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First name: Allison

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I'm writing in support of your proposal to use prescribed burns and thinning of trees in the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. I live in New Mexico, where two summers ago we experienced the worst wildfire season the state has ever seen. It was terrible, with wind pushing enormous flames through forests that were choked with overgrowth due to fire suppression efforts and already dry from drought. If those forests had been cleared a bit, using prescribed burns and tree thinning measures, we might have been able to save many acres of precious forest from destruction. It was prescribed burns that got out of control that actually started the worst of those wildfires, but I believe the Forest Service now understands how climate change demands that procedures be adjusted to take into consideration the hotter, drier conditions we have now, and going forward more care will be taken to prevent prescribed burns from getting out of control. We're in a new time, and more has to be done to protect our forests from wildfire destruction, and I believe you're doing the right thing. Our Native tribes in New Mexico have used tree thinning and I think some prescribed burns on their lands, and these steps have been effective in protecting their forest land. If it's good enough for the tribes, who respect and cherish the land so much, it's good enough for me. Thank you.