Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/9/2023 2:49:41 PM First name: Evan Last name: Litsios Organization:

Title:

Comments: The current plan portrays a focus on short term forest objectives like increasing habitat for huntable game and maintaining healthy economic timber resources. This is good. However, on paper the plan does not seem to address the even more important long term value of maintaining this large, central, interconnected piece of mature forest. Old forests are an extremely limited and precious resource in New England, and everyone involved here seems to agree that they're a critical part of our state's strategy towards addressing long term impacts of climate change. If we aren't managing this massive portion of our forest in a way that allows and encourages development of interconnected mature stands that will never be cut, then we're not acting on our values as a state. So what's more important: having more harvestable lumber in the future, or protecting our inventory of old mature forests? If the answer is both, then this plan needs to do a better job at articulating how the balance will be maintained.