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Organization:
Title:
Comments: This letter refers to the planned forest cutting in the Wonalancet, NH area.

In general it is a bad idea to do it and I oppose it for a number of reasons.

1. I buried my wife in the small Jewell cemetery near the parking lot some 15 years ago. I visit her grave numerous times and park in the parking lot. I am in my 90's and have a hard time carrying tools, flowers, and water to the grave site so I park as close as I can. Over the past few years that lot many times has been FULL, even with the expanded lot and I am lucky to find a lone space to park. Now, I understand you want to close off one section so your trucks can get by. Where will I have to park so I can get to my wife's grave? How safe will I be with your trucks going back and forth?

2. That area has one of the most (unreadable) networks of trails and forest roads everywhere. My wife (before she died) and I for decade have enjoyed the beauty and relative ease of the trails. Now you want to barge through and destroy that network. We skied, biked, hiked that area and love it. How ca we safely access it with your various activities!

3. You plan to log that area for over 5 years (up to 10)? In the over 3 decades I have received WMNF proposals I don't remember such a long time for logging. I can't imagine having such a long disruption of recreation activity in such a heavily used section of trails.

4. Trees sequester CO2, a climate change gas - LEAVE THE TREES. You say one purpose of the cutting is to allow new growth for animals. What's more important - saving our planet from overheating or giving some of the animals some food?

Over the past 30 years I have lived in Glen, in the middle of the WMNF. I have received and commented on many proposals from bridges to radio towers to forest cutting. I had concern on some of them but never thought they shouldn't be done. Yours is the first. In 2 cases the WMNF completely changed this proposal to my suggestion. 1. I said use big boulders to line the lookouts on Bear Notch Road., not wooden fence that rot with time. The boulders are still there. 2. When the new trail was put in to Diana's Baths (near my house), the WMNF planned a 3 foot wide trail! I said that was too narrow what with the mothers holding their children's hands, mothers pushing baby carriages, bicycles. The WMNF make the trail around 6 feet wide, my suggestion. Can you imagine a 3 foot wide trail to what is probably the most traveled scenic site around?

I appreciate the fact that the WMNF did their best in making the Wonalancet logging proposal, but you really goofed this time. that parking lot is often full and your trucks will be danger to hikers. I possibly may not be able to easily access my wife's grave. Your logging activities will destroy a most scenic area that is full of well-used trails and be a danger to hikers. And year long for logging is preposterously long! Keep the trees. Let the animals forage elsewhere. They know where to go.

I suggest that with over 600,000 acres of WMNF forest that you plan a logging elsewhere in the WMNF. It appears that logging is more important to you than the recreation of visitors to the area. I thought part of the WMNF "Charter" is recreation and with the stresses of today's world recreation is becoming more and more important.

Your long time logging that area will destroy or seriously alter recreation in that area for years. LOOK ELSEWHERE where the impact to recreation is less severe.

Recreation will benefit monetarily that area more than logging.

I know from past experience that the WMNF will probably want to barge ahead with this not well thought out proposal despite many taxpayers that oppose it for good reason. If you do go ahead you will not make many friends. Admit you made a mistake with this proposal. No one is perfect. Go log elsewhere. There are better less intrusive places elsewhere. This is the worst proposal I have learned of in my over 30 years of interacting with the WMNF.