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Comments: I am writing to urge you to minimize the efforts to thin fire-damaged trees. While those that are an IMMEDIATE threat to people should be downed and left in place to help regenerate the ecosystem, as many as possible should be left where they are. These damaged trees are crucial to the recovery of the forest. Each one is a cache of essential nutrients needed by detritivores, decomposers, and the plants and other living beings that benefit from the nutrients released through decomposition. By removing the trees, you are taking away food that the land needs to recover fully.

While fire is devastating in the moment, our forests and other ecosystems have evolved to deal with them for thousands, if not millions, of years. We need to allow them to take their own pace as much as possible.