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Comments: I am writing in strong opposition to the U.S. Forest Service's consideration of a massive burning project in 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. 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 I 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.

I urge the agency to spare these crown jewels of the National Wilderness Preservation System from its misguided burning, cutting, and habitat manipulation project.