

November 13, 2021

Public Comment

Wilderness areas must be excluded from *Region 5 Post-disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project 60950*, and that includes any encroachment activity on wilderness boundaries.

Dead and dying trees should be left alone in Wilderness.

Chainsaws must not be used to clear trails in Wilderness.

Dead trees must be allowed to fall naturally, and trails cleared with crosscut saws only when absolutely necessary.

As you know, at every stage of their lives, trees are an essential part of the ecosystem in which they live. Whether standing, fallen, or chopped down to a stump, their existence serves important purposes for both flora and fauna.

The following are some benefits of dead or dying trees (snags).

- As a snag decays, leaf and wood nutrients enrich soil to benefit nearby plant life.
- Wildlife use snags as shelter, a food source, or food storage.
- Dead tree barriers slow wind-blown snow, trap it and eventually melt it so that it can be absorbed and used by soil and nearby plants.
- Beneficial fungi and lichen grow on snags.
- Snags can reduce fire spread. While needles, twigs, outer bark, and resins from live trees act as kindling, the large dense branches and trunk of a barren snag are less flammable.
- This would be an educational opportunity to inform visitors of the benefits of Wilderness, allowing natural processes to proceed, and maintaining traditional skills.