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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Massachusetts resident, you might think I am not concerned with this proposal. But I visit the area frequently, and cherish its untamed forests and mountains and peacefulness. Typically, the first thing I do in the Tamworth area is to drive to the Wonalancet/Ferncroft area to taste the peace, the beauty, and the clean air.

The proposal to conduct major forestry harvest that will cover years, in the Sandwich Range, is an appalling prospect which will impact the region's year-round and seasonal population negatively in terms of quiet, beauty, wildlife, water quality, and more.

This natural resource has been treasured by residents and visitors for generations. To see it as merely a place to remove natural resources, like lumber, is extremely shortsighted and ignorant of its historic and scenic value.

And then consider our recent understanding of climate change, and even the current impact of such changes already! These mature stands of trees help keep our air cleaner and healthier for all.

A negative effect on tourism will also be a major blow to the economy of the region, on which these small towns depend. In every aspect this proposal is a disaster and needs to be reexamined in the light of our contemporary understanding of the importance of such forests and their ecology. Also, in regard to the plan developed in 2005, it is woefully out of date - 3 years expired now.

Please reconsider the pros and cons of this plan carefully, and move in the direction of conservation of the Sandwich Range.