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Comments: WMNF.

I ask that you commit to a full Environmental Assessment on this project. It appears you are working with outdated economic understandings - forest - particularly old growth and mature forest - have more value being left alone than logged. The climate capture value is enormous - and highly valuable and forests take many many years to regenerate.

From a 2020 report from Boston Consulting Group:

"The capability of forests to regulate climate through carbon capture and storage is the most important factor in our value assessment, accounting for 65% to 90% of the total value of forests."

Source: <https://www.bcg.com/publications/2020/the-staggering-value-of-forests-and-how-to-save-them>

It's no surprise that forestry companies right here in our state (Bluespurce in the CT Headwaters area) have announced that they will be logging less because forests are worth more - in today's economy - in carbon offset credits than for timber harvest.

The forest service has made it quite clear - taxpayer and agency dollars are typically lost on logging projects. Loss of dollars plus loss of valuable mature forest = a net loss. Times Two.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1997/11/21/us-lost-15-million-selling-public-timber/85e9e176-a900-44b4-940c-da66c34f2c40/>

I ask that a full - modern - assessment take place to understand the true value of the forest that was planned to be logged. If I understand correctly, there is no inventory or understanding of the trees being slated for harvest. I ask - if we don't know the value, why would we move forward with a logging project? Please do the due diligence required and assess the value of the logging project contrasted with the value of the 600+ acres left standing. And the only way to do this is with a thorough, complete assessment.

Finally, since the data about the recreational impact of this project that abuts many recreational trails be assessed. Tourism dollars to the White Mountain area are extremely important to the State economy. The Governor's office released this statement - \$2 billion dollars comes from tourism. Has the recreational impact been considered? No, as it was removed from the current plan.

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-and-media/new-hampshire-tourism-reports-record-breaking-fall-season>

So do the right thing and conduct a full assessment

The USFS is required by federal environmental law to consider and offer "reasonable alternatives" to its proposed actions. Without a full assessment it is clear the current EA cannot provide alternatives because not enough data has been obtained. Particularly related to the recreational value and the value of the trees left in their current state.

Thank you for considering a full assessment before launching this project.

Rich Collins
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