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Comments: Cube Cove Alaska is healing from the damage caused by past logging, roads, and associated impacts, and the agency's massive "restoration" program using heavy equipment is inappropriate for Wilderness. The agency failed to even consider any wilderness-compatible solutions to restoring more natural conditions at Cube Cove, including allowing nature to continue to reclaim the area over time. Additionally, the FS has effectively shortened public comment opportunities by issuing a combined scoping document proposed action that is essentially the same pre-scoping information, leaving many unanswered questions, including what alternatives, if any, will be analyzed, and the legal and policy background of the lands in question.

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.

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.

Thank you!