

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/12/2021 9:41:37 PM

First name: William

Last name: Gray

Organization: HRB of S OR

Title:

Comments: My main concern with this project is to protect all designated Wilderness from any more than the absolute minimum intervention. This means leaving dead and dying trees standing, even if along a trail, and allowing natural processes of decomposition to occur. To the extent that the Forest Service is concerned about visitor safety, they should post written notice of hazards at trailheads, so each hiker can make his/her own decision as to whether they are willing to accept that risk. Designated Wilderness is a place where natural processes are supposed to dominate, regardless of any risks they may impose.

Cutting of logs crossing trails is fine, but NO POWER SAWS must be used. The Wilderness Act is explicit that making exceptions to the rules simply for greater ease or efficiency is NOT okay. The vast majority of public lands and trails are NOT in Wilderness, and have no such restrictions on their management. We can afford to use a much lighter touch on the relatively few acres and miles of trails that are in designated Wilderness.

In addition, I request that a visual and sound buffer be maintained along all Wilderness boundaries, so visitors are not subjected to all the unpleasantness when they happen to be close to a boundary.

Thank you for considering my views.