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Title:

Comments: I and my wife have spent months volunteering in the Selway/Bitterroot Wilderness here in Idaho, and we very much respect the established legal concept of wilderness areas here in the U.S. Nowhere in ANY wilderness should the Forest Service remove dead or dying trees. Nor should the USFS EVER use chainsaws or any other motorized mechanism to remove fallen trees from trails. We frequently used crosscut saws to clear trails in the Selway/Bitterroot, NEVER chainsaws, and we would horrified to hear that the USFS is trying to establish the use of motorizad chainsaws in any wilderness area. Dead and dying trees are a natural part of any forest ecosystem and should be left standing for the numerous wild species of animals that depend on these trees for shelter and as a source of insects for food. Wilderness areas should never be managed for the protection of hikers. Hikers realize that wild means just that, and we should maintain the wild in our wilderness areas, not manage them like parks or gardens. To do so is antithetical to our established concept of what "wilderness" areas are supposed to be.