fish stream or control of an epidemic insect infestation.

Personal use of wood is allowed for cabin logs, firewood, float logs, trolling poles, and other similar uses.

Water and power developments are permitted if they can be designed to retain the overall primitive characteristics of the allocated area.

Roads will not be built except to serve authorized activities such as mining, power and water development, aquaculture developments, transportation needs determined by the State of Alaska, and vital Forest transportation system linkages. (Vital Forest transportation system linkages refer to necessary additions to the permanent road network. Such linkages may be built through LUD II areas when either no other feasible land or water routes exist to access adjacent LUD III or LUD IV areas or when it can be demonstrated that the routing through the LUD II area is clearly environmentally preferable and site-specific mitigation measures can be designed to minimize the impact of the road on the surrounding LUD II area. A clear need to build such linkages must be demonstrated through a comparative analysis of transportation alternatives through the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) process and must be approved by the Forest Supervisor, in consultation with other Tongass Forest Supervisors.)

Mineral Development is subject to existing laws and regulations.

Use of snowmachines, motorboats and airplanes on freshwater is permitted; however, restrictions may be imposed on a case by case basis if such use becomes excessive.

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Permanent improvements such as fishways, fish hatcheries, or aquaculture sites may be built. Appropriate landscape management techniques will be applied in the design and construction of such improvements to minimize impacts on recreational resources.

Major concentrated recreational facilities will generally be excluded.

Dated: July 13, 1992.

George M. Leonard,

Associate Chief.

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