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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a resident of Ashland in southern Oregon, I often hike in the Klamath, Shasta-Trinity, and Six Rivers National Forests. I value these areas for their extraordinary biodiversity, beauty, and the solitude that they offer - especially in their federally-designated Wilderness Areas. Therefore, I am concerned to learn that an expansive "hazardous tree management project" is being proposed for these forests, as well as for others in California. Burned trees may pose hazards in certain situations, but they are highly valuable resources for wildlife and for soil recovery, and the default should be to preserve them. Especially in Wilderness Areas, they should be left to stand, and fall, and decay naturally. Certainly the FS needs to explicitly renounce the use of chainsaws to clear trails in Wilderness. If trees fallen across trails must be removed, only crosscut saws should be used. The very essence of Wilderness, as clearly stated in the Wilderness Act, is that it allows (and requires) visitors to experience nature on its own terms. That includes any risks that may arise.

In your decision document, please exclude Wilderness Areas from this project, and - only if absolutely necessary - develop separate, site-specific, and non-mechanized treatments for those areas.