Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/7/2021 8:19:07 PM

First name: Clayton Last name: Matheny

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I fully support this project. Personally, I can't believe that we don't have such a program already in place. We've been neglecting the ecological health of our forests for far too long. While it may seem difficult for some to cope with the smoke and risks associated with prescribed burns, they are far less than the consequences that are arising from not taking action. For example, look outside today, or check the news in California. This is a reality we have created folks, now is the time for solutions. Indigenous groups utilized extensive burning for thousands of years. The associated plant communities have evolved with these moderate burn regimes. We need to learn from those who inhabited these lands before us and reconnect with our environment, beyond just a "stroll through the woods". I provide a link for a brand new article from the Journal of Forestry by North et al. proposing increased prescribed burning. I'm sure you have plenty of data and research to back-up your plan, but here's another:

https://academic.oup.com/jof/article/119/5/520/6279705?fbclid=lwAR3mzorW7Z4v2eDpQE5NxPSKHkaGM58qQvblh5pqMC69gG-1dxkQrR-f-3E

Thanks ya'll! Hope the pushback keeps to a minimum