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Comments: Only within the last week had I heard about the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to cut 6 million board feet of timber from the Sandwich Range in New Hampshire. I have walked, hiked and skied the wonderful trails in the Sandwich Range for years and have concerns about the possible impacts of the proposed lumbering and prescribed burns on the Sandwich Range forests themselves and specifically on the multiple recreational uses that the Range offers.

The plan apparently does not include any forest buffer between the designated harvest area and walking, hiking and ski trails. I also understand that several popular trailhead parking lots and trails, such as at Ferncroft, will be partially closed.

If heavy machinery and skid trails cross hiking trails how will that affect trail access and foot traffic? Also, will access to new lumbering roads also encourage access to currently remote areas of the Sandwich Range by, for example, irresponsible use of personal gasoline-powered machinery?

Finally, an assessment apparently based on a plan (2005) for the Forest Service that is almost two decades old likely does not reflect the last two decades of environmental and climate-related research and findings. How are the latest research and findings reflected in the Forest Service's current policies and plans? And how have the Forest Service's current policies and plans been woven into the current proposal for logging and prescribed burns in the Sandwich Range? If they haven't, I do not support the current Sandwich Range proposal.