Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/16/2023 5:44:55 PM First name: Diane Last name: Kastel Organization: Title: Comments: Our family implores your Agency to spare the, crown, jewels of the "National Wilderness Preservation System" from your, misguided, irresponsible, burning and cutting plans!

Our family wants you to save over 842,000 acres of Wilderness in California from burning and, tree, cutting! We are telling the "Forest Service" to spare, your, designated, "Wilderness" areas there from your extensive, burning, and, habitat, manipulation project! Your Agency MUST, instead, allow natural, lightning-caused, fire to play its ecological, role in Wilderness on the "Sequoia" and "Sierra National Forests"!

The, so-called, "Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Prescribed Fire Project" is out for "scoping" now. This is the, first, step of the environmental, review process, so, by speaking out now, the public has a, better, chance of protesting the, burning, proposal covering the entirety of, both, national forests-3,750 square miles in all!

The "U.S. Forest Service" has announced a massive, burning, project for the "Sequoia" and "Sierra National Forests", in California, that covers 2.4 million acres-including all 842,448 acres of Wildernesses in, both, national forests!

The "Forest Service" has announced that, all, Wildernesses on these, two, national forests-over 842,000 acres of Wilderness in total-are subject to the, proposed, burn plan. Some of America's, most, loved Wilderness areas are at stake, including the "Ansel Adams", "Dinkey Lakes", "John Muir", "Kaiser, "Kiavah", "Monarch", "South Sierra", "Dome Land", "Jennie Lakes", and "Golden Trout Wildernesses".

While we recognize that fire has played, and, continues to play, an, important, ecological role in these Wildernesses, the, "Forest Service", proposal represents a, huge, human-driven, manipulation of Wilderness that is inconsistent with the letter, and, spirit, of the "1964 Wilderness Act"! From a, Wilderness, perspective, it is far better to allow, natural, lightning-caused, fire to play its role, rather than to invade Wilderness to cut down "undesirable" trees and burn forests based on, human, wishes, and, desires!

The "Forest Service" MUST exclude ALL of the, designated, Wildernesses from your, proposed, burning plans for the Sequoia" and Sierra National Forests" in order to comply with the "Wilderness Act"! Some of America's, most, loved Wilderness areas are at stake, including the "Ansel Adams", "Dinkey Lakes", "John Muir", "Kaiser, "Kiavah", "Monarch", "South Sierra", "Dome Land", "Jennie Lakes", and "Golden Trout Wildernesses"!