

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/12/2021 11:49:30 PM

First name: Tim

Last name: Hanson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S.Forest Service,

I oppose using chainsaws to clear trails in Wilderness. Motorized saws are highly disruptive to the experience of nature that visitors should be allowed to have on nature's terms, including all wilderness risks. The Forest Service should use crosscut saws, not chainsaws, to clear trails of only the fallen trees that must be removed. Dead and dying trees should be left alone in Wilderness.

"There is no disputing the ecological importance of dead trees. Dead trees and down wood play an important role in ecosystems by providing wildlife habitat, cycling nutrients, aiding plant regeneration, decreasing erosion, and influencing drainage and soil moisture and carbon storage, among other values." www.thewildlifeneews.com

The Forest Service needs to exclude all Wilderness areas from this project, including any encroachment from activity on wilderness boundaries. What is wild must stay wild. There is so little true wilderness left, we must preserve what we have.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tim Hanson