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Comments: I am writing to strongly oppose Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392 as it is anything but vegetation management. It is outright destruction.

This project will destroy the inherently valuable contiguous forest that provides the biodiversity so crucial to the health of the Sandwich Range and its surrounding area. Clear cutting large swaths of forest (which is what this project is) for the sole purpose of padding your budget is in direct contradiction with the area's character and use.

This is extraction at its finest. Ripping apart the land for dollars, giving nothing back to the area in return as the proposal does not outline any potential support to the surrounding area.

New Hampshire's forests are a resource; we just seem to disagree in how to realize this value. Yours appears to be monetary. Ours is in the health of the land and the life it sustains. While the destruction to the surrounding Ferncroft area and its impact on residents is certainly of great concern, noise, traffic and potential safety hazards will eventually pass...but the destruction will persist for generations.

You jeopardize this area's flora, fauna and water while brazenly stating this project will have, "no significant impact" in the Draft Environmental Assessment; a document riddled with lazy and incomplete conclusions. For example, you state in your own assessment you haven't even considered the full impacts:

"Note that 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."

You have also decided endangered species are of no concern:

"On November 29, 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reclassified the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) from threatened to endangered. The reclassification did not result in changes to the proposed action."

This project simply repeats the mistakes we have made so many times before. A myopic focus on the almighty dollar that in the end only destroys us. Don't let this area suffer from your greed.

-Sean Egan

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