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First name: Abbe Last name: Lyons Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to urge the Forest Service to consider the least destructive practices in the removal of dead and dying trees especially where these forests include or abut wilderness. I am disturbed that there appears to be no consideration of wilderness. Wilderness areas need to be explicitly excluded from this project. Specifically, the use of chainsaws to remove dead and dying trees is particularly problematic. While there is value in maintaining trails, even in wilderness areas, this should be done with crosscut saws, and then only where fallen trees are blocking the trail. Trees that are dead or dying can be allowed to fall naturally, and the Forest Service can post warning signs explaining that in the risks of hiking a wilderness area, even a trail in a wilderness area, include the possibility of falling trees, and that if they wish to have a tamer park experience that they may wish to hike elsewhere.