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Comments: I wish to comment on the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Prescribed Fire Project. I recognize that fire has played, and continues to play, an important ecological role in the management of our nation's forests. However the Forest Service announcement that all Wildernesses on these two national forests-over 842,000 acres of Wilderness in total-are subject to the proposed burn plan causes me pause.

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 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 cut down "undesirable" trees or burn forests based on human wishes and desires.

I urge the agency, to comply with the Wilderness Act, and to the extent possible allow natural, lightning-caused fire to play its ecological role in Wilderness on the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.