A picture containing outdoor, ground, tree, person

Description automatically generated

Silke and Cleve start the cut on the dead tree that was sticking out into the trail.

A picture containing outdoor

Description automatically generated

Byron uses a cant hook to roll the cut tree section off

the trail.

A picture containing tree, outdoor, yellow, wood

Description automatically generated

This big hangup greeted us as we approached the 10K North/Osha Loop junction. The fir spring pole tree is shown bent beneath the big dead fallen tree. (A spring pole is a small tree or a branch that has been bent over by a fallen tree or other force. Its upper side is under tension. When the object holding it down is removed, the tree or branch tends to spring back up, sometimes very quickly. It is necessary to slowly make cuts in the top of the spring pole at its bend to release the tension so the tree or branch springs back up slowly and safely.)

A picture containing tree, outdoor, plant, forest

Description automatically generated

This jumble of branches, which includes the top

of the small fir spring pole tree, is the main

support for the fallen tree.

A picture containing outdoor, tree, grass

Description automatically generated

The crew uses a long rope to pull the top of the spring

pole fir out of the branch jumble with hopes that the

big tree would fall to the ground. It didn’t. The spring

pole tree was removed.

A picture containing tree, plant

Description automatically generated

Apparently, winter does not wish to leave the Sandias

just yet.

A group of people hiking

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

The crew trudges up Challenge trail to the Ellis trailhead starting point after a long day. We had not planned to return this way, but the weather changed our minds.