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First name: Kate

Last name: Galassi

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Jim Innes, District Ranger, and others to whom it may concern at the USDA Forest Service,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392.

This swath of forest is precious to so many families. The families that live there. The families that hike there. And the families, like mine, who carve out as many days of the year as we can to come witness its magic. My dad grew up hiking these mountains with his aunt and his mother and passed along his love to me. And now I walk the trails with my five year old son, Otis.

This spring he hiked to the top of the Mount Katharine trail (Mountain Katharine as he calls it) all on his own. A feat that will be remembered in our family for many years to come. From my mom's front door at the end Squirrel Bridge Road we can walk a perfect loop along the Blueberry Ledge Cutoff, crossing the brook and down through the Cooks field. We keep our eyes peeled for mushrooms. We toss rocks into the brook. And just a few days ago felt the thrill of spotting our first tree frog.

While I am not opposed in principle to harvesting trees from this forest, I am deeply concerned by the lack of detailed information and the disregard for the questions asked by the community. The way in which new log landings are constructed, how new roads are cut and how the equipment is moved will all greatly impact these forests and the families that hold them dear.

Previous projects have failed to sufficiently clean up the debris and return the trails and surroundings to adequate conditions. Will that be the case here? I urge you to develop a plan that ensures this project will not hinder the next generation of kids from finding tree frogs.

As the plan stands now I AM OPPOSED.

Kate Galassi

Attachment: Image