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Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of chainsaws to clear trails in your R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project for the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5). The trees that are dead and dying should not be removed or sawed up, but, instead allowed to participate in their natural cycle of decay and return to feed the forest floor. The use of saws and widespread clearing of forest trees is not consistent with the right stewardship of wilderness nor appropriate to the very character of wilderness. In truth it is important for wilderness visitors to experience the wilderness they sought to experience rather than a groomed park; it should be sufficient to warn visitors of potential dangers on the trail and allow the visitors to determine if they are wish to undertake the risk or not. It strikes me as a very ill-advised idea to begin destroying the forest to protect the forest. I urge the Forest Service to exclude all Wilderness areas and wilderness boundaries from this proposed project.

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