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First name: EM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

As an environmentalist and educator, I'm greatly concerned about the US Forest Service's "restoration" project for Cube Cove and am asking that you not approve it going forward in order to protect the Kootznoowoo Wilderness from further damage. The FS's 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. Nature has begun to heal the damage inflicted on Cube Cove from years of logging and roading, and should be left alone now as much as possible, not further damaged by additional heavy equipment use and logging and all the rest that will result from their proposed plans.

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.

Sincerely,

EM Wilkinson

MES, CC-P