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Comments:

I feel strongly that the Forest Service needs to exclude all Wilderness areas from this project, including any encroachment from activity on wilderness boundaries. Dead and dying trees should be left alone in Wilderness. 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, NOT chainsaws, 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 natural areas, of allowing natural processes to run their course, and the value of maintaining traditional skills.

Wilderness visitors should be allowed to experience nature on its own terms, including any risks that entails. And our approach to wilderness areas should shift dramatically, with a focus on the least intrusion in the natural rejuvenation processes as possible.