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Comments: To the US Forest Service:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Prescribed Fire Project #65081.

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.

I thank USFS for listening to us during the initial "scoping" phase of this project last year and including Alternative C in the draft EA-the Wilderness Exclusion Alternative.

Under Alternative C, USFS would exclude all designated Wilderness from the burning project plus the recommended Monarch Wilderness-South addition-a total of 871,472 acres.

Unfortunately, Alternative C is not USFS's Proposed Action.

While we recognize that fire has played, and continues to play, an important ecological role in these Wildernesses, USFS's proposal represents a huge human-driven manipulation of Wilderness that is inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the 1964 Wilderness Act. In fact, USFS is even proposing to ignite some fires in Wilderness using helicopters and drones.

From a wilderness perspective, allowing 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, is the far better policy.

I urge USFS to spare these crown jewels of the National Wilderness Preservation System from misguided cutting and burning plans.

I support Alternative C, the Wilderness Exclusion Alternative. USFS should exclude all designated and recommended Wildernesses from its proposed cutting and burning plans for the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests in order to comply with the Wilderness Act.

USFS should also add the Moses Mountain Recommended Wilderness to Alternative C.

USFS should instead allow natural, lightning-caused fire to continue its ecological role in designated and recommended Wilderness on the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.

Thank you for meaningfully considering my comments.