

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2023 12:53:09 PM

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Title:

Comments: Hello. I am concerned with the impact of the planned cut and burn West of Mt Chocorua as early as next year. We live in the foothills of Chocorua and Paugus and have maintained the hiking trails as a member of the Chocorua Mountain Club for my 60 years, in fact, my family has been a integral part of maintaining these trail since the Club's inception in 1908. These are all volunteers of course, but it's the love of the mature forest and all that it offers that keeps them coming back. We don't use equipment, we use hand tools and end of the day we stand back and admire the accomplishments and take pride that the next hikers will appreciate the care given to protect the natural surroundings. Managing the water off the trail, noting and protecting certain flora, limiting the human impact, are all part of the Club's goals. It might sound corny but that is fact what we do.

As an arborist I admit I only have limited knowledge of forestry on your scale, but as we manage for oak and white pine here in the foothills, it is a seasonal battle to keep the beech from eliminating the sunlight to the desired trees. I have watched the beech take over stands of mixed softwoods on the slopes of Chocorua after a significant ice storm. The nature of that section of the Liberty Trail has changed forever, and doubt there will ever be much commercial value to that stand.

Please consider the impact on the trails and respect the efforts we have made so everyone can enjoy what's left of the mature woods. Please don't make our job more difficult, volunteers are limited and we cannot tackle large trail reconstruction projects.

Thanks for listening.