

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2023 3:57:51 PM

First name: Anna

Last name: Paddock

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The planned deforestation in the Sandwich Range is of great concern to me as a resident of the area, and frequent user of its trails. The strategy proposed by the Forest Service is an antiquated one, which prioritizes profit from timber production over all else. I do not oppose cutting timber, but it needs to be done with the health of the forest ecosystem as the top priority. Clear cutting huge swaths of land will result in forest fragmentation, habitat destruction, and soil erosion. With the onset of climate change, we cannot afford to erase a vibrant ecosystem that helps to balance our atmospheric carbon. Additionally, it is crucial to consider the aesthetic implications of the proposed logging project. New Hampshire relies heavily on tourism for our economy, and it is our beautiful, lush forests and stunning mountains that draw those visitors here. I urge the Forest Service to pause this project and reform the management plan for the Sandwich Range to one that prioritizes a healthy, whole, and permanent forest.