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Title:

Comments: I have lived in Chocorua (Tamworth) for four decades, and know that access to the White Mountain National Forest is such an important part of life here, for residents and visitors. My family is very familiar with all the trails in Wonalancet and near Mount Chocorua because we have spent lots of time doing trail maintenance there.

We have repeatedly worked on fixing trail erosion caused by the previous Wonalancet timber harvests in the 1970s (check your records because your staff presenting this project seemed unaware of that harvest!) We have been able to see first-hand that logging equipment tears up the soil on and around the trails, and the loss of tree cover allows much more erosion of the soil by rainstorms (which are becoming more intense).

PLEASE notice that the area harvested in Wonalancet in the 1970s grew back as very dense beech saplings, with no marketable-size trees and no oaks. So the stated goal of the current project, to promote growth of valuable oaks, was already shown to be unrealistic!

The Forest Plan for the WMNF is overdue to be updated. A current plan would acknowledge that the WMNF is much more suited to recreation than logging. Even in monetary terms, the value that this Forest generates from tourism exceeds the value it could generate from logging.

Therefore, it is especially unfortunate that this project calls for harvesting in areas full of popular hiking trails. To say that a recreational plan for the trails will be worked on separately makes no sense and is disingenuous.

We have worked on the problem of the Ferncroft parking area being more and more overcrowded with cars every year, in every season. This project proposes reducing parking spaces to allow access for logging equipment, without even making exceptions for weekends.

No explanation has been provided for why this project needs expedited approval. Only one public presentation/listening session was held last year, and no announcements were issued by the Forest Service in recent months to publicize the 60 day comment period.