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Comments: The U.S. Forest Service's Alternative B is a proposed action which would utilize controlled burning and thinning as the primary activities in the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Prescribed Fire Project. The nearsighted proposal to ignite fires in Wilderness using helicopters and drones is a risk hazard. 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. The Forest Service burning proposal is inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

The U.S. Forest Service is urged to approve Alternative C, which would exclude all designated Wilderness from the burning project plus the recommended Monarch Wilderness-South addition-a total of 871,472 acres.

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. Such an attack on our natural wilderness areas is a questionable and destructive forestry management strategy.