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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project for the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) proposes cutting, logging, and removing thousands of "hazard" trees (living and dead trees that burned over past fire seasons) along roads, trails, and facilities in 10 National Forests. The scoping letter for this project doesn't mention Wilderness, but the accompanying maps are unclear as to whether Wilderness is included. Please make the areal extent of this project clear in the scoping documents. The Forest Service needs to exclude all Wilderness areas from this project, including any encroachment from activity on wilderness boundaries. Wilderness areas are not to be managed based on the will or whim of government agencies.

Dead and dying trees should be left alone in Wilderness. Burned landscapes are a singularly unique stage in a changing landscape and there are wildlife species that require these transitional landscapes and will experience population increases related to an increase in the resources they especially need to thrive.

I oppose using chainsaws to clear trails in Wilderness. The Forest Service should use crosscut saws, not chainsaws or other mechanical equipment, to clear trees that have fallen across trails and must be removed.

Visitors to Wilderness Areas should be allowed to experience nature on its own terms, including any risks that entails. Information can be posted online and at trail entrances to educate individuals about the potential risks of a given Wilderness Area so that users can make informed decisions.

Kind Regards,