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Comments: I strongly oppose the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project, USFS proposal to log 650 acres in the Sandwich Range of the White Mountain National Forest. It is based on a legally outdated 2005 U.S. Forest Service plan which is required by statute to be updated every fifteen years, leaving it three years out of date. In the 18 years since it last passed, times have changed, forestry practices have changed, and most importantly, climate has changed. In 2022, President Biden issued an Executive Order directing the Forest Service to conserve healthy, mature forests which store vast amounts of carbon just like those targeted in this plan. Instead of rushing to clear-cut swaths of these climate-critical forests without adequate study and little notice to the public, the Forest Service should allow them to grow old and recover the characteristics of an old-growth forest. Recent studies show that unlogged forests in the Northeast will continue to accumulate and store far more carbon than is contained in logged forests or in wood products. Logging and burning these carbon-dense forests would immediately release significant amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, worsening the climate crisis that has already resulted in wildfires, flooding, and weather-related disasters such as the first hurricane to hit the West Coast since the 1930s. Under the cover of "forest management", this plan proposes outdated commercial logging practices that degrade forest health, jeopardize water quality, and endanger biodiversity. Logging, road construction, skid trails, and the likely use of herbicides and "controlled burns" all serve to degrade and fragment habitat for rare and endangered species such as the Northern Long-eared Bat, a federally-endangered species that prefers old and interior forests and has been observed in those targeted for clear cutting in this plan. The suggestion that "the proposed action will not have significant impacts on the quality of life or recreation experiences of forest users in either the short or long term" is blatantly inaccurate and dishonest. The proposed logging is planned on top of three trails and adjacent to three more, all trails that are maintained not by the Forest Service but by dedicated citizens such as me who love the unbroken, peaceful forest habitat. The Assessment contains literally no evaluation of the impact of hauling operations on the quality of recreation or on animal life, including noise, herbicides, water quality, trail closures, and access to trails. One would think that USFS would have studied and planned to mitigate or minimize these effects, but as the Assessment bluntly states, "early versions of this proposal and associated maps included actions related to recreation management; however, those actions have been removed from the proposal and recreation management will be analyzed as a separate project." Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal agencies such as the USFS are required to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of a major federal action, which was incompletely or not done at all in this case. NEPA also requires that federal agencies consider a "reasonable range" of alternatives, which were also not offered in this case - it is clear-cut or no forest care at all. If that is the case, I would choose no care at all to this egregiously destructive and thoughtless plan to harvest timber from a pristine wilderness. As a citizen who has invested financial resources, time, and sweat equity in preserving this natural treasure, I DEMAND THAT THIS PROJECT BE RE-EVALUATED AND REDESIGNED OR ABANDONED.