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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I consider myself fortunate to live in the beautiful state of New Hampshire, to have the opportunity to hike in the mountains and take in the incredible vistas. I am writing now to urge that you NOT log 650 acres of the Sandwich Range.

1. First, I ask that you preserve this natural beauty intact for the many people, like myself, come to these mountains for the beauty and spiritual renewal they involve.
2. For animals that live in this habitat - at a time of rapid species extinction - unless a powerful rationale can be given for this logging, we should not be disrupting animal habitat! Old trees provide a different habitat than younger trees, so this logging would displace species from their particular niche. I do not believe the requisite inventory has been done, of species on these 650 acres, to determine whether they are vulnerable to extinction.
3. Further, the number of old growth trees is dwindling. Older trees provide much-needed carbon storage - far more than younger trees. As we to lower global climate emissions, there seems no excuse for the great release of carbon that would come with cutting these trees, and the loss of their storage capacity going forward. Logging these trees would directly attempt violate a 2022 Executive Order from President Biden that mature forests be preserved.
4. Finally, have all the mandated protocols been met? Has an evaluation been done to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of this major federal action, as per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?
5. I understand that the law requires Forest Plans to be revised every 15 years. But the most recent management plan for the White Mountain National Forest is dated 2005. Climate and environment have radically changed since then. Follow the law and produce an updated management plan before taking such radical, irreversible action.

Do not alter this habitat without doing the required inventory of species, evaluation of potential environmental impacts, and updating of the White Mountain National Forest management plan.

This is a fragile time. Trees prevent erosion and flooding, provide habitat, sequester carbon. Can you demonstrate the need and appropriateness for the radical logging you propose?