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First name: Neil

Last name: Morgan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am providing public comment for the R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project for the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5). While it seems prudent to remove so-called 'hazard' trees from certain roads and trails, wilderness areas should not be a part of this effort, as wilderness visitors should be allowed to experience nature on its own terms, including any risks that entails. If it is necessary to remove trees from trails in wilderness areas, then activity should abide with the Wilderness act. That is, chain saws should not be used to clear fallen trees across trails. Any necessary removal of trees across trails should be performed by hand with cross-cut saws. In general,

dead or dying trees should be left alone standing in the Wilderness areas as well. This provides habitat for a multitude of animals and leaves these wilderness areas intact.

Thank you.