



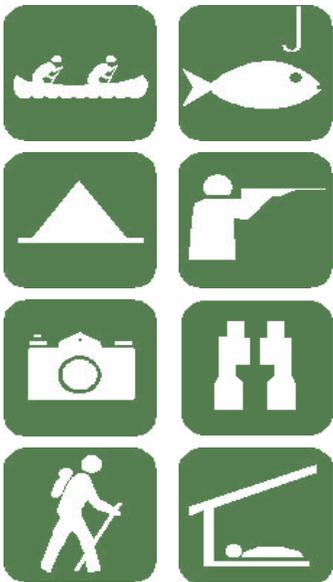
Forest Service
Alaska Region

Tongass National Forest
Admiralty National Monument
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 586-8800

Fax: (907) 586-8808

www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass



Kootznoowoo Wilderness

In 1980, the United States Congress designated 956,255 acres as the Kootznoowoo Wilderness. Located approximately 15 miles southeast of Juneau and encompassed by Admiralty Island National Monument on Admiralty Island, the Kootznoowoo Wilderness is primarily accessed by boats or floatplanes but canoes and kayaks can also be used. With its salmon-filled creeks, hundreds of spectacular mountain lakes, and towering alpine peaks, Kootznoowoo can provide for the ultimate wilderness experience. It is strategically managed to continue the preservation of this undeveloped, enduring ecosystem for the enjoyment of present and future generations.



Wilderness Laws

The Wilderness Act, ANILCA, and the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan of 2008 (TLMP) give direction to designated wilderness areas in the Tongass National Forest. The Wilderness Act, ANILCA and TLMP **prohibit** the following:

- ◆ Commercial enterprise (except for outfitters and guides)
- ◆ Permanent and temporary roads
- ◆ Use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment (except motorboats, and fixed wing airplanes)
- ◆ Mechanized form of transport (i.e. bicycles, wheelbarrows)
- ◆ Damaging of live trees
- ◆ Construction of structures and installations
- ◆ Landing of helicopters

Under ANILCA and TLMP temporary structures are allowed but are limited to a 14-day stay at any one location. TLMP also mandates a **group size limit of no more than 12 persons** for commercial or general public use within this wilderness.

Facilities

There are 14 public recreation cabins, ten three-sided shelters, the Cross Island Canoe Route, several small portaging trails, and three hiking trails in the Kootznoowoo Wilderness. Several of the cabins and shelters are found on the canoe route. A map of Admiralty Island is available for sale at the Admiralty Island National Monument office.

Wilderness Character

Walk carefully here. The Tlingit people of Southeast Alaska have long known that brown bears outnumber people by a large margin in the rainforest island wilderness known as Kootznoowoo, the “bear fort.” Here the brown bear confronts us with our fear of the primeval forest and serves as an ambassador for all things wild. If we followed the brown bear through the course of a year, from her rocky alpine den to the coastal stream exploding with spawning salmon, we would discover a vast place known intimately by smell and taste. If we followed her tracks along the edge of a meadow to her lingering scent on the bark of a spruce tree, we would inhale her secret message: “I am here, I walk this place.” It is your place to feel the wild pulse of the earth, where the ambassador treads on padded feet. Walk carefully.





Threats and Benefits

While designated wilderness areas have the most protections of any other public lands, there are still threats that degrade the wilderness resource. Illegal outfitting and guiding, threatening of wildlife by improper viewing and illegal hunting, illegal storage of commercial fishing equipment, and resource damage by improperly disposed of human waste and litter, trespass structures, cutting of trees and damaging of flora are the major human threats to this wilderness. Building awareness and a better understanding of designated wilderness areas is the key foundation to ensure that these areas stay wild.

Along with providing excellent recreational opportunities, designated wilderness areas protect natural ecosystems from being manipulated or developed. They provide us with clean air and clean water, and allow the natural processes to continue without the permanent presence of humans. As the current laws continue to give management direction, no wilderness on the Tongass will have a commercial timber harvest or construction of permanent roads. Due to the action of Congress in 1980, Kootznoowoo Wilderness will remain protected for future generations.

Wilderness Challenges

People are lured into Alaska for its beauty and excitement but remember it is also very unforgiving. Kootznoowoo Wilderness is within a temperate rainforest where the average summer temperatures are between 45-65°F. Be prepared with the appropriate clothing, safety equipment, shelter supplies, and water purifying devices for a cool and frequently overcast climate. This wilderness also contains a high density of brown bears so store food and trash properly. During the summer months, be especially careful around salmon spawning streams. Boaters and paddlers should be especially cautious when traveling in this area. Pay special attention to tides particularly inside inlets and watch for unmarked rocks and reefs.

Leave No Trace

Tongass National Forest is the largest, intact coastal rainforest in America. The Kootznoowoo Wilderness is a piece of this treasure and is set aside for all visitors – now and in the future. To insure that this area is left unimpaired for future use, practice the following Leave No Trace principles.

- ◆ Plan ahead and be prepared for extreme weather conditions, and emergencies.
- ◆ Travel and camp on durable surfaces. There are several beaches in this wilderness that provide excellent camping spots. In pristine areas, disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails. When available use tent sites.
- ◆ Dispose of waste properly. **Pack out** all trash, leftover food, and toilet paper. Use bathroom facilities when available. On the marine shore dispose of human waste in the intertidal zone. If camping in upland forests dispose of solid waste by digging a cathole 6 to 8 inches deep located at least 200 feet from water or campsite.
- ◆ Leave what you find. Examine but do not touch cultural or historical structures or artifacts. Do not build structures or furniture with live trees.
- ◆ Minimize campfire impacts. Use a lightweight stove when possible. When a campfire is necessary, keep fires small. Build a fire below mean high tide, or when in a forested area, build a mound fire or use a fire pan to avoid damaging the ground vegetation. Stay away from boulders or tree bases to avoid long lasting black scars.
- ◆ Respect wildlife and other visitors in the surrounding area.

This flyer was printed with the help of recreation fee money. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.