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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I have recently become aware of the very unfortunate plan to have commercial loggers wreak havoc in the Sandwich Range. First of all, I think the comment period should by all rights be extended, as there has not been enough opportunity for people to find out about this plan, understand it, and prepare comments for it.

The plan itself as put forward is quite vague regarding way too many particulars, and based on an outdated Forest Plan which was done before the current understandings of climate change and carbon sequestration were understood as they are now. There are as well a host of other issues which have been ably addressed by other commenters, and I hope you take all of these comments to heart.

For myself, I write to address specifically the issue of NOISE.

Like many other people, I am sensitive to noise. The noise of logging is considerable, lengthy, disruptive, and carries great distances. I go to the trails in the Ferncroft area for their beauty and their peace and quiet. If this cutting takes place, the trails will be made ugly, difficult to access, and above all, the site of extensive ongoing noise: cutting, chipping, skidding, roadbuilding - whoever thinks that these activities will scarcely impact recreation in the area is seriously misled. Indeed, for someone like myself, they would render the whole area unvisitable for much of the next 10 years. I'm 67 now and have been hiking in the White Mountain National Forest for over 50 years. I hope to still be able to hike 10 years from now, but if you go ahead with this plan, I and lots of other people will have to drop the affected areas from any list of desirable hiking locations until this uncalled for destruction is finished.

I am sure I am not alone in feeling this way, and that there will be economic impacts because of this. I am also concerned about the deleterious impact this project would have on soils, water, and plant and animal life.

I request that you re-evaluate this plan, starting from a new Forest Plan that is not illegally out of date, and including the possibility of a No Action Alternative: that the forest would be better off without any of the proposed logging taking place. I agree with others who have called for the entire plan to be scuttled and all 3 areas added to Wilderness designation.