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First name: Kim

Last name: Porter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I'm writing regarding the R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project for the Pacific Southwest Region 5. While Wilderness areas are not mentioned in the scoping letter, the maps are unclear as to whether Wilderness is included. There are many trails and roads included that abut wilderness boundaries, making the impacts to Wilderness unclear. These include Marble Mountains, Trinity Alps, Kaiser, Ansel Adams, John Muir, Golden Trout, Monarch, Jennie Lakes, Domeland, Yolla Bolly Middle Eel, Snow Mountain, Yuki, and Bucks Lake Wildernesses, all of which could be affected by logging and other clearing, although, again, it is much too vague within the scoping documents.

Using chainsaws to clear trails in Wilderness is illegal and I oppose it. Falling and fallen trees are a natural hazard that anyone who enters a Wilderness must be willing to accept—these are not managed forests, gardens, or city parks. The Forest Service could post warning signs at trailheads alerting visitors to the risk, and letting visitors decide whether they want to accept the risk or hike somewhere else. Dead trees should be allowed to fall naturally, with crosscut saws then used to clear trails of fallen trees that must be cleared. This presents an outstanding educational opportunity to inform visitors of the benefits of Wilderness, of allowing natural processes to run their course, and the value of maintaining traditional skills.

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

Thank you