Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/16/2023 12:09:39 PM

First name: Brad Last name: Marston Organization:

Title:

Comments: The USDA Forest Service (USFS), having acted as a colonial power by suppressing natural wildfires and indigenous peoples from practicing cultural burning during the 20th century now proposes to undertake its own massive burning projects. This time the target is official Wilderness areas where such manipulation is expressly forbidden by the 1964 Wilderness Act. The USFS however has stepped up illegal activity recently using climate change and megafires as an excuse. These illegal activities must stop.

I have hiked and backpacked through many of the Wilderness areas covered by the scoping action, and have been struck by the mismanagement of the areas by the USFS which has been captured by moneyed interests. The USFS needs enemies to justify the massive firefighting-industrial complex so has adopted language that views wildfire as the enemy to be fought as in a war. In reality natural wildfires are what is needed but hey, they don't justify huge budgets. So the USFS continues on its downward spiral, spewing out misinformation.