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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project for the Pacific Southwest Region. As a wilderness user, I oppose using chainsaws to clear trails in Wilderness. Dead and dying trees should be left alone in Wilderness. Although the Wilderness Act does provide for some exceptions for the use of mechanized equipment, in this case I believe the safety issue can be addressed by other means. Crosscut saws, not chain saws, can be used instead to clear trails of fallen trees that must be cleared. (Using crosscut saws also presents an outstanding educational opportunity to inform visitors of the benefits of Wilderness, of allowing natural processes to run their course, and the value of maintaining traditional skills.)

Generally I believe wilderness visitors should be allowed to experience nature on its own terms, including any risks that entails. Falling trees are a natural hazard that anyone who enters a Wilderness must be willing to accept-these are not "managed" forests, gardens, or city parks.

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.

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

Thank you