Hazard Tree Study

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
Warm Springs Indian Reservation
July, 2011
During the winter of 2010-2011, high winds caused two trees to uproot and fall across the Pacific Crest Trail.

On their way down, they collided with the crown of a third tree, just a few feet from the trail, causing its trunk to shatter vertically and the tree to lean over the trail.

The third tree did not fall because its crown became entangled in the crowns of two trees on the other side of the trail.
Proximity of trees to trail

Trail (facing north)
Condition of leaner

You can see right through the trunk!
Because the northernmost blowdown was wedged between the leaner and a sound tree on the other side of the trail, it developed a severe side bind.

This tree had approximately 6 feet of horizontal bend over a distance of 50 feet.
Side bind
Go/No-Go

• Using established Go/No-Go criteria, the initial volunteer saw crew decided this situation was beyond their capability.

• The crew clearly marked the hazard area and reported the situation to the USFS, the agency managing this section of the PTC.
Marked Hazard Area
Two weeks later

- A second crew of volunteers + a USFS recreation manager returned to site.
- Decision was made to temporarily reroute trail 15 feet west to avoid leaner.
- Area was cleaned up. Log with side bind severed (with 3 feet of springback). All logs bucked, opening temporary bypass.
- Long-term plan: return trail to original route after subsequent winter winds take down leaner.
Reroute