

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/22/2023 9:06:38 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I wish to submit reasons for my complete opposition to the entire plan that the USFS purposes for the logging of the WMNF Sandwich Range.

It is necessary, I feel, that this project be paused immediately. Representatives of the Forest Service have not considered new executive order #14072 which explicitly says Mature forests on public lands should be protected and preserved. I believe the Forest Service is rushing this project through before this executive order publishes further guidance. Policy will be forthcoming from this order and the Sandwich Range must not be destroyed before that policy is in print. If the Forest Service say they lack guidance, then Pause and wait for it!

The executive order says far, far, more than just calling for an "inventory"! It calls for protecting and preservation. I am well aware that since it began, the USFS had mandates to preserve forests in part for the purpose of commercial logging. In light of Climate Change and newer ecological science (uncut forests as a natural and recreational resource) that mandate MUST change to include recreational use. Stop disregarding executive order 14072!

There has been some mention of diseased Beech needing to be logged. I don't believe this is necessary, and no one has given any scientific reference to suggest it is necessary. If indeed this project is being brought simply to log diseased trees, then what else are you planning to cut as well? In order for this to be a profitable logging operation and therefore for the USFS to actually receive bids, money must be coming from the cutting and selling of trees. How many trees are you cutting? What species? There is no mention of what trees are being cut in the draft environmental assessment.

When there is private logging in Wonalancet bear and moose etc migrate with fear into our village to the south. We would rather these beautiful creatures remain in the WMNF lands where they are safe from intimate contact with humans, and have the required space to live normal lives. Our private logged lands of the past were small plots and the time scale to cut was short, so the disruption of animal habitat returned to normal within a reasonable time. That will not happen with the extent of the mess the USFS plans for Ferncroft, and its lengthy time frame. You talk about making more habitat for animals but make no mention of the generation you will destroy. Hunters will roam our neighborhoods again as they did after/ during other logging exercises in the area in the past. There is great conflict between these hunters and neighborhood residents. You will cause a crisis in many ways that you never mention in any report.

The study does not offer reasonable alternatives. Why is that? Why is no value given to the recreational value of this area? What is the cost to the communities whose Real Estate values will fall Try to sell a house when a logging operation is cutting loud holes in the forest, staging areas full of mud and big machinery, lumbering trucks speeding down small country roads for long periods of time, etc etc.... (We have seen plenty of private lands logged in our area and so we are not stupid about the emotional, Real Estate, and recreational harm that is done in the name of making money on timber). Do not tell me this project will have no significant impact.

Exactly how much money will you raise from making our lives miserable in this beautiful countryside?

If you are logging so close to trails it is necessary to close the access to hikers. To say otherwise is a lie. No hiker in their right mind will want to walk in the forest to the sound of logging. We enter these forests to the sound of birds and streams running strong, to the smell of moss and evergreen. We do not come for the sound of saws and smell of cut pine.

I will never see the regrowth. I am a photographer who uses this forest for my art. You will destroy my canvas, my inspiration, my life. I am an old woman. I will not live long enough to be able to re walk the trails you will close to hikers. I rarely leave this town and feel my use of the recreational areas you plan to log, will end. I will never forgive the USFS. I will be supportive of anyone who decides to oppose your massacre of our beloved forest land in Sandwich and Tamworth NH.