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Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association

Title: Conservation Director

Comments: Dear USFS,

The High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) represents thousands of citizens from all over the U.S. who enjoy recreating in the Sierra and Sequoia national forests. The HSHA strongly supports making our communities fire-safe. At the same time, the HSHA strongly opposes actions that would harm the wilderness character of designated and potential wilderness areas in the High Sierra.

The proposed action would materially harm our members by intruding upon and trammeling High Sierra wilderness.

The HSHA supports Alternative C, the Wilderness Exclusion Alternative. Your agency should aggressively treat unnatural fuel loads in the wildland-urban interface, and exclude ALL designated and recommended wildernesses from proposed cutting and burning plans for the Sequoia and Sierra national forests.

The HSHA implores you to comply with the Wilderness Act. That Act of Congress requires that you refrain from "pre-treatment" cutting and human-caused ignitions within designated wildernesses.

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.