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Organization:

Title:

Comments: We are a family that owns a large property abutting the White Mountain National Forest. There are multiple trails on our property that are in constant use by family and others. We will be personally impacted by the noise, smoke, and logging activity of the proposed Sandwich Vegetation Management Project. We oppose the project in its current iteration for being too big, too long, too extreme, and too careless in its impact assessment.

1. We object to the short timeframe for public comment.
2. We object to this project being based on an outdated survey (2005 and supposed to be updated every 15 years.)
3. We object to this project because it conflicts with the Executive Order of 2022 to conserve mature forests like the one targeted here for logging.
4. We question the legality of this project for its impact on the habitat of two endangered species.
5. We object to the lack of consultation with groups like the Wonalancet Outdoor Club and the Tamworth Outing Club, whose interests and activities will be drastically impacted.
6. We object to the lack of details or impact assessment of the location and impact of 16 miles of logging roads, the location and impact of 5+ landing sites, the lack of specified buffer areas, and the hazards of skid trails and hauling operations in high use recreational areas.
7. We object strenuously to the trail and trailhead closures and the impact to hikers.
8. We object to the blatantly and ludicrously false statement that this proposed project "will not have significant impacts on quality of life or recreational experiences of users in short or long term" when some trails and trailheads of Mount Chocorua will be closed for extended periods of time and clearcutting and burn areas are planned alongside the Liberty Trail!
9. We further object to the decision to analyze recreational management as a separate project when the impact on area recreation is central to this plan.
10. We also question the wisdom of undertaking a project such as this in a national forest recreational area in an age of social media when the destruction of forest will likely be captured by drone cameras, the noise and disruption will be recorded on video and posted, and a firestorm of controversy and opposition may result. Already there are posts about this proposed project on social media. This is not planned for a remote corner of a large western national forest but in a relatively small national forest that is an extremely active recreational area. The impact of this project will hurt the reputation of the Forest Service and increase public opposition to projects in the future.