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Comments: Hi,

I am a certified arborist and wildlife biologist with a M.S. in Sustainable Natural Resource Management. I object to this project being completed because the science of reducing fuels and thinning forests is shaky at best and most likely increasing fire risk. When thinning and reducing fuels in a forest, a forester is changing the microclimate from dense and moist to thin, dry, and windy. Those conditions are perfect for wildfire ignition.

In regards to the act of removing fuels and trees is the fact that wildlife are using the forest and become uprooted through these fuel reduction projects. In a time where the Earth is experiencing the 6th mass extinction of wildlife, I believe that it is wise to give wildlife as much resources to survive as possible. A thinned and fuel reduced forest is not good habitat for most species, where as a dense forest is important for shelter and overwintering. As well as a recently burned forest does wonders for the biodiversity and complexity of the forest.

I understand the fear of wildfires, I have been near too many, but strongly disagree with preemptively thinning forests for any reason.

Early warning and detection systems are important. More tools for firefighting are important. Home and community hardening defense is important. This project will be detrimental to the whole community.