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Comments: (I have an MS in Wildlife Management.)

I understand that prescribed burns and tree cutting may be part of a good forest management plan for national forest lands, but I object to their use in lands designated as Wilderness. This human manipulation of the landscape is incompatible with the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain ... An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions ..."

Fire is natural in a Wilderness, but fire started by a natural process-- lightning-- not by humans.

The Act says, "such measure may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire... subject to such conditions as the Secretary [of Agriculture] deems desirable." To control a fire-- not to start one, as this plan intends to do.

For the same reason, trees should not be cut in Wilderness areas. Dead trees have ecological purposes as habitat for many species of birds and other animals, and their natural decay enriches the forest floor. The disruption of people making roads and coming in to cut and haul timber is also a violation of the Wilderness Act. The Forest Service should exclude designated Wilderness from the proposed burn plans for Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. This includes: Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes, Dome Land, Golden Trout, Jennie Lakes, John Muir, Kaiser, Kiavah, Monarch, and South Sierra Wildernesses.

In those Wilderness areas, instead of prescribed burns and tree cutting, allow only lightning fires and natural tree death to occur, without human interference, as is compatible with the Wilderness Act.

Thank you.