

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2024 1:40:35 PM

First name: Tristan

Last name: Potter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urge the Forest Service to adopt Alternative C, the Wilderness Exclusion Alternative, in the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Prescribed Fire Project. This approach, which avoids cutting and burning in designated and recommended Wilderness areas, is the only one that truly respects the Wilderness Act's intent to keep these places "untrammeled." It's concerning to see proposals that involve helicopters and drones to ignite fires, which contradict the natural values that Wilderness protection was established to uphold. Additionally, the Moses Mountain Recommended Wilderness should be included in this exclusion to fully honor the ecological integrity of these wild areas.

Instead of imposing human management goals on Wilderness, the Forest Service should allow natural, lightning-caused fires to serve their essential ecological role. Fire has long shaped these forests naturally, and using artificial burns and tree removal distorts this balance and compromises the unique character of Wilderness. Rather than treating these lands as if we know best what should grow or burn there, the Forest Service has a responsibility to preserve their untamed quality. By adopting Alternative C, the agency would protect the spirit of these wild places for future generations.