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Comments: I'm not a forester, but I've seen the thinning operations in the Bass Creek area and on my own land. Both have involved removal of older trees that were close together. I saw many log trucks removing much salable timber from Bass Creek. Much of the Bass Creek thinned area burned in the fire of 2017. The fire burned along the ground, scorched the trunks of trees which were more likely a hundred or more years old, but didn't harm them. The crowns of these old trees aren't close, which I think was the state of the forests before white settlement.

Our land was professionally thinned in 2008. We attended a forestry class at the time which involved a visit from a state forester who said our land was fire safe and in very good health, with healthy trees and renewing growth. Sun gets to the ground, so we have growth of natural plants and abundant wildlife. When the 2017 fire started, a Forest Service fireperson and a local one visited our land and assessed it as very safe. We have thinned all of our land, well beyond 150 ft.

Because of my experience, I am questioning some of the thoughts in the email. Maybe my knowledge is old and opinions are now different, but I've recently seen the results of fire on both thinned and unthinned land. The thinning practices have been effective. They have preserved the big, old trees, which are much more than 30 or 40 years old.

Anyway, that's my \$ .02.