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First name: Eleanor

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Regarding the proposed Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392:

As a homeowner with a family property abutting the land for the proposed project, I am deeply concerned about the scope of this project and opposed to it given its potential negative impacts to the environment and communities surrounding the area. Moreover, I believe that the public has not been provided sufficient information about the project, so I am requesting an extension of 60 days to gather additional information from the USFS and for extended public comment.

My family settled in Wonalancet in the late 1800s and has helped champion the preservation of this area for hundreds of years. I am very concerned that the proposed logging project as it currently stands will negatively affect local and general public use of the highly trafficked hiking and cross-country skiing trails in the area. As a physician, I am concerned about the negative health impacts of compromised air quality during logging and exposure to pesticides that threaten, human, pet, and wild animal health. Additionally, the loss of a large portion of the Ferncroft parking lot will also lead to greater congestion and spillover of parking into neighboring areas. While I recognize the need for responsible forest management and stewardship to prevent forest fires and support sustainable forest growth, the current project proposal does not provide adequate information about addressing these goals.

I am requesting that the USFS provide additional information regarding the proposed project including: a detailed plan for the proposed road building including mileage, development and access plans (would this be accessing year-round or only during particular seasons?), estimates as to the board feet that will be harvested from each area and whether the diseased birch trees will be included in this estimate, and an updated report on the health and environmental impacts of the project. If the project were to move forward, there would need to be ongoing discussion with local community members about certain times to be blocked off for harvesting and constraints on the scope of the project.

As it currently stands, I am opposed to the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392 given the lack of detailed information provided and potential negative impacts to the environment and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Semmes