

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/18/2021 2:56:40 AM

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Comments: Buffalo Creek and the lakes included in the plan were all naturally fishless and should not be managed as an artificial "fishery". The native aquatic biota are harmed by introduced fish and many would be killed by the poison. In Orwellian fashion, the FS and FWP refer to the project as "restoration," yet it isn't restoring any condition that ever existed in Buffalo Creek. If the State wants to remove the introduced fish, it should do so in a manner consistent with Wilderness.

The State plan includes helicopter flights to haul in poisons and other equipment, plus an undisclosed number of helicopter flights to transport personnel, a motorboat for poisoning the lakes, and use of power generators and other motorized equipment in the Wilderness. The Wilderness Act prohibits all of these activities unless they are the minimum required for preserving Wilderness. Because the project has nothing to do with wilderness preservation, the FS must reject the State's proposal as submitted.

The Forest Service appears ready to approve the project without completing any independent environmental analysis of its own, and shortchanging public comment. A project of this magnitude in Wilderness should require completing an environmental impact statement that looks at the impacts to the entire aquatic ecosystem, and considers alternatives to the State's massive ecosystem manipulation and motorized use plan in designated Wilderness.