

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/18/2022 6:06:13 PM

First name: Benton

Last name: Elliott

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cube Cove is healing from the damage caused by past logging, roads, and associated impacts, and the Forest Service's massive "restoration" program using heavy equipment is inappropriate for the Kootznoowoo Wilderness. 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.