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Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I respectfully submit the following comments.

The proposal to use chainsaws to clear trails in Wilderness is antithetical to the whole idea of having designated wilderness areas.

It's simply unnatural.

There is a distinct difference between managed forest areas, parks and gardens. When people visit the forest, it should be as close to its natural state as if humans had never entered the area before.

Posting signs at trailheads that alert visitors to the possibility of decaying or dead trees fulfills any liability issues.

Providing a clear warning allows visitors to decide for themselves whether they want to assume risk for a course of action they may or may not take. It is not the onus of the US Forest Service to manage every possible scenario in the wild! That would set a very unhealthy and unattainable precedent.

Let the wilderness stay how it has existed for millennia.

The only time that saws should be used would be crosscut saws, not chainsaws, to clear trails of only the fallen trees that must be removed.

To summarize, the Forest Service must exclude all Wilderness areas from this project, including any encroachment from activity on wilderness boundaries.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gloria Shen