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Comments: I recently participated in a webinar during which it was demonstrated that some animals, in particular birds, depend on dead trees for their survival and that leaving dead trees in place after a fire, for instance, actually led to more rapid recovery of both the forest and the animals in it.

Therefore, I question the need to fell or remove the trees as proposed in this project, except insofar as some fallen trees may block existing trails or some few trees overhanging such existing trails may present an immediate hazard.

However, insofar as this project includes any wilderness designated areas or is adjacent to wilderness boundaries, I oppose the use of chainsaws as prohibited by the Wilderness Act. Dead and dying trees should be left alone in Wilderness. Indeed, any Wilderness designated areas should be entirely excluded from this project.

The Forest Service should use crosscut saws, not chainsaws, to clear trails of only the fallen trees that must be removed. Wilderness visitors should be allowed to experience nature on its own terms, including any risks that entails.