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Comments: I understand the habitat purposes of silviculture, but believe that these areas of the White Mountain National Forest are inappropriate for tree removal on over 4,000 acres of pristine wilderness. The areas are also be utilized for low-impact recreation. Clearcuts in particular would significantly reduce the enjoyment of nature. This proposal appears primarily to be oriented to the benefit of timber companies in an area where there is ample private land that could be contracted for timber harvesting.

Secondly, the Hermit Lake proposal for removal of four closed shelters used especially for the safety of winter hikers and skiers appears to be a blatant attempt to reduce the number of hardy outdoors people enjoying the WMNF on human power alone. Replacement with tent platforms is inadequate and serves to enable only those with a high degree of winter expertise and equipment to enjoy the Hermit Lake area. The existing four-sided shelters should be maintained to offer safety in harsh conditions, and a stepping stone for people learning winter backpacking. On the exact mountain known for "the world's worst weather" four sided shelters should never be removed.