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Comments: I believe it is extremely misguided to take chainsaws into a national forest to clear dead wood. What real purpose does this expensive, noisy, and polluting exercise serve? Citizens should have the right to enjoy these areas in as natural a state as possible, and it's reasonable to expect anyone hiking in such places to take a modicum of responsibility for their own safety. The notion of a healthy natural ecosystem is incompatible with anything less. As a property owner for over 20 years, I have let dead and dying trees go through the process of falling and rotting at their own natural pace. Those trees have sheltered birds and animals and built soil. When absolutely necessary to keep paths clear, I've used a hand saw to do so, and National Forest staff can surely do the same.

Thank you for accepting my opinion on this matter. I don't consider this an insignificant issue and appreciate the opportunity, as both a taxpayer and someone who cares about the natural environment, to weigh in.