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Comments: I am opposed to the Sandwich Vegetation Management project. I have been a certified arborist for over twenty years and have resided in the state for the last ten. I have seen lots of big trees get cut down in the valley and lakes area and am concerned about this and the plan being proposed. There are no tree wardens in the state or tree ordinances so this is quite alarming to me. I guess this is a whole different problem but thought I would bring it up anyways. The biggest concern for me is the current threat of invasive species in the state. Emerald ash borer is running rampant through the area and decimating ash trees all over the state. Hemlock woolly adelgid is also here and only a matter of time before it makes it to the forest. Beech leaf disease has been found in the southern part of the state and will be here before we know it. Preserving our forests as best we can is where our thoughts should be centralized at this moment in time. If the harvest does take place I ask that maybe the mother trees can be left alone? We should be treating these trees in the forest so they are protected from the current threat of invasive species. Ash trees and hemlocks can be injected with an insecticide to help them resist the threat of ash borer. The product can last up to four years and we have treated easily over a hundred trees in area with great results. At least save the mother trees and that way they will be protected from extinction and not go the way of the chestnuts.

The other concern for me is the residents of Ferncroft Rd. We have multiple clients there and one whose property borders the parking area. I am worried for these people and the hikers also with the logging that will take place. I hope that a lot of thought and consideration goes into this and I feel at this time in humanity that this plan is not a good idea.

John Chepes

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