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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Innes and members of the US Forest Service,

As a young New Hampshire native and longtime resident of the Lakes Region, I care deeply about the preservation of the White Mountain National Forest that encompasses the Sandwich Range.

In a world increasingly threatened by climate change, I feel truly privileged to have grown up among the Sandwich Range's healthy, mature forests, clear waters, and its vast community of biodiverse residents. I've enjoyed hundreds of hours exploring and reconnecting with nature in the 650-acres of forest that would be logged through the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392.

The state of New Hampshire and the US Forest Service should make every effort to preserve the mature forests that would be impacted Sandwich Vegetation Management Project and allow them to grow old. Mature forests store vast amounts of carbon, and they will recover the characteristics of an old-growth forest if allowed to grow older. Recent studies show that unlogged forests in the Northeast will continue to accumulate and store far more carbon than is contained in logged forests or in wood products.

Within the 650-acres of land that the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project plans to log, 76% of that land is mature forest. It's shocking that the White Mountain National Forest would consider logging this valuable area. At the very least, the White Mountain National Forest should provide a detailed No Action Alternative that investigates the lasting benefits of leaving the forest as it is.

The revenue gained by logging 6 million board feet of timber products would never be enough money for me to trade the memories I've made in the Sandwich Range wilderness. The experiences I've had here were created freely, and the lessons learned have been priceless. It would be an honour to watch the Sandwich Range wilderness mature into an old-growth forest. Please consider giving younger generations of Granite Staters the gift of untouched natural spaces that they proudly preserve.

With strong opposition to the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project #57392,

Kayleigh Bennett