

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/20/2023 1:21:13 AM

First name: Lee

Last name: Bennett

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Date: November 19, 2023

Subject: Commenting on Scoping for extensive burning and habitat manipulation project on the Sequoia and Sierra National Forest which includes their Wilderness Areas

U.S. Forest Service,

The Forest Service has announced that all Wildernesses on the Sequoia and Sierra national forests, over 842,000 acres of Wilderness in total, are subject to their recently proposed cutting and burn plan. Some of America's most beloved 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. Americans want these wilderness protected, not cut or burned to fulfill some lumber company's quota or some other private agenda. It seems to me that the Forest Service is constantly pushing the envelope when it comes to what is and isn't appropriate, with regard to actions taken within Wilderness, as per the 1964 Wilderness Act. This is why I am writing comments to the Forest Service today.

While I recognize that fire has played, and continues to play, an important ecological role in these Wildernesses, this Forest Service proposal represents a huge human-driven manipulation of Wilderness that is completely inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the 1964 Wilderness Act. From a wilderness perspective, it is always 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. Nature works on its own timescale, without requiring constant micromanagement by man.

With heartfelt sincerity, I urge the agency to spare these crown jewels of the National Wilderness Preservation System from what I consider rather misguided burning and cutting plans. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Bennett, Wilderness supporter