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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I believe the Wilderness designation should be respected, which for me means Wilderness areas should be left as much as possible in their natural state. I believe Wilderness visitors should be allowed to experience nature on its own terms, including the risks that entails. Therefore, I feel that Wilderness areas, including the boundaries of Wilderness areas, should be excluded from this project. It is unclear if this proposal involves Wilderness areas, but it certainly has the potential impact to areas that border Wilderness in the following areas: the Marble Mountains, Trinity Alps, Kaiser, Ansel Adams, John Muir, Golden Trout, Monarch, Jennie Lakes, Domeland, Yolla Bolly Middle Eel, Snow Mountain, Yuki, and Bucks Lake Wildernesses.

I believe dead and dying trees should be left undisturbed in Wilderness areas - they are habitat for insects and birds, and are part of intact ecosystems. Dead trees should be allowed to fall naturally. If there are fallen trees that must be removed to clear trails, it is preferable to remove them with crosscut saws rather than chainsaws to respect the wilderness experience. 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. This 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.

Thank you for your consideration.