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Comments: In September of this year, my husband and I backpacked in the Kaiser Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest. Being older Americans, with significant chronic health issues, we hiked very slowly, savoring the incomparable beauty and utter naturalness of this Congressionally designated Wilderness.

As we marveled at the beauty of George Lake, and as a faculty member in the Environmental Studies Department at University of California Santa Barbara, who teaches "Public Lands and Waters -- Law and Policy," I reflected about what this Wilderness Area means to current and future generations, and the prescience of Congress in 1964 in passing The Wilderness Act. The importance of Wilderness to biodiversity, climate change mitigation, science, intergenerational equity, mental and physical health, humility and more is immense, and increasing.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to exclude all of the designated Wildernesses from its proposed burning plans for the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests in order to comply with the Wilderness Act. As a former public lands attorney for the federal government, I strongly believe that the Wilderness Act does not permit prescribed burning in Congressionally designated Wilderness areas.

Thank you for considering these comments and for removing Wilderness areas from any prescribed burning plans.

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