

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/13/2021 11:54:07 PM

First name: Howard K.

Last name: Beale, Jr.

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have learned that you are seeking public comments on the R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project for the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5). It is my understanding that this project includes cleanup, cutting, and removal of trees (living and dead) as well as other land management activities in the affected area. Insofar as these activities involve only ordinary land under your jurisdiction, I have no particular objection. However, it is my understanding that the project abuts and may intrude upon land designated as Wilderness. It is not entirely clear from your proposal that you have specifically avoided touching Wilderness land, or where such land is in relation to the ordinary land in the proposal.

It is the purpose of designated Wilderness that it undergo no human land management but that it exist solely in its natural state (for better or for worse) and be "managed" as unbridled nature sees fit. In particular, I would object strongly should the following, intentionally or inadvertently, be done to or allowed to happen to Wilderness land:

The use of chainsaws to clear trails in Wilderness areas.

The removal, cutting up, or shifting of dead and dying trees in Wilderness land not immediately affecting trails.

The Forest Service should not use other than crosscut saws to clear trails and only clear the fallen trees to the extent that they must be removed to open or reopen the affected trails.

Wilderness visitors should be not be barred from experiencing nature on its own terms, including any risks from dead or damaged timber that that entails.

The inclusion by the Forest Service of any and all Wilderness areas in this project, including any encroachment from activity on wilderness boundaries.

I have no objection to your exercise of your management responsibilities towards non-Wilderness land under your control and jurisdiction. But I hope you will preserve Wilderness as such and leave it untouched and unmanaged as Wilderness should always be.

With my thanks for your attention to this matter, I am

Howard K. Beale, Jr.