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Comments: I am writing to comment on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the so-called "Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Prescribed Fire Project", to urge the Forest Service to spare the designated Wilderness areas from this extensive burning and habitat manipulation project.

I am dismayed and alarmed to learn that the U.S. Forest Service has moved forward a massive burning project for the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests in California that covers 2.4 million acres-including all 866,741 acres of designated Wilderness on both national forests! 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.

However, I am pleased that The Forest Service took seriously comments it received during the initial "scoping" phase of this project last year, and included Alternative C in the draft EA-the Wilderness Exclusion Alternative. Under Alternative C, the Forest Service 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 the Forest Service's Proposed Action, so I am urging the Forest Service to protect these wilderness gems from the tree cutting, burning, and manipulation that it wants to do.

While I recognize that fire has played, and continues to play, an important ecological role in these Wildernesses, the Forest Service proposal represents a huge human-driven manipulation of Wilderness that is inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the 1964 Wilderness Act. I am especially concerned that the Forest Service is even proposing to ignite some fires in Wilderness using helicopters and drones!

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.

For these reasons, I support Alternative C, the Wilderness Exclusion Alternative. The Forest Service 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. The Forest Service should also add the Moses Mountain Recommended Wilderness to Alternative C. The agency should instead allow natural, lightning-caused fire to play its ecological role in designated and recommended Wilderness on the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.

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