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Title:

Comments: It is good to see this area of the WMNF is going to have forest management that will diversify the habitat. Wildlife utilize different forest types and well as age classes. I am dismayed that only about 80 acres will be clearcut to create early successional habitat. The Forest Plan calls for 900 acres of regeneration age habitat to be created every year across the Forest. To meet this goal the other two districts would have to propose and create 820 acres of clearcuts. Is that happening and is it doable?

There is not proposal for harvest at the end of Bennet Street. The FS and Town of Sandwich worked together about 30 years ago to improve the bridge at the end of Bennet Street to facilitate timber harvest in the future. To date it has not been used for this.

The area at the end of FS road 5209 (accessed via land formerly owned by George Bates) has no management proposed. The road is in excellent shape. Was this area considered?

I would like to know which patch cut is proposed to be converted to a wildlife opening. Is a driveable road going to be maintained to this site in order to maintain it?

Harvest where the small whorled pogonia exists should greatly improve the conditions for this orchid as shown on Chase Hill as well as on as site in Alton NH. The population has been decreasing here for the past 25 years. While recreation may be impacted for some years, people who frequent this area should feel lucky to have enjoyed the area for 30 years without management activity. While the habitat will be altered, in the long run it will benefit wildlife for many years.

The Ferncroft Parking area is often over-crowded with vehicles to the point cars are parked along the road all the way to 113A. Is the Forest considering going to a permit system to alleviate the overuse it is receiving? Please don't say the answer is a larger parking area. That is not a solution, only a way to make the issue worse.

I realize you are getting some heat regarding this proposal. If people only understood much of this area is already protected by Wilderness, Scenic Area and Research Natural Area. This is a National Forest, not a National Park. Multiple Use is what the FS does. Think Globally, Act Locally. We all use wood; it grows well here. Wildlife use many habitat types and age classes, not just mature forests.

Good Luck.