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Prescribed burning can affect the vegetation response to fire through water and nutrient availability. We collected data on soil moisture, bulk density, macronutrients, N mineralization, and soil respiration during the 2002 summer field season in an old-growth mixed-conifer forest of Sequoia National Park, California. We sampled three replicate fall-season prescribed burn and control plots. The information gathered will eventually be used, along with data collected for the Fire and Fire-Surrogate Study, to determine overall effects of prescribed burning on the physical and chemical properties of soils in the mixed-conifer zone of the Sierra Nevada. We will present results from the initial field season (fall-burn vs. control) as well as ideas and questions that will be pursued during the remainder of the study.