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Comments: I write to urge that the Forest Service drop its proposed Forest Plan amendment for the White Mountain National Forest regarding wilderness trail management.

Amending the Forest Plan to allow trail relocation throughout Wilderness could weaken protections for currently trailless areas, which help protect plants and wildlife, protect wilderness from being overrun by people, and offer a truly primitive experience or those who venture into these areas.

The Forest Service should instead conduct site-specific NEPA analysis for all trail relocations it proposes outside of established trail corridors in wilderness areas, including for the Webster Cliff Trail. Trail relocation in wilderness outside of designated trail corridors is an exception to the WMNF's wilderness plan, and looking at trail relocation on an individual basis allows for better analysis of impacts to wilderness areas.

In addition, the Forest Service should not use a Categorical Exclusion to amend its Forest Plan. A Forest Plan amendment will have lasting and wide-ranging impacts, and thus should only be undertaken with rigorous analysis and public feedback.

Finally, all trail relocation work in wilderness areas should NOT use motorized or mechanized equipment.

Thank you for considering my comments.