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Comments: 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, we wish to go on record in opposition to this disastrous " burning proposal" covering the entirety of both national forests-3,750 square miles in all.

The Forest Service should 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. 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.

The agency should instead allow natural, lightning-caused fire to play its ecological role in Wilderness on the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.

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.

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