



Zack Porter <zporter@standingtrees.org>

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## Question re: Sandwich VMP Final EA

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Corless, Theresa - FS, NH <theresa.corless@usda.gov>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 8:39 AM

To: Zack Porter <zporter@standingtrees.org>

Cc: "Innes, James - FS, NH" <james.innes@usda.gov>, "Hall, Scott - FS, NH" <scott.hall@usda.gov>

Zack,

Please see responses to your questions in Blue.

The Final EA for the Sandwich VMP says: "During our surveys of the proposed units, we identified, removed, and protected fifty acres of habitat meeting those descriptions. In addition, we identified, inventoried, and mapped a stand in the project area outside the proposed units for future protection."

1. Would you please share a map of the 50 acres that were removed from the pool of acres available for timber harvest?

The approximately 50 acres are comprised of unit 37 (27.4 acres) which was dropped (see unit depicted on p. 6 Map 2 of the Sandwich Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) available on the project webpage in the "Scoping and 30-day Comment" folder.) and part of unit 7 (approx. 20 acres) which was dropped (see unit on NOPA p. 7 Map 3). Note the remainder of unit 7 was added to unit 4.

2. Would you also please share the location of the stand outside of the project area that was identified for "future protection"?

The area is north of former unit 7 (see NOPA, p. 7 Map 3). Note this is outside the proposed units but within the project area.

3. Did the WMNF apply the Region 9 old-growth definitions to the project area to identify old-growth conditions?

There is no regional definition of “Old Growth”. The WMNF is required to use the definition of “Old Growth Forest” in our Forest Plan.

4. Can you please share a map of the stands in the project area that also depicts the stand ages, or could you provide a table that notes the ages of each stand?

There is no map or table that depicts stand ages. See email from Ranger Jim Innes to you on this topic dated August 10, 2023.

5. In addition to the questions that I asked previously, I wanted to add one more clarifying question. If you applied the Region 9 old-growth definitions to the project area to identify old-growth conditions, could you also please share a map or a list of the stands in the project area that met the Region 9 old-growth definitions?

See response to question 3 above regarding the WMNF Forest Plan definition of “Old Growth Forest”.