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Organization:

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Comments: I am horrified by this proposal, which appears to be outdated with regard to many environmental and ecological concerns that have been put forth since the 2005 Forest Plan that the USFS is using as guidance.

This proposal would be eminently counterproductive to the flourishing outdoor recreation scene in the areas around Liberty/Brook trailhead and Ferncroft road-without any buffer between the areas of harvest and the hiking trails, and with logging trucks and equipment potentially obstructing the trailheads themselves, entire swaths of the forest and Sandwich Mountains would be rendered either entirely inaccessible or significantly and negatively altered for far beyond the 5-10 year window of the timber removal itself.

I am shocked that there is nothing in this documentation that mentions questions of carbon sequestration and climate change, not to mention local ecology, and that there appears to be a prioritization of timber harvesting for its economic productivity without regard for the significant economic benefits of outdoor recreation on the local economy.

From my family cabin in Tamworth, I grew up hiking Chocorua from the Liberty/Brook trailhead and Whiteface/Passaconway from the Ferncroft road trailheads. I have spent quite a bit of time camping and exploring these forests, and I am heartbroken that they would be subject to such severe forest management measures without regard for the health of the ecosystem-as an ever-evolving combination of local wildlife, plants and trees, and respectful human visitors. We are all in this together, and this area deserves the opportunity to remain a center for community recreation.

Thank you!