

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/28/2023 4:00:00 AM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Thompson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a resident of Wonalancet for the last 40 years, I've had the opportunity to witness the ever-steady growth of outdoor recreation that has taken place over the course of time here in our little hamlet located on a dead end road at the edge of the southern boundary of the White Mountain National Forest. The main draw for people, I believe, has always been for the very same unspoiled natural conditions and absolutely stunning visual mountain scenery that originally attracted me here as a hiker more than 50 years ago. Then after purchasing a home here, it quickly became evident that this pristine landscape did not just happen by accident! It was the result of a long cultural tradition deeply embedded within the local community for active protection and preservation for all its distinctively beautiful features - open pastoral farmland, well groomed trails overlooking mature mountain forests, and the feeling of immersing oneself within an environment of stillness and quietude.

When I consider the proposed timber management project currently planned for this region, I feel deeply disturbed by how divergent the Forest Service's goals are from those experiences, not only for the vast majority of individuals who live here, but also for all those who come to hike, ski, or maybe just to walk their dogs on some of our easier trails. How can it in good conscious come to pass in the first place where an obsolete forest management plan is being implemented suddenly with the prospect of so many adverse effects both physical and aesthetic, and at a time when there is a growing concern regarding global warming and the need to maintain carbon sequestration within our (especially) mature forests? Quite honestly, I cannot see the economic necessity of extracting timber right now at the expense of marring otherwise perfectly diverse sections of mature forest with their myriad layers of living entities that have taken generations to achieve the unique quality of equilibrium that they now do.

I also believe it would be prudent for the Forest Service to extent the comment period a little longer so that more citizens can have the opportunity to express their concerns as well.