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Comments: I ask the Forest Service to spare designated Wilderness areas from this extensive burning and habitat manipulation project.

The so-called "Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Prescribed Fire Project" is the first step of the environmental review process, and I am worried about this burning proposal covering the entirety of both national forests-3,750 square miles in all.

You (Forest Service) have announced that all Wildernesses on these two national forests-over 842,000 acres of Wilderness in total-are subject to the proposed burn plan. As you know, 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.

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.

Instead, Forest Service must allow natural, lightning-caused fire to continue its ecological role in Wilderness on the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.

Thank you for considering my comments.