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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392

I do not oppose all timber harvesting. I too, use wood and wood products. I also think that the Saco District of the US Forest Service has done a good job of holding public listening sessions and educating those of us interested in learning more..

I live in Tamworth NH and often visit the proposed project area of the White Mountain National Forest not only for recreation, but also for other more personal reasons. Over the past decade I have seen the tremendous increase in numbers of visitors to the Sandwich Range, coming to hike, ski, snowshoe, enjoy, and rejuvenate. The trailheads are busy, the parking lots often crowded or overfull on busy weekends, with visitors from far and wide.

I am opposed to logging of this scale in this particular area for the reasons I list below.

1. Recreation interests are not even covered/included in this plan (aside from mention of sharing the trail heads temporarily over 5-10 years) I This whole area is important as a [ldquo]slightly off the beaten track[rdquo] destination; trails, peaks and access to the small wilderness areas.
2. This area is unique with some very mature forests and trees. The Liberty Trail section of the plan is also inside the Chocorua Inventoried Roadless Area- The mature forests are needed as refuges not only for wildlife and plants, but also for humans. There are not many of this age in the region.
3. Carbon Sequestration from NOT disturbing the larger trees and more mature forests will have a bigger impact than reforestation and replanting.
4. The trade off of cutting for some lumber and pulp is not worth the disturbance to the land IN THIS LOCATION.

Please consider other alternatives to timber harvest in this region. Perhaps there are other options that are not offered to using this existing and outdated Environmental Assessment

Thank you for listening and considering my opposition