

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/10/2023 10:18:52 PM

First name: Catherine

Last name: Bock

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am concerned about forest carbon and climate change.

The forests at the foot of the Sandwich Range are healthy and mature and store vast amounts of carbon. They will recover the characteristics of an old-growth forest if allowed to grow older which means they will accumulate and store far more carbon than is contained in logged forests or in wood products. Logging and burning these carbon-dense forests would immediately release significant amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, worsening the climate crisis. President Biden issued an Executive Order in 2022 directing the Forest Service to conserve mature forests just like those targeted for logging in the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project. It would be best for human health, for biodiversity and for the climate if the Forest Service would allow them to grow old.