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Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

As an avid non-motorized recreation participant, I hike and climb in wilderness because of the quiet recreation opportunities there, the untrammelled land, and the encounters with wildlife and birds. Noise pollution compromises my enjoyment of these activities as well as intrudes upon wildlife habitats, even of endangered species. Therefore, I strongly oppose the use of chainsaws to clear trails in designated Wilderness, designated Wilderness Study Area, and even unprotected Wilderness-quality lands. Generally speaking, dead and dying trees should be left alone in Wilderness as they are an essential part of natural landscapes. Where then necessary to remove hazard trees, the Forest Service should use manual axes and crosscut saws, not chainsaws, to clear trails of only the fallen trees that must be removed.

Again, relying on the idea that Wilderness is self-willed land, primarily managed by the forces of Nature, we visitors should be allowed to experience nature on those same terms, including any risks that entails.

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