

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2023 11:33:56 PM

First name: Jane

Last name: Thompson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been coming to NH for 71 years, enjoying every visit! Hiking is one of the reason to come, with the numerous trails and variety of difficulty, I have always had wonderful hikes.

The past few years have been mostly in the Wonalancet area, close to where I summer. I'm concerned about the logging that is to take place in this area.

The parking lot is often overflowing, even with the increased spaces over the past couple of years, this popular area brings in many from outside of the area. Will there be more parking elsewhere? Have you visited the parking lot, especially weekends, to see how many cars are there?

The truck traffic is a major concern. Even if the drivers are very careful they may not see hikers or their dogs in time to stop, unless they are traveling very slowly. Will there be someone in the parking lot to make sure of the hiker safety when trucks are coming and going?

How are you planning to get trucks and other big equipment to the logging sites? There are some old road beds, that are now trails. Are you planning on using these? Or build new roads - which would definitely affect the whole area!

What are you planning to use for buffers? Even with a buffer, I am concerned about how this will affect the trails , especially the ones right by the logging. Both visually and noisily.

Over the past few years, the practice of cutting forests has changed. In 2022 President Biden issued an Executive Order directing the Forest Service to conserve mature forests. This area seems to be pretty mature. Nature has been around MUCH longer than human beings. It has done well taking care of itself when humans leave it alone. I have never understood the need to cut trees to benefit other trees or nature. To me, cutting trees is necessary for the wood to be used by humans. I am not against logging in general, just in this area that is so beautiful.

The water in that area is so clean and pure! What are you doing to make sure it isn't polluted, nor the stream beds damaged?

Much of the US Forest in NH is not as popular for hiking and has lots of timber. My hiking is a form of exercise as well as meditation - unwinding from the noisy, busy world to the wonderful silence of the woods. Even though the parking lot is full of cars, there is enough trail milage in this area to enjoy wherever I end up.