

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/29/2023 4:00:00 AM

First name: James

Last name: Wayt

Organization:

Title:

Comments: USFS - Attn: Jim Innes - District Range

Re: Sandwich Vegetation Management Project (SVMP)

Dear Jim,

As a US Taxpayer and one who has enjoyed the natural beauty and wonder of the Sandwich Range in the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) for over six decades, I am concerned about the recent proposal to log on approximately 650 acres of the southern slope. I would add that practically 100% of my hiking and general enjoyment in this area has been on the southern slope of this range. Accordingly, I would insist that those in charge of the decision making process in your district reconsider this proposal given the following issues:

- The area around Wonalancet, after being completely devastated and clearcut well over a century ago has recovered into a pristine natural area. Marring this area with a 650-acre logging project seems ill advised and certainly detrimental to the natural beauty and scenic nature of the area.

- As a trout fisherman, I have found that the water quality provided from this southern slope has been nothing short of excellent. Even after a strong summer cloud burst the water quality recoups almost immediately. The proposed logging project would certainly have a negative impact on water quality emanating from the proposed area.

- My understanding is that a National Forest Plan is by law to be updated every 15 years and that the last WMNF plan was revised in 2005. Surely, several factors have changed that would implore a pause and reconsideration before moving forward with logging in this area.

- I urge you and your district to act in accordance with NEPA requirements in assessing the environmental impact of this proposal and weigh in with the value of a NO Action Alternative as prescribed by Federal Law.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter - I honestly do not see a valid reason on a cost benefit basis to proceed with this project as proposed. Please contact me if I can be of further service in defending my stated position in reevaluating the need and purpose for the SVMP proposal.