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Comments: Attached are PCTA's comment regarding the Region 5 Post-Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project #60950. Thank you.

April 19, 2022 U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Regional Office Ecosystem Planning, Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, California 94592 This letter submitted to: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=60950> RE: Post-Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project #60950 with comments pertaining to all three zones Dear Regional Forester Eberlien, I am writing on behalf of the 15,400 member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). PCTA is the U.S. Forest Service's primary private partner in the management and maintenance of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). The foundation for this private-public partnership in the operation of National Scenic Trails is rooted in the 1968 National Trails System Act. As such, it is the PCTA's role to work with the U.S. Forest Service to ensure the best possible management of the PCT and the experience it affords trail users, year-round. We have reviewed the Post-Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Central Sierra Zone Draft EA and appreciate the purpose and need for the project and the proposed action(s). PCTA is pleased that this section, [Issues Analyzed in Detail], includes the following: Widespread removal of trees along the Pacific Crest Trail would significantly degrade the natural-appearing landscape, which is an essential part of the trail's nature and purpose. In addition, PCTA supports the inclusion of the following design feature found on page 75 of the Draft EA and FONSI; [RA-15: Pacific Crest Trail: Forest personnel will work in partnership with Pacific Crest Trail Association to identify site-specific hazard trees which pose an imminent threat to the trail facilities and public safety.] Widespread removal of trees along the PCT would negatively impact the trail experience for decades into the future. Maintaining this design feature within the project helps ensure that both the nature and purposes of the PCT and trail experience are protected and the trail properly managed. PCTA also encourages the Forest units and Central Sierra Zone to incorporate the following design features in to the project: [Apply design feature RA-15 when roads selected for Hazardous Tree Management are within immediate foreground viewing distance (300') from the PCT] [Cut stumps as low as possible within the immediate foreground viewing distance (300') from the PCT] [Angle cuts away from the trail within the immediate foreground viewing distance (300') from the PCT] [Trees to be removed will be marked and trees remaining will be un-marked within the immediate foreground viewing distance (300') from the PCT] Thank you for considering PCTA's comments in response to the Central Sierra Zone Post-Disturbance Hazardous Tree Project Draft EA and FONSI. We commend the U.S. Forest Service for quickly and actively addressing the widespread impacts from the 2020 and 2021 wildfire seasons and look forward to Pacific Crest Trail Association