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Organization:

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Comments: With our world in chaos and constant hammering from unpredictable forces beyond our control, my family and I have sought solace, community, tranquility and peace among the forest and hiking trails of Mount Chocorua and the nearby Sandwich Range for over 50 years. I am writing to convey my strongest objection with the proposed plan from the U.S. Forest Service to begin a 5-10-year operation to eviscerate 648 acres of forest for lumber and to burn over 300 acres of trees, shrubs, flora, and fauna. The proposal is an unnecessary waste of valuable government resources in an environmental area that does not need to be "managed" and should be left for future generations to enjoy as we have.

As a healthcare executive, I am more than familiar with the unnecessary disruption by parties more interested in for-profit gain, mindless disruption, and personal agendas in "solving" healthcare than approaching a problem by utilizing innovation, engagement, and recognition of a local community and valuing the healthcare needs and challenges of individuals and families. In the case of the proposed "Vegetation Management Project," we have the unnecessary disruption by parties interested in for-profit gain in lumber and harm to an environment that does not need to be managed in this way.

At the very least, further environmental impact studies studying and understanding the social, financial, recreational, and business implications particularly in a community that depends on outdoor recreational activities to support our local businesses, well-being and vitality should be undertaken and shared with the communities at stake before cutting down and burning forests that have taken hundreds of years to grow and thrive.

I implore the U.S. Forest Service to abort this plan and to find other solutions.