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Comments: It is important to Wilderness visitors that nature be experienced on its own terms. This includes risks that naturally exist such as falling trees. Anyone entering Wilderness must be willing to accept these natural risks, since Wilderness by definition is not the same as "managed" forests, gardens, or city parks.

I am strongly opposed to the use of chainsaws to clear trails in Wilderness. The USFS should use crosscut saws, not chainsaws, to clear trails of only the fallen trees that must be removed. Standing dead and dying trees should be left alone in Wilderness.

I urge the USFS to exclude all Wilderness areas from this project, including any encroachment from activity on Wilderness boundaries.

The USFS 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. Dead trees should be allowed to fall naturally, with crosscut saws then used to clear trails of fallen trees that must be cleared. 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.