Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/18/2023 6:40:55 PM
First name: Martha
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Comments: This project is well-intentioned; I just hope that you follow your own rules this time. In 2019, there was a thinning project in the Mammoth Lakes Basin and the contractor's crews removed a number of endangered Whitebark Pines.

The USFS staffer in charge of this project told me that the instructions to the contractors were that no five-needle pines should be removed (he did not expect the crews to be able to distinguish Whitebark from White pines). However, either the contractor did not understand the requirement or did not communicate it to the work crews. They removed all small White and Whitebark pines along with the other small trees.

One area where Whitebarks were removed was on the southwest flank of Mammoth Mountain where the trees were small (although old) and separated by bare soil -- hardly a fire hazard and definitely not a fire-adapted forest. (photo attached; taken by a professional botanist who identified these trees as Whitebarks)

Whitebarks were removed from in front of my family's cabin, Upper Falls #28, as well.

Please make sure that your contractors and their crews understand what endangered tree species are, and that they are not to remove them.

Thank you.