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Comments: I am appalled that the Forrest Service is considering a controlled burn and toxic chemical spraying of vegetations in the Cottonwood Canyons and their tributaries east of a major metropolitan area.

I live on Salt Lake's east side and will be directly affected by the nightly canyon winds that will reign down toxic smoke on the Valley's eastside. The canyon's aesthetic disfigurement will be visible for at least 20 years. Loss of wildlife may be permanent.

One only need look at the recent foothill fires to see the terrible valley air pollution created. Drought-stressed forests certainly face increased wildfire risk, but the US Forest Service's solution to protecting our forests from wildfires is to cut and burn them down pre-emptively.

This is public health malpractice. Emissions from "low intensity" prescribed burns create more toxic smoke than those from large wildfires. Studies have shown that per ton of biomass burned, low intensity burns produce more smoke emissions than higher intensity burns. Another recent study concluded that smoke from prescribed burns kills more people than wildfire smoke.

The project includes spraying herbicides to kill saplings and other unwanted vegetation. Herbicides are biologic poisons to virtually all organisms proven to cause a wide range of human and wildlife diseases at relevant environmental exposures.

As a voting citizen of Utah, I beg the Forrest Service to abandon this "prescribed burn" plan in the Cottonwood Canyons. Every citizen of this Valley deserves good air quality to breathe.