Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/6/2023 11:06:40 PM First name: Alan Last name: Pierce Organization:

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Comments: I have been hiking in the mountains of New Hampshire since the 1970s. My father, a Dartmouth College alum and member of the Dartmouth Outing Club, introduced me to the rugged peaks of the White Mountains. I am appalled that the US Forest Service is proposing to log on the slopes of Mt. Moosilauke, the spiritual home of Dartmouth's Outing Club. My poor father is spinning in his grave. The Lost River logging project is deeply misguided and unnecessary. It is time that the US Forest Service and state departments of natural resources stop the wholesale logging of trees in the US Northeast, particularly stands of older trees as are found in the area proposed for harvest. We need to restore old-growth forests on public lands. At scale. We need these forests to counteract climate change and mitigate risks of flooding. We also need old-growth forests to serve as refugia for rare and endangered species. The pro-logging propaganda spread by the USFS staff and the forest products industry is blatantly false and contradicted by the scientific literature. We do not need more "young forest," and logging does not improve bird populations (see the Betts study from 2021 - it actually causes declines in bird populations). The USFS is ignoring the Biden Administration mandate to preserve older forests and taking money from industry - as are the state forest management agencies across New England - in a race to decimate our forests for the benefit of a few and to the detriment of the public at large. The widespread logging and propaganda must stop. These are our trees. Our land. The USFS does not have a public mandate to butcher our lands. Stop and desist now, for the good of the public, not the benefit of a few insiders and the industry.