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Comments: I am an enrolled member of the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi, with Shawnee/Cherokee heritage, living in Vermont. We are all facing a climate crisis that will get, predictably, bad enough within the next ten years to potentially cause climate tipping points from which we have no option of escape. At stake is the extinction of our species, if we don't act accordingly within this time frame to keep our atmospheric temperature, on average, at or below 1880 (pre-industrial) levels, or at least below 1.5C above such levels. We are at 1.2 -1.3C above that level today.

Our forests are an important part of our mitigation strategy against the carbon pollution, Green House Gas emissions, that are causing our planet to warm. We know that trees sequester carbon from the atmosphere once they reach a mature age (generally 40-80 years, depending on species). This project not only targets trees just reaching this maturity, but much older trees as well, turning forests into CO2 emitters, rather than carbon collectors. Clear cutting is bad enough, yet thinning is not a solution to our crisis, if it merely increases CO2 emissions. If we only have 10 years, according to the UNIPCC, then cutting the forests exacerbates the crisis we are facing! We can't log our way out of climate change!! Many leading scientists are now saying the climate is changing faster than our models predict, and we don't have that 10 years!

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, why is cutting down this forest necessary? Now? Who gains from this and what do they gain? Income? What good is that income if we all lose everything? Vermont only has 1% old growth forest, the smallest amount of any other New England state. Why is the state and Forest Service compelled to do this? What good does it serve other than to keep foresters in jobs for a while more or pay revenues to the state and fed.? In face of this crisis, are those benefits not outweighed by the climate crisis, tipping points and potential extinction of our species? If you don't think so, then I am wasting my time here!

Thank you for considering my comments and the opportunity to present them.