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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is David Parker and I would like to express my concerns and the reasons why I feel that there should not be any wilderness designations in the Sacramento Ranger District within the Lincoln National Forest. I see that there are two possible locations selected and I feel strongly that neither of these areas would meet the wilderness characteristics that are required. I also believe that it wouldn't be in the best interest of the forest lands selected. I feel that these selected areas couldn't possibly meet wilderness characteristics due to the vast amount of infrastructural improvements, roads, utilities and other man made features that should automatically disqualify these proposed areas from ever being considered wilderness. The infrastructure that was put in these areas required large wheeled equipment to put them in initially, and will also require some of this same machinery to repair and maintain that infrastructure. The water infrastructure in these areas is vital to the ranchers, cattle, and permits they serve. They are also of equal importance to the wildlife that also benefit from these man made water infrastructure facilities. If these watering facilities weren't able to be maintained adequately because of Wilderness designation, it would be extremely devastating to current wildlife populations, as well as to the ranching operations that this would affect. As we've seen in the past, such as the Little Bear Fire in Ruidoso which originated in a designated wilderness, it grew to enormous strength because of the requirements of the wilderness which limited what the firefighters could do to prevent the spread of the fire. When the fire came off of the wilderness it was out of control and devastated the surrounding community both economically and emotionally. All of this could have possibly been prevented if not for the wilderness restrictions. We do not want this to happen in our communities because of wilderness designations, therefore I am against any wilderness designations within the Sacramento Ranger District because of the possibility of it leading to the problems previously listed. In closing, I would like to strongly urge you to consider the negative impact having a wilderness in the Sacramento Ranger District would have on the wildlife, the small urban communities that lie within the SRD, and the detriment to the economy it would cause. Thank you for considering these comments, David Parker