

Section 1. Agree. Very reasonable correction of a bad rule.

Regarding the rest of this bill, I don't believe I have enough experience in prescribed fire to make an informed statement.

I DO want to suggest that land managers consider using slashbusters, forest mulchers, or similar equipment to improve their timber stands. While prescribed burns certainly produce less smoke per acre than wildfires, these machines produce virtually none.

As we all know, breathing smoke is hazardous to our health, so these machines seem very beneficial, healthwise.

Furthermore, this type of equipment, by avoiding fires, leaves all the organic material onsite, in a mulched or chipped form, which helps maintain soil moisture, cools the soil, and provides needed nutrients.

I hired a man with a little Bobcat forest mulcher a decade ago, and he was able to do a masterful job on getting my land to meet the old SB 360 Rural/wild lands interface standards. He parked out well over an acre of extremely thick brush, interwoven with blackberries, in four hours, for \$400. Just hand cutting this disaster would have taken hundreds of man hours, plus more man hours to pile and burn it.