

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/7/2024 5:55:42 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear United States Forest Service,

Your plan to conduct extensive burning and cutting of trees in 866,741 acres of designated Wilderness in the California Sequoia and Sierra National Forests is horrific and should be dropped.

I live in the 2020 CZU August Lightning Complex burn scar in Santa Cruz County, California. The fire literally stopped at our driveway and our house was, fortunately, spared. So I well understand that small, local, carefully controlled burns by experts as have been done in our area post-fire can help reduce fuels. But your clumsy, broad-brush, proposed actions would far exceed anything reasonable or productive of those goals, and are entirely inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Also, your proposal to ignite some of those fires in Wilderness using helicopters and drones is entirely unacceptable, as during their use these would shatter the area's natural sounds, ruin the wilderness experience for visitors, and stress native wildlife. Keep machine noise out of these Wilderness areas!

The ONLY acceptable alternative in the Draft EA currently under review is Alternative C-the Wilderness Exclusion Alternative. Under this Alternative, the USFS would exclude all designated and proposed Wilderness from the burning project, including the recommended addition of the Monarch Wilderness-South, bringing the total exclusions to 871,472 acres. In addition, the Forest Service should add the Moses Mountain Recommended Wilderness to Alternative C.

Instead of your burning plan, you should instead allow natural, lightning-caused fire to play its ecological role in designated and recommended Wilderness in the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.