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Comments: Regarding the R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project for the Pacific Southwest Region which will include the cutting, logging and removal of "hazard" trees along roads, trails and facilities in 10 National Forest, I am opposed to using chainsaws to clear trails in any area that includes wilderness. Many of the roads and trails included abut wilderness boundaries which potentially could adversely affect wilderness areas.

Our wilderness areas should remain natural so that those who visit can experience nature on its own terms, including the risk that entails. The Forest Service should use crosscut saws, not chainsaws and in the wilderness clear trails of only the fallen trees that have to be removed.

The Forest Service could post warnings signs at trail heads to alert potential visitors of the risk. In that way, visitors benefit from experiencing real wilderness, and allows the natural process of dead trees falling to run its course. In this way, true nature must be preserved and respected by the Forest Service and visitors and hikers alike.

i have lived many years in Western North Carolina during my life. I was an avid hiker. Entering forests, I always understood and respected that, entering nature, one not only delights in the natural world, but also stays focused for any possible danger that could occur, because you understand this is nature, not a golf course, not a manicured lawn, but true nature and natural processes must be acknowledged and paid attention to.

I urge the Forest Service to keep wilderness truly wild-exclude all wilderness from this project.

Thank You,

Peggy Fry  
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