



Forest Service
Alaska Region
P. O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99802



Forest Service Twitter: @AKForestService
Forest Service Web: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/r10>
Shee Atiká Web: <http://www.sheatika.com>

JOINT PRESS RELEASE 17-06
For Immediate Release
July 21, 2017

Contact: James King, Forest Service, Director, Recreation, Lands, and Minerals
Phone: 907-586-8877 Email: jamesgking@fs.fed.us

Kenneth Cameron, Shee Atiká, Inc., President/CEO and Chairman
Phone: 907-747-3534 Email: info@sheatika.com

Forest Service purchases land in Cube Cove returning it to Wilderness

JUNEAU, Alaska—July 25, 2017. Today marks the completion of the purchase of four additional segments of a multi-segment land acquisition in and around Cube Cove on Admiralty Island using congressionally appropriated funds.

In July of 2016, a landmark purchase agreement was signed between the Forest Service and Shee Atiká, Incorporated to return over 22,000 acres of land back into Wilderness within the million-acre Admiralty Island National Monument. Due to the size of the property, the purchase agreement established a method to acquire the property in segments. Today's purchase of four segments, comprising 7,570.21 acres, together with the 2016 acquisition segments of 4,463.45 acres, combines for a total of 12,033.66 acres purchased to date. The segments purchased so far represent 52.6 percent of the Cube Cove property with 10,856.61 acres remaining.

When this purchase is completed it will be the largest transfer of lands from a private inholding back into Forest Service-managed Wilderness in the history of the agency. Admiralty Island is located within the Tongass National Forest, which is the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, home to large populations of brown bears and other wildlife and also critical watersheds for salmon and fish stocks.

The Cube Cove property is located 30 miles south of Juneau, Alaska, and 20 miles north of Angoon, Alaska, and is an inholding within the boundaries of the Admiralty Island National Monument and within the Kotznoowoo Wilderness area.

The land owner, Shee Atiká, Incorporated, is the Sitka-based urban Native corporation organized under terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The Cube Cove lands were

conveyed to Shee Atiká in the early 1980's as part of ANCSA, and the federal government has long been interested in reacquiring the inholding.

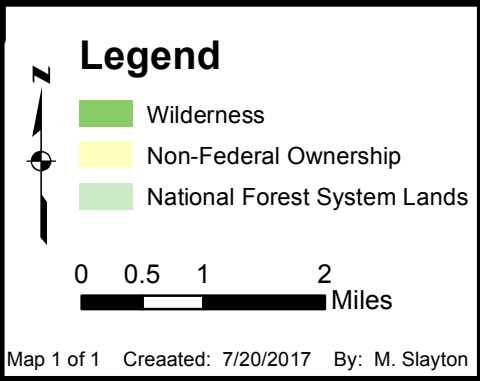
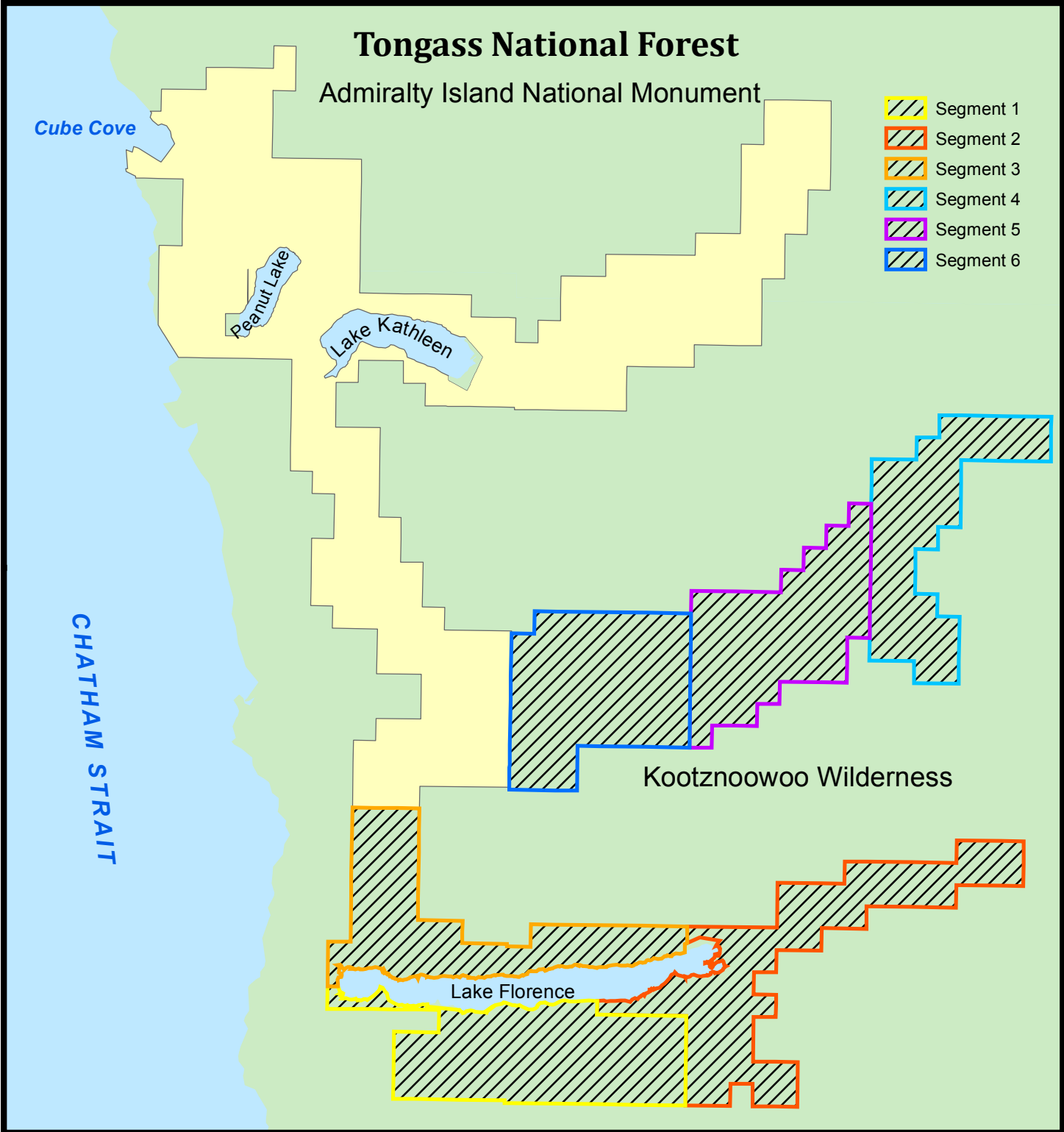
"I'm pleased to finalize the purchase of these next four parcels at Cube Cove and see these lands become a part of the Admiralty Island National Monument and Kootznoowoo Wilderness," said Alaska's Regional Forester, Beth Pendleton.

"The return of the Cube Cove land to the Monument has been a team effort by the U.S. Forest Service, Shee Atiká and the Alaska Congressional delegation," said Kenneth Cameron, President/CEO and Chairman of Shee Atiká, Incorporated.

Extensive logging took place on the property from 1984 to 2002. The phased purchase is of the surface estate, with its former logging infrastructure now removed, will allow the surface estate to return to a more natural state over time. Purchase of Wilderness inholdings is a high priority for land acquisition in the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The Alaska Region of the Forest Service manages almost 22 million acres of land within the Chugach and Tongass National Forests to meet society's needs for a variety of goods, services, and amenities while enhancing the Forests' health and productivity, and to foster similar outcomes for State and private forestland across Alaska. The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

###



Cube Cove - Admiralty Island National Monument Wilderness Regional Case #3a-21

Located within Township 45/46/47 S, Range 66/67 E, Copper River Meridian.

U.S. Forest Service - Alaska Region
Tongass National Forest
Alaska At-Large U.S. Congressional District

The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.