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Comments: I am writing in response to the proposal by the Forest Service (FS) to pursue a massive "restoration" project in the Cube Cove area of the Kootznoo Wilderness in Alaska. Specifically, given that Cube Cove is healing from the damage caused by past logging, roads, and associated impacts, I am opposed to any project that involves heavy machinery and additional human impacts on this territory.

Relatedly, the FS plan violates the letter and spirit of the Wilderness Act-through its extensive use of chainsaws, helicopters, motor vehicles, and other motorized equipment, plus tree cutting, placing woody debris in riparian areas, and other proposed actions. Reclaimed roads should not be converted to trails. If the agency does convert them, though, it must mitigate the impacts on wildlife from increased human use.

Above all, the area should be allowed to fully recover on its own by allowing time and natural processes to heal past damage. At the least, the Forest Service needs to analyze a wilderness-compatible plan if it chooses active restoration, such as one that uses non-motorized hand tools rather than chainsaws and heavy equipment.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Adan