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First name: Nancy

Last name: Walser

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I respectfully request that the U.S. Forest Service stop and reconsider its plan to log the Sandwich range.

While I understand that forests need to be managed for reasons for heading off fires and encouraging biodiversity, the current plan is based on a nearly two-decade old plan when knowledge and concerns about impacts of human activity on the environment/climate change were not anywhere near the heightened state they are in now.

Further, the current plan appears to be at odds with a 2022 executive order to protect mature forests and does not address the impacts to recreation in an area that is much beloved by many residents and hikers in the area (including myself).

I attended a meeting held in Sandwich featuring forest service officials and while it was clear that they felt this plan needed to go through (despite some misgivings about lack of data on the carbon impacts), they did not really explain what kind of benefits would warrant such disruption, short of needing more red oaks and providing more habitat for deer and moose, which are actually all seen in our yards on a somewhat regular basis. The WMNF is a large area, why cut in these places, now?

Logging is disruptive and the extensive logging that this plan calls for will affect many residents and those who come to the area for recreation for many years. It is not something to take lightly or to say this shall be because of something conceived of nearly 20 years ago.

Given the clear impacts to the area in what will be a long process over a number of years, I think the onus is on the Forest Service to make a more compelling case and about why it is so necessary to cut so many acres so close to beloved recreation areas and trails. It should be responsive and at least pause this process or rethink it if they can't give better answers to the remaining questions.