

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2023 12:57:22 AM

First name: Katharine T

Last name: Thompson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please pause before moving forward with the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392, in order to completely review your current plan. Many of its assumptions are outdated. I think you are capable of much more careful and long-sighted work.

Climate change is now taking place at great speed. Shouldn't it be a primary consideration in any forest management plan? I would expect your plan to reflect the current science on carbon sequestration and mature forest preservation. And why not incorporate the 2022 Executive Order 14072 calling for the protection of old-growth and mature forests on federal public lands?

The plan fails to address the protection of trails and recreation - a vital part of this region's ethos and economy. Why not consider the local hiking trails as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) and reconfigure the Plan to highlight this important aspect of the WMNF?

The plan prioritizes commercial timber harvesting even when admitting that the cost of the operation will exceed revenues. While patch cuts no doubt benefit white pine regeneration and wildlife, their scale as proposed seems all out of proportion. And don't they need a much wider buffer from trails?

The Plan, unlike others of its kind, fails to list alternative approaches.

For all these reasons, please stop, look, listen, reflect, and revise the Plan with a long-term, big-picture point of view that will assure the health of the forest and all the associated ecosystems, human included, for the next 150 years. That will be a document worthy of the Forest Service.