

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

First name: JC

Last name: Ferguson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr Innes,

I have been hiking for decades in the areas to be forested and I am not in favor of the current proposal to affecting 100s of acres in and around Sandwich and Tamworth NH, some of the affected area very close to my home in N. Sandwich.

When you hike for decades, you eventually start to get curious about what's in the forest that one doesn't see from the trails. I spend a lot of time bushwhacking in/around the Sandwich area in all seasons, seeking out high hills like Guinea hill, or remote bodies of waters, or following drainages to see where they originate, or wilderness camping in the river valley between Chocorua and Mt Paugus. I have seen what forestry work does to the land - from my personal point of view, it is ugly, disruptive and takes decades to recover. Oil gets left behind in streams from the machines. Forested lands become nearly impossible for people to walk through, with slash, ruts, etc. left over by the machines used to harvest the trees, making for dangerous human travel. I have climbed Mt Israel 40+ times, enjoying the view of the wilderness and seeing it disrupted would break my heart. I have climbed Chocorua 10s of times as well, anyone who's been up there knows it offers some of the finest views around, and incredible sunset views.

I often look at topo maps from the 1930s, 1950s, etc. and make a trip out of exploring old, abandoned logging camps, the fun of walking through the woods with no trail, using map and compass is another pastime of enjoyment for the forests in the affected areas.

To illustrate my love for this area, I am a volunteer trail maintainer for two trails very close to the affected area in Sandwich - Black Mtn Pond and Algonquin. From the exposed ridge line of the Algonquin trail, the operations will be visible and disruptive to the beautiful views that exist today, this will be a sad sight for me to see.

I read a bit of the material, and I didn't see any alternatives proposed, it seems like an "all or nothing" proposal; it seems to me, out of over 850,000 acres in WMNF, there would be may other, less disruptive alternatives for forest management activities? Or, where is the consequences of leaving it as it explained?

Please reconsider the project, it will affect those of us who live and explore the lands of our great country in Sandwich and Tamworth.

Respectfully submitted 28-Aug 2023.