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Title:

Comments: I vehemently OPPOSE the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project, US Forest Service proposal to log 650 acres in the Sandwich Range of the White Mountain National Forest. This proposal is based on a legally outdated 2005 U.S. Forest Service plan and in violation of a Presidential Executive Order (2022) directing the Forest Service to conserve healthy, mature forests, which store vast amounts of carbon. 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. This plan proposes outdated commercial logging practices that degrade forest health, jeopardize water quality, and endanger biodiversity.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 Longeared Bat, an endangered species. 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 like me. The Assessment contains 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. 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. NEPA also requires that federal agencies consider a "reasonable range" of alternatives, which were also not offered in this case. As a citizen who has invested money, time, and effort in preserving this natural treasure, I DEMAND THAT THIS PROJECT NOT MOVE FORWARD.