

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/18/2022 6:58:58 PM

First name: Marilyn

Last name: Costamagna

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The forest Service is preparing a "Restoration" Project in the Cube Cove area of the Kootznoo Wilderness region of Alaska. Much of this area was logged and loaded prior to the Forest Service's ultimate purchase. At its own pace and given enough time, simply through natural processes the Cube Cove area will recover on its own from the devastation caused by the logging process.

The Forest Service could allow that natural healing to proceed simply by eliminating or drastically restructuring its proposed two to five year project that inappropriately and in violation of the Wilderness Act includes the use of helicopters, heavy equipment, chainsaws and motor vehicles plus tree cutting, placing woody debris in riparian areas, and other proposed actions to restore the Kootznoowoo Wilderness.

Ideally, 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.

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.

Thanking the Forest Service in advance for adopting a restoration project more sensitive and in tune to the natural and regenerative processes intrinsic to forested areas and to all such places not dependent on mankind's interference for its survival.