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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to recommend that the Forest Service choose Alternative 3 as its final decision released in the record of decision for this proposal.

I have visited the BWCAW many times and treasure these wilderness lands, and it is my hope that future generations of Americans will have the opportunity to experience this wonderful wilderness just as I have had the opportunity to do so in my lifetime.

The only way to be certain that those future canoeers in the BWCAW will have that type of genuine wilderness experience is for the Forest Service to strictly adhere to the legal requirements for management of designated wilderness, as defined by the 1964 Wilderness Act. The proposed massive manipulation of 84,000 acres of the BWCAW is a direct violation of the Wilderness Act and must not move forward as proposed.

In short, the Forest Service should refrain from artificial, human defined management of the ecosystem and allow nature to take its course without intervention.

Failure of the Forest Service to do this in the past has created problems which this proposal intends to address, i.e. your continued failure to let naturally occurring fires run their course has created the severe overgrowth which is now threatening catastrophic wildfire.

I do not, however, think that the Forest Service should try to rectify the situation by yet more artificial human defined manipulation, as has been proposed.

I believe the Forest Service should decide to choose either the Alternative 3 No Action alternative, or else severely modify their proposal to minimize the level of human manipulation, and especially to eliminate any mechanized operations within the wilderness area (and allow no helicopter flights).

The draft should be modified by redoing the Environmental Assessment. The current draft EA does not analyze whether, when or how the Forest Service will allow natural fires to burn in the BWCAW in the future. Appropriate management of naturally occurring fire within the wilderness should be the focus of the assessment and the output should be the definition of what will happen should fires occur, and how those decisions will produce a healthier forest for the future.

Thankyou for considering my opinions.