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Organization:

Title:

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Forest Service, White Mountains National Forest

Sandwich Vegetation Management Project Comments

My family has owned property at the end of Ferncroft Rd. For more than 60 yrs. We are deeply connected and concerned about the area. As someone who would be directly affected by the planned logging I would like to offer a few comments:

1. The environmental impacts analysis seems to have not been done with much diligence, perhaps a full environmental impact statement would be more useful. Since many of us in the valley consume surface water or water from not very deep wells, we are very concerned about run off and erosion.
2. The location of the cuts will definitely impact trail users and buffer areas should be planned.
3. Prescribed burns sound like a terrible idea.
4. Species controls seem to imply the possible use of herbicides, more information would be needed on this. Obviously opposed to the use of chemicals since they are likely to end up in the water.
5. While there are some existing logging roads many are now overgrown. More specificity as to road placement and the additional placement of staging areas, currently not well specified.
6. Previous cuts have led to erosion and general environmental damage. Many people in the local area see this project as not only undesirable but completely unnecessary.
7. Perhaps time spent on an updated forest plan would be a better approach.
8. Additional alternatives do seem to have been proposed or considered. Would leaving things alone be a reasonable alternative?

Sincerely,

Lachlan E. Cooke

Seattle, WA

Ferncroft Rd. Wonalancet. NH