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Comments: 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 South Sierra Zone Draft EA and appreciate the purpose and need for the project and the proposed action(s). As noted in the footnotes, the PCT does not overlap with the proposed action in the South Zone as it does in the the Central and North Zones. Nevertheless, PCTA is pleased that the section, [ldquo]Issues Considered for Analysis[rdquo], includes the following: [ldquo]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.[rdquo] In addition, PCTA supports the inclusion of the following design feature found on page 78 of the Draft EA and FONSI; [ldquo]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.[rdquo] 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. Again, despite this proposed action not overlapping with the PCT in the South Zone, we are glad to see these words of partnership as our continued collaboration is vital to the management and maintenance of the PCT. Thank you for accepting PCTA's comments in response to the South 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 working with Forest staff to ensure the PCT's nature and purposes are provided for throughout the project.