

Proposed Clearcutting Areas in the Townsend Brook Valley

I am writing this letter to bring attention to the areas marked for clearcutting on the Green Mountain National Forest in Pittsfield specifically in the Townsend Brook Valley. In my opinion the sites selected have some areas that would be negatively effected by clearcutting. The negative effects would include: Heavy Soil Erosion, Sedimentation of streams and Townsend Brook, Land Slides, faster snowmelt, increased watershed temperature, possible wildlife and plant biodiversity loss, loss of carbon sequestration for several years and generally displeasing visual appearance. See included map for areas proposed in the Townsend Brook Valley.



My Background: I currently own a share of a camp that borders the Green Mountain National Forest. The Camp has been in our family for four generations. Located at the end of the Townsend Brook Road in Pittsfield, Vt. I have spent my entire life, 48 years, in the woods of Pittsfield, Chittenden and surrounding towns. I have hiked, hunted, fished throughout these lands and I currently spend up to 70 days a year, hunting in the Green Mountain National Forest and the Adirondack Park. My education includes a degree in Forestry from Paul Smiths College and an Architecture degree from VTC. That being said, I have gained much knowledge and experience over my many years in the forests of Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Maine, and Pennsylvania. I have spent 48 years in the proposed timber harvest areas of the Townsend Brook Valley, I know them intimately.

The Steep Grade, soft shallow loam/gravel soils of many of the sections of the area proposed are poor choices for clearcut. These areas if clearcut have the potential to create detrimental conditions for the land, plants and wildlife. A large portion of the ground is wet from ground water, springs and seeps. Areas have soils are soft and shallow to bedrock. If these areas are clearcut, heavy rains, happening more often now, can cause sedimentation of streams, brooks and rivers. Clearcuts can also raise water temperatures. Both of these factors can cause detrimental effects to fish and other aquatic species. Townsend Brook could be directly effected by these factors.

In my professional and personal opinion clearcuts are a poor option for these sections. The negatives certainly out weigh the positives. If clearcuts are to be used I would suggest areas of no more than 1 acre plots on more level shelves with Selective cutting in between on steeper slopes.