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Comments: Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for inviting comments

You have informed us on the purpose of the Forest Service: number one, to produce timber. Forest management as defined by your team is management to produce a healthy timber crop. With all due respect, that is not the same thing as promoting a healthy old growth forest. I am hoping that by the end of our discussions about the pros and cons of the Sandwich Vegetation Management Proposal, the goals and priorities of the Forest Service will have been altered.

What is most concerning is that President Biden's Executive Order is being ignored in deference to lumber lobbyists.

In 2022, President Biden signed Executive Order 14072 calling for the protection of old-growth and mature forests on federal public lands like the White Mountain National Forest. Forest Service staff say they have not received guidance regarding this executive order, so it is not being incorporated into the proposed logging. We believe this is in violation of the US Government: any action undertaken in the Sandwich Range should be consistent with the executive order to protect and preserve America's mature forests, which excel at removing carbon from the atmosphere, support biodiversity, and enhance water quality for downstream communities.

Any plan should also protect jobs in the local tourism, hospitality and recreation industry. The Tamworth area is already suffering economically and should not fall victim to distant lumbering interests.

For these reasons we are urging you and our political representatives to change the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project to accommodate our urgent climate change and tourism jobs issues.

I look forward to your response

Sincerely

Derek Smyth