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Comments: I am writing regarding the US Forest Service (USFS) proposed Prescribed Fire Project (#65081) in the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests in California.

The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project covers 2.4 million acres-including all 866,741 acres of designated Wilderness within both national forests. The Wilderness areas that will be affected include the Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes, John Muir, Kaiser, Kiavah, Monarch, South Sierra, Dome Land, Jennie Lakes, and Golden Trout Wildernesses.

After the initial "scoping" phase of this project, the USFS has included Alternative C in the draft EA-the Wilderness Exclusion Alternative. Under this alternative, 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.

I would like it known that while I appreciate the USFS including Alternative C in the draft EA, I am concerned that this alternative is not being presented in good faith since it is not the Forest Service's Proposed Action. The Forest Service's Proposed Action, as it currently stands, represents a significant and unacceptable human-driven manipulation of Wilderness that is inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

From the perspective of the Wilderness Act - which has at its core the focus of leaving all designated wildernesses "untrammeled" and as is, including not applying prescribed fire - it is better to allow natural, lightning-caused fire to play its role, rather than to invade Wilderness to cut down "undesirable" trees and burn forests.

I strongly urge the USFS to adopt Alternative C - the Wilderness Exclusion Alternative - as its Proposed Action. The Forest Service should exclude all designated and recommended Wildernesses (e.g., the Moses Mountain Recommended Wilderness) from its proposed cutting and burning plans for the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests in order to comply with the Wilderness Act.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for me to comment on this project.