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Comments: Sunday, November 19, 2023

Pacific Southwest Regional Office  
Ecosystem Planning  
Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Prescribed Fire Project  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, California 9459

Subject: Please reject misguided burning and cutting plans in Wilderness -- Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Prescribed Fire Project #65081

To USFS Chief Randy Moore, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Jennifer Eberlien, Sequoia National Forest Supervisor Teresa Benson, and Sierra National Forest Supervisor Dean Gould,

Thank you for accepting comments on the proposal to use prescribed fire within the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. I am disappointed, though, to learn that all Wildernesses on these two national forests-over 842,000 acres of Wilderness in total-are subject to the proposed burn plan.

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

-- Ansel Adams

While I recognize that fire has played-and continues to play-an important ecological role in these Wildernesses, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) 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.

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

"With regard to areas of wilderness, we should be guardians not gardeners."

-- Howard Zahniser, author of the Wilderness Act

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Lish  
San Rafael, CA