

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/14/2025 3:56:13 PM

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Comments: BHA MN supports the use of fire in forests both in and outside the wilderness area. Our organization advocates strongly for science based management of natural resources, and it is abundantly clear that these fire dependent ecosystems will benefit from increased safe/prescriptive burning.

We support a leading role for local expertise of managers in decision making around habitat management. Good stewardship of our forest ecosystems begins with empowering managers at the local level to understand and act in nuanced ways that fit their local needs. These people are best equipped to navigate tough decisions that dot the road to the overarching goal of "good natural resource conservation."

And finally, we support the reasonable/balanced development and addition of trails/recreation and gravel resources in the project area. First acknowledging that there are places and spaces in our wilderness and national forests that would best be left alone, we also recognize the practical needs of infrastructure and recreational access. We support a careful and thoughtful development of these resources in ways that balance their need against the fact that gravel extraction and trail development increase human impacts to the ecosystems.

All-in-all, we believe this project will improve our forests and we are excited to see more fire in these landscapes that thrive on it.