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First name: Susan J.

Last name: Raymond

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am 72 years old this year. I moved to Sandwich/ Tamworth NH many years ago as a choice because I craved a landscape with clean water, mature forests, and blessed quiet. I used all the money I had and bought a small piece of land and modest house, so I could coexist with wild animals in proximity to beautiful landscapes, with other people who valued this environment. I am an artist and a scientist who has long acknowledged the need to preserve spaces of peace and beauty. It is necessary for life.

I have spent time here photographing the magnificent views of OUR mountains from Wonalancet, Chocorua, Sandwich, Tamworth and Madison. I chose to document the landscapes and wild animals amid the big trees they need to live. Our towns, and the hiking trails your logging plan aims to destroy, are a sanctuary for our community members and wildlife, as well as the hikers and artists who come here peacefully to visit each year from all over the world. Tourism sustains our community's economy. No house in my town will have any resale value if your plan is approved. I earn my living in photography. Your logging of these forests in the Sandwich Range will destroy our peaceful quiet refuge that we all consider sacred, and so doing destroy my life.

I will not survive the horror and distress and economic burden you enterprise will cause. Your heavy trucks will have to barrel through our tiny village for years. You have not even bothered to consider the benefits to leaving this landscape as it is. You should have provided a detailed NO ACTION alternatives and so investigated the benefits of NOT logging. By your callous action plan, you have indicated that you think our lives here are irrelevant. We are deeply offended and angry.

Your plan will destroy major trail corridors and be visible from all the places I have photographed over the years, and these places will remain scarred for generations. My photographs of all these years will bring pain to those of us here who look at them, knowing that these trails and vistas are destroyed. Your logging plan will destroy my life's work.

I obtained a degree in Environmental Science when I was young. Others have detailed in letters to you how scientifically your plan is flawed. Our forests store vast amounts of Carbon and you want to release that carbon into an already dangerously compromised atmosphere. Please revise your master plans to reflect the public consciousness of climate change that did not exist in 2005. It has been more than 15 years since your last revision.

President Biden's executive order of 2022 directed the Forest Service to conserve mature forests. You must not purpose to break the law. You must allow these forests to grow old.

Our community, and the people who have migrated to enjoy our community, no longer trust any plan you submit to us that results in logging of the southern slope of the Sandwich Range in the White mountains of NH. It would result in road construction, skid trails, possible use of herbicides etc. which will degrade and fragment habitat of imperiled species that live in old and interior forests. You have refused to even survey the species that live there.

This comment period, coming as it has in August when residents are frequently away from home, is too short and ill timed. I will be sending letters to others in government every day from now on. I no longer have any faith in the staff of the USDA Forest Service responsible for this logging plan. Many letters opposing your plans have received no confirmation of digital receipt, and so I will also hand deliver this to the USDA Forest Service Saco Ranger District in Conway.

Attachment 1: Image

Attachment 2: Image

Attachment 3: Image