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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Saco District Ranger,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Sandwich VMP.

Please draft an alternative that evaluates the potential for creating the desired habitat conditions, including early successional habitat, and meets Forest Plan age class objectives for management area 2.1 that considers how means such as beaver augmentation could achieve desired results.

Beaver augmentation could be achieved through a combination of introduction and reduced trapping. Adding beavers to the forest environment would have multiple co-benefits including increased groundwater storage, reduced flood risk to downstream landowners, communities, and infrastructure, create improved wetland habitat benefitting a range of birds, amphibians, and other species, and create forest openings. Further, beaver augmentation would require temporary or permanent road construction, reducing the risk of spreading invasive species, reducing habitat fragmentation, reducing runoff, erosion, nutrient pollution. Fewer roads would also require significantly less ongoing maintenance, reducing project costs over the near and long term. Fewer roads would also result in less risk of motorized trespass, benefitting wildlife.

Thank you for adding an Alternative to this effect in your project analysis.

Finally, please disclose a line item list of all public and private dollars that are being leveraged to finance the planning or implementation of this project, from idea through scoping to implementation.

Thank you.