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First name: Pen

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I would like to comment on the proposed forestry across the Sandwich Range, Mt Paugus, and Mt Chocorua.

I have spent a significant amount in these woods, hiking, fishing, snowshoeing, and camping. I have helped create a free map application for hikers that covers the White Mountains called WhiteMtnHiker.

I believe it would be devastating to the local economies, environments, and communities to harvest timber in the proposed areas.

These areas are very well traveled by outdoor enthusiasts and would ruin the pristine experience that many people enjoy every day. Our road is one route to the head of the Liberty Trail up Mt Chocorua and we see all of the cars drive by on their way to the mountain.

The scale and length of the proposed forestry would permanently reduce interest in these woods due to noise, blocked access due to forestry operations, and destruction of natural habitat.

Finally, I studied Environmental Science in undergrad. My advisor during my studies conducts research on forests across the Northeast and I became very accustomed to reading the supporting documents posted on this project.

A major takeaway from my studies was that climate change has already altered how ecological systems recover. We have experienced climate change in Carroll country, as is obvious by the reduced snow in the winter, longer Falls, and strangely warm spells in December.

I strongly believe that it is not in the long term interest of the State to forrest these heavily used and ecologically significant areas. Lastly, longer term analysis needs to be done on the proposed areas to better understand how they will recover in the future given the changing climate.

Sincerely,

Pen Hallowell

Hunter, Hiker, Fisherman