

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/18/2022 7:19:50 PM

First name: Jerald

Last name: Vinikoff

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cube Cove is making a natural recovery from the damage caused by past logging, roads, and associated impacts, and the Forest Service's massive "restoration" program using heavy equipment is unsuitable 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. All of this sounds like a military engineering operation.

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.

Why is it that those of us who see "Wilderness" as what it is have repeatedly to raise the same objections to the same misguided plans? "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." -- George Santayana Shall we never learn?