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Comments: I don't know how many of the people that are involved in this project actually appreciate what this area of the sandwich mountains has to offer the public. It is unspoiled and quiet, unlike many more crowded areas of the whites. People come here to get away from the crowds and enjoy the beauty of the unspoiled wilderness, and the many wetlands and waterways found in this area. I hiked up Paugus for the first time, been hiking a lot along guinea trail, mount Israel, Kelly brook, passaconaway, baldface, and of course Chocorua. Not only are they close, but to me it is one of the most beautiful areas of the whites. The hike up to Paugus was truly magical with all the roaring streams. My hikes to the top of mount Israel have always been very peaceful and the view just wonderful. Hiking guinea in the fall is spectacular with all the red maples. That valley between sandwich and Israel is special. I can't imagine not being to hike there for a year or even more due to the noise, and then having to look at the one place that I can truly recharge, shredded. It's not just my enjoyment that concerns me...it is the expected use of herbicides with so many waterways and wetlands in the area. Bees and other pollinators are under attack and that valley and those areas have a lot of food for them. They will be impacted. It is the clear cutting which also disturbs me. I am very concerned about the wetlands and vernal ponds. I have seen areas in Massachusetts cleared and a buffer left, but then no return of amphibians to the vernal ponds. I also see many healthy communities of the very trees that are supposed to be dwindling in that area and thus needing management. In fact it has some of the most pristine communities I have seen in my hiking of the whites. The old growth there speaks to the health. It is an unbased assumption that places must be logged to prevent forest fires. Then there is the argument this must be one because there aren't enough fires to destroy areas for new growth. These communities seem to be doing fine and with the increased violent weather, many a tree comes down now to provide areas for regeneration. Studies have shown a loss of biodiversity when an area is logged. It never comes back. I am sure the powers that be have already made the decision, and this is more to humor us, but it saddens me the power of the dollar. Seeing the destruction near mount Katherine a few years ago is not what I envision for the southeastern sandwich mountains. Piles of debris, trails treacherous. This is not the message that should be sent to the public....the state can trash the forests, but not you. Who will respect the woods? No one. It is there for the taking, including, in peoples' minds, the alpine zone. Finally I am getting tired of the southern sandwiches being a constant target for gain....out of sight out of mind. Why don't you look at places on the kang? Let's put this really where it is at. It's a money grab in an area that most won't pay attention to. Its an easy target. It is an unnecessary one and the noise of traffic and chainsaws will impact not only the local human community, but the wildlife as well. The sandwiches are supposed to be a very special place according to the signs hikers encounter when they enter the zone. It would be nice to keep it that way.