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Comments: Project #54965 exemplifies the most recent wave of projects that excessively cut and burn forests, doing them long-term harm. We need genuine forest restoration - the kind that improves forest health and reduces wildfire risk by holding moisture in the forest ecosystem. Burning trees that are 24" in diameter at chest height will result in the removal of trees that might be 100 years old, and that is a mistake.

The Forest Service has caused multiple major wildfires as the result of carelessness with regard to conditions around prescribed burns. In 2022 I wrote family in other states that it was absurd for the Forest Service to be doing a prescribed burn when the winds were predicted to be high -- I watched in horror as the escaped burn resulted in Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, a conflagration that destroyed homes and landscape and livelihoods.

Furthermore, as a respiratory patient, I can attest to the human harm caused by the frequent control burns. Sometimes I have been confined to my house for extended periods because of the ambient smoke. During the pandemic, it was hard to get oxygen support because of a shortage, so the prescribed burns caused further stress to my lungs.

The Forest Service can never give back what it has taken away, but it can stop making the same mistakes now.