

MR JAMES INESS
SACO DISTRICT WMNF

20 OCTOBER 2023
P.O. BOX 913
GLEN, NH 03838

• I AM SENDING A COPY OF THE

Dear Mr. Iness: ORIGINAL LETTER - IT IS DARKER AND EASIER TO READ.

This letter refers to the planned forest cutting in the Wonalancet NH area

In general, I think it is a bad idea to do it, and I oppose it for a number of reasons.

1. I buried my wife in the small JEWELL cemetery over the parking lot some 15 years ago. I visit her grave numerous times and park in the parking lot. I am in my 90's and have a hard time carrying tools, flowers, water to the grave site, so park as close as I can.

Over the past few years that lot has usually ^{BEEN} FULL, even with the expanded lot and I am lucky to find a close place to park. Now I understand you want to close off one section so your trucks can get by. Where will I have to park so I can get to my wife's grave? How safe will I be with your trucks going back and forth? There is barely room for a person with a normal car going by.

2. That area has one of the most dense networks of trails and forest roads anywhere. My wife (before her death) and I for decades have enjoyed the beauty, serenity, and relative ease of those trails. Now you want to barge through and destroy the natural look of that network. We skied, biked, hiked that area and love it. How can we safely access and enjoy it with your various activities?

3. You plan to log that area for over 5 years (was it 10?)

In the over 3 decades that I have received WMNF logging proposals, I don't remember such a long time for logging. I can't imagine having such a long disruption of recreation activity in such

a heavily used section of trails
 4. Trees sequester CO₂, a climate changing gas: leave the trees. You say one purpose of the cutting is to allow new growth for animals. What's more important: saving our planet from overheating or giving some animals some food?

Over the 30 plus years I have lived in Glen in the middle of the WMNF, I have received and commented on many proposals from bridges, to radio towers to forest cuttings. I had concerns about some of them but never thought they shouldn't be done. Until now. In 2 cases the WMNF completely changed their proposal to my suggestion. [1] I said use BIC BOULDERS to line the lookouts on Bear Notch Road, NOT wooden fence that would rot out. The boulders are still there. [2] When the new trail was put into DIANA'S BONES (down the road from my house) the WMNF ^{WANTED} a 3 foot wide trail. I said that was too narrow, what with mother holding hands with their young ones, people pushing baby carriages, bicycles - with people going both ways. The WMNF made it 6.5 feet wide. Can you imagine a 3 foot wide trail to what is probably the most traveled scenic area around!

I appreciate the fact that the WMNF people did their best in making the Wonalancet proposal, but but you really goofed this time. It's the wrong proposal for that particular area. That parking lot is often full and your trucks will be a danger to hikers. Your logging activities will destroy a most scenic area that is full of well-used trails and old roads. And the duration of the logging is preposterously long! Keep the trees. Let the animals forage elsewhere; they know where to go.

I suggest that with over 600,000 acres of WMNF forest land that you plan a similar logging operation elsewhere in the WMNF. It appears that logging is more important to you than the recreation of visitors to that area. Put the proposal into an area which has fewer visitors. I thought part of the WMNF "charter" is recreation and, with the stresses of today's world, recreation is becoming more and more important. Your long time of logging would severely adversely affect the environment in that area for years. Why not go elsewhere where the impact on recreation is less severe? Recreation will monetarily benefit the area more than logging.

I know from past experience that the WMNF will probably want to barge ahead with the proposal despite the fact that many tax payers oppose it for good reasons. If you do go ahead as planned you will not make many friends. I ask you to log elsewhere.

I can usually see reasons for many of the WMNF proposals I have been involved with over the year, where I added comments that I believed would improve the proposals. However, this proposal has too many negative aspects - to the area, the environment, and recreation - that I cannot support it.

Another possible immediate solution to logging in the Wonalancet area is to take a long pause and listen to citizen concerns and make another proposal more in keeping with tax payer citizen desires. If that doesn't work, I, again, say to please satisfy your logging with a proposal to log another less frequented area.

Yours truly,

Richard M. Chrenko.
RICHARD M. CHRENKO