

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/25/2023 4:00:00 AM

First name: Alison

Last name: Ruch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I object to the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392.

The trails in the Sandwich Range, particularly those stemming off of Ferncroft Road, are the primary recreation destination for my family and me. This is a rare, free destination, maintained in large part by the generosity of volunteers.

I was crushed to learn of the pending Forest Service project (#57392), threatening the visual beauty, the plants and wildlife, and the quiet peacefulness of this place for up to ten years. Justifications for this project (namely "timber products") will not benefit this landscape now-or for many years after the project is over, the forest stripped of "6 million board feet" worth of its trees.

I am concerned that this project will severely diminish this beautiful recreation space for decades, spoiling this sanctuary for multiple generations of visitors and-worse-removing habitats and food sources for the wildlife that has inhabited these forests for centuries.

I have read the draft Environmental Assessment, and it is woefully lacking in detail about the impact of this project on the trails, the landscape, and the community. It is particularly upsetting that the Forest Service dropped its recreation management plan from the assessment, as I believe recreation will be severely impacted by the proposed action. I am also very concerned about the safety and quality of life impacts of hauling operations on the surrounding communities as well as on the forest.

I am concerned that environmental rationale for the project is not primary-and should be-and that alternative measures to address things like diseased trees have not been documented and detailed for public consideration.