



Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

2207 Jordan Ave
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www.seacc.org

June 27, 2022

Admiralty Island National Monument
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801

Transmitted electronically via:

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=59913>

District Ranger Michael Downs,

Based in Juneau, Alaska (Tlingit/ Áak'w K̓wáan lands), Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) is a regional grassroots organization with more than 6,000 supporters. For over 50 years, SEACC has been bringing together diverse Alaskans from our region's communities to protect the natural resources of Southeast Alaska, ensure sound stewardship of the lands of the region, and protect subsistence resources and traditional ways of life side-by-side with commercial fishing, tourism and recreation.

Recently, a Presidential Executive Order (E.O. 14072) regarding Tongass National Forest Management emphasized three main components; recreation, restoration, and resilience. The Cube Cove Restoration Project seems to fit ideally with the intent and direction of future Tongass management. This project also fits under the new Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy (SASS) by restoring aquatic function, particularly for fish streams and wetlands, within a Wilderness area.

The methods proposed pose no issue for SEACC. While SEACC takes wilderness area protections seriously, we believe the use of heavy machinery and other methods not normally allowed in wilderness areas is warranted due to the history of logging and scale of restoration needed in the Cube Cove Area. Thinning the thick young growth in the designated project areas will encourage a quicker return to old-growth characteristics. Removing drainage structures which may get clogged during increasingly frequent heavy precipitation events will encourage improved flow, and subsequently improve fish passage in these areas. Removing these types of structures will also allow for a quicker return to Wilderness characteristics. SEACC considers the Forest Service's focus on the most heavily impacted areas first to be prudent. SEACC has no concerns with this project and applauds it as an example of the intent of SASS and of E.O. 14072.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,



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Maranda Hamme
Tongass Forest Program Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maranda Hamme". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Katie Rooks, M.S.
Environmental Policy Analyst

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Rooks". The signature is more formal and upright than the one above, with a clear, legible script.