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Comments: I support more "active" management of forestland within the BWCA to mitigate the increasing effects of climate change (including increased wind, fire, drought, heat stress, and insect infestations) and help preserve some of the northern forest character that we value and love about the BWCAW.

It has always struck me that we have created an arbitrary line - our collective actions are allowed to negatively impact the forest through climate change and overuse of the wilderness, but we have decided that we can't take action to balance those and help the forest adapt to those challenges through more active forest restoration and rehabilitation efforts. That is an unfortunate decision. Wilderness "purists" need to realize that human actions are already severely impacting the wilderness and without more active management, these impacts will dramatically alter the forest character that we all cherish. It is time to put our pure concepts of "wilderness" aside and take action to mitigate our own damage.

I believe management options such as thinning in high fire risk areas, low-intensity controlled burns, direct planting/seeding with selected tree species (especially those that have lost their seed stocks due to previous logging), and assisted migration should all be on the table if we really want to preserve the forest character that we cherish. I doubt many BWCAW visitors are eager to camp in what will become (without more active management) brushland and grassland. There are already parts of the North shore between Duluth and Grand Marais where this transition is well underway.