

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/9/2023 4:00:00 AM

First name: Eric

Last name: Jones

Organization: legacy Forest Trust

Title: Trustee

Comments: Dear Mr. Innes:

Thank you for accepting comments on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact for the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project.

Legacy Forest Trust buys and preserves wild New Hampshire land which abuts the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF). One of our holdings (239 acres) abuts the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project Boundary (Map#1/ Guinea Hill/ southern boundary).

Our Concerns with this Project are as follows:

> The WMNF boundary between our two holdings needs to be re-blazed to prevent encroachment by your contractors.

> To prevent incursion by invasive species, possible erosion and windfall from your intended clear-cut #17.....we request a minimum of 300 feet buffer between that clear-cut and our northern border.

> Because we know of no recent (100 years) history of fire in this area we question the necessity and propriety of a, so called, "Controlled Burn" (#13). Given the recent report by the Forest Service admitting its culpability in starting a major wildfire in the West stemming from "Un-Controlled Burns" and the lack of equipment and experience here in the East, we ask you to abandon this treatment.

> The nearly exclusive use of Environmental assessments (EA), Categorical Exclusions CE) and Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) by the Forest Service nationwide, and, in particular, Region #9, has rendered any science-based analysis of a Management Project impossible. Please remove the FONSI and initiate a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

> The nearly year-round schedule of treatments and the concentration on mature trees, in this Project proposal will be especially damaging to the survival of the Eastern Long-Eared Bat (ELB). The existence of the ELB in this project area cannot be determined by your stated efforts.

Thank you for receiving our comments