

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/18/2023 9:18:22 PM

First name: Beth

Last name: Cohen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

As a concerned citizen and master naturalist in the state of New Mexico, I am asking The U.S. Forest Service to exclude all of the designated Wildernesses from its proposed burning plans for the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests 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.

Thank you