

Corrected page 5 of Forest Service comments:

- Goshawk survey work is **inadequate** ~~adequate~~ to determine presence or absence of goshawks.
- No cumulative effects discussion.

Subsistence:

- No discussion of subsistence resources.
- No analysis of effects upon subsistence resources and subsistence users.

Land Status

Power Site Classifications 9 and 192

The DLA and PDEA make numerous references to Power Site Classifications 9 and 192 and indicate that these lands are withdrawn for hydropower development.

Background

During the 1920-30s, the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) inventoried potential hydropower sites in southeast Alaska. Those sites with hydropower potential were classified as Power Site Classifications (PSCs) and were withdrawn by administrative orders under the authority of the Organic Act of March 3, 1879. (This is the USGS Organic Act; in 19xx authority for these withdrawals was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The intent was to set aside and protect those lands with potential water power value, until that potential could be realized or developed.

The Cascade Creek/Swan Lake area was identified as having potential water power value and was withdrawn as Power Site Classifications 9 and 192 on August 20, 1921 and November 14, respectively. In accordance with the provisions of Section 24 of the Federal Power Act of June 10, 1920, these lands are reserved from entry, location, or other disposal under the public land laws until otherwise directed by FERC or by Congress.

Current Situation and Management

A Power Site Classification withdrawal identifies an area as having water power potential but it does not authorize water power development. It serves as an identifier for possible development and not as a right for development. The withdrawal in no way overrides Forest Service management discretion under the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. While the actual withdrawal has no expiration date, these are not necessarily permanent withdrawals. There is a process by which a Power Site Classification withdrawal can be revoked, if it is later determined that the area lacks water power development potential or if the PSC is incompatible with multiple use objectives. Several of the PSCs on the Tongass NF have been revoked or relinquished over the years. At present, there are an estimated 20-25 PSCs in effect on the Tongass National Forest.

Document Content(s)

Corrected page 5 of Forest Service Comments.DOC.....1-1