

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/24/2023 4:00:00 AM

First name: Angus

Last name: Cooke

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a citizen whose family has owned property on Ferncroft Road since the 1960's, I would like to place the following comments and concerns regarding the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392:

1. Visual/Scenic Impacts. Obviously the proposed logging areas are crossed by many hiking trails, and also would be visible from Ferncroft Rd itself. This area is a valuable recreational resource to many residents and even more visitors to the area, and clearcutting in the area will be visually unacceptable.
2. As an adjunct to the previous point, obviously any thinning and/or clear cutting should require large buffer zones around trails and bodies of water. Any logging operation and resulting clearing needs to be invisible to hikers if it is to proceed.
3. If this proposed Vegetation Management Project is for the purpose of obtaining high quality timber products, this is not a proper justification for the environmental damage it will cause.
4. Herbicides, erosion and surface water runoff is a big concern, especially if herbicides are to be used in this program, which it sounds like is in the plan. Many residents in the area source their water from wells of various depths and spring sources, so the potential contamination of these water sources is a huge concern and a public safety issue.
5. Climate Change. Obviously our forests are hugely important for reducing carbon in the atmosphere, and cutting our forests down does not help with reversing climate change.
6. Controlled burns can get out of control. Given the wildfire season Canada has had this summer (something like 5,700 wildfires), starting one on purpose in the Sandwich area sounds like a terrible idea.
7. A "No Action" plan should certainly be explored as an alternative.

Thanks for your consideration,

Angus Cooke