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Comments: R5 Post Disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project for the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) proposes to cut, log, and remove thousands of "hazard" trees (both living and dead trees) that burned over past fire seasons along roads, trails, and facilities in 10 National Forests. I ask that all designated Wilderness areas be excluded from this plan. Furthermore, the plan must exclude such activities from wilderness boundaries.

Visitors to wilderness must be allowed to experience the trees as nature takes its normal course, which includes the risks of falling trunks and branches. I have been within wilderness when this has occurred. Following and acknowledging these occurrences has been part of the enticement of exploring wilderness. Please do not fell the trees in these areas because these are not "managed" forests for tourists, nor are they urban woods.

However, if the USFS cannot refrain from cutting certain trees, please DO NOT use chainsaws to clear trails in wilderness. Please use crosscut saws only.

Only remove fallen trees from trails if hikers cannot scale them. As a hiker, I opine that scrambling over or under fallen trees is fun and challenging.

Retain the natural character of wilderness by leaving dead and dying trees alone in wilderness. Our Tennessee State Parks do so, and it really enhances the environment and the trail experience.

Again, I ask that you keep the tree management project out of Wilderness.