



February 16, 2018

Deanna Dulen, Superintendent  
Devils Postpile National Monument  
P.O. Box 3999  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Re: Devils Postpile National Monument Fire Management Plan

Dear Deanna:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft alternatives for the proposed Devils Postpile National Monument (DEPO) Fire Management Plan. We generally support the revision of the DEPOs Fire Management Plan to align with the Inyo National Forest's draft Land Management Plan and the proposed fire management zones of general wildfire protection and wildfire restoration. However, we cannot simply rely on pile burning to solve the fuels problem within the Monument. The importance of fire use and natural ignitions will need to be a central message in the new plan. After a review of the initial goals and strategies we recommend the following considerations:

- The primary goal for the next planning period should be to work with fire to build fire resilience in the Monument.
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat such as the protection of large woody debris and standing large snags are viewed as a fuel source that need to be burned up, however they are critical habitat to many species occupying the DEPO. The goals and strategies in the current form fail to mention anything about sensitive wildlife and plant species. This would be a natural addition to Goals and Strategies #7.
- Fire use is critical to maintain treatments that do require fuels reduction.
- The plan should promote public outreach of "living with fire" and accurately present the likely consequences of failure to reach fire regime-fire frequency, in an effort to shift the political tide regarding fire.
- The plan should use the best available science of fire frequency as a key part of ecosystem function, health and sustainability, as well as describe acreage targets of fire use that accurately quantify the fire regime need for the various vegetation types within the Monument (Whitethorn, Soda Springs meadow, Red Fir, etc.).

We thank the staff of Devils Postpile National Monument, the NPS Regional Planning Team, and the Inyo National Forest for working together to envision a comprehensive and scientifically driven plan for managing fire. If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding our comments, please contact me at 760-873-6500 or email [jora@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:jora@friendsoftheinyo.org). We look forward to reviewing the draft Environmental Assessment this spring.

Sincerely,  
/S/ Jora Fogg  
Policy Director  
Friends of the Inyo