

Holly Krake

In an ecologically fire-adapted landscape, regulations and guidance that limit wildfire smoke (PM 2.5) in the short term can have the unintended outcome of actually increasing long-term, generational exposure and risk from wildfire smoke in overburdened communities. In other words, limited scale and frequency approvals for prescribed fire could actually be one of the single largest ways we are simply kicking the 'clean air' can down the road. To help mitigate a future of higher intensity PM 2.5 in megafires, DOE should maximize support of prescribed fire in policy and regulation while concurrently working on removing barriers to establishing clean air shelters, increasing ESL publications, building and funding a network of mobile ESL smoke educators, and providing robust 'how to be smoke ready' education in conjunction with local health departments.