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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USDA Forest Service and White Mountain National Forest Service,

I am dismayed and frustrated by your proposed plan to log 650 acres on the southern slopes of the Sandwich Range.

I have lived in Sandwich Tamworth area for fifty years and am a passionate mountain hiker and backpacker in summer and cross-country skier in the winter. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to be in the beautiful unspoiled forests around me, on foot or on skis.

Since I live on Great Hill Road near the Ferncroft and Liberty-Brook Trailheads, I frequently hike in these specific areas. I am not alone! Every time I pull my car into the parking area I see countless cars, many with out-of-state license plates. These trails are enjoyed by hikers and skiers seeking solitude and renewal through these unspoiled forested areas. Proposed logging would destroy the views from mountains and significantly alter the hiking experience. Since NH relies on tourism, this alone should give pause for thought.

Now more than ever, we should be conscious of the role mature forests have on sequestering carbon and slowing climate change. I am appalled that the Forest Service would consider even limited clear-cutting or using herbicides that have the potential to degrade forest health and contaminate our watersheds while releasing significant amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. Additionally, the plan would disrupt wildlife corridors and impact species that prefer older forests.

The Forest Plan is clearly out of date. Please do all you can to rethink this proposal! There are reasonable alternatives that could be found, including a NO ACTION plan that would preserve these lands for their scenic value to tourists, NH residents and wildlife.

Ellen Farnum