Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/19/2023 7:55:17 PM

First name: Richard Last name: Devens Organization:

Title:

Comments: US Forest Service

In January of 2020, I went to an exhibit by the Forest Society at the Wentworth Library. That gave me some idea of what they had in mind. On Monday 11 September 2023, I went to a meeting with the NH Forest Service at Sandwich Town Hall.

There were about 70 of us at this meeting, which had to be delayed for 20 minutes because of scheduling problems. Slides of maps were projected on a wall which had surfaces at different distances from the small projector, and it was hard for me to see where the clear cuts were proposed. The members of the Forest Service each had something to say, and they all seemed professional and concerned about the environment. One of their messages was "We are concerned about the things that concern you."

As a hiker, I have often been impressed by how ugly the forest looked when it was cut, and I still don't see why these massive operations have to happen. We were told that the motive was not market-driven.

I do a lot of pruning on my own land, and it looks better after I'm done, not worse. I'm a retired landscape architect.

Dick Devens Sandwich