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Comments: As an avid hiker and equestrian in our National Forests, I oppose using chainsaws to clear trails in wilderness areas. It is important that dead and dying trees be left alone to decompose, providing essential nutrients for forest regrowth.

It is less disruptive to us National Forest visitors when the Forest Service uses crosscut saws, rather than chainsaws to clear trails. It is also better for the long-term forest ecology to clear trails of fallen trees only when they block safe passage on legitimate trails and leave all other dead and dying trees alone.

Wilderness visitors should be allowed to experience nature on its own terms, including any risks that entails. That is the essential wilderness experience any why we tax payers support our National Forests.

Our National Forests are mandated and tax payer funded in order to remain in their wild and undeveloped state. National Forests are not here to be artificially groomed or altered from their natural forest ecology.

The Forest Service needs to exclude all Wilderness areas from this project, including any encroachment from activity on wilderness boundaries.