

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2023 5:09:01 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived, worked, and recreated in and adjacent to the project area most of my life. Portions of the post-treatment area will probably be visible from my kitchen window. In short, this project will have an influence on my life.

I have reviewed the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project documents. They are thorough, professionally prepared, and clearly and most importantly, based on science. I commend the U.S. Forest Service, the Saco Ranger District, and all the resource specialists behind the scenes who prepared this extensive, if not exhaustive report.

I am now and always have been an advocate of management versus non-management in life generally, and forests specifically. Whether it is your health, your stock portfolio, or your relationships, they all require input and management from time to time. Such is true with our forests in New England and Sandwich specifically. The several different harvesting techniques described and prescribed burns are a few of the tools unique to the forest industry that will be employed in this project to improve forest health and improve wildlife habitat. I support their careful and thoughtful implementation as described in the plan.

In addition to reviewing the USFS documents for this project I have also read some comments that oppose the project as it is currently proposed.

To the forest carbon sequestration and old growth/mature forests argument, I would note that this 1325 acre project is adjacent to the 35,000+ acre Sandwich Range Wilderness area. I am satisfied that those issues are addressed by this adjacency.

I have always struggled with the use of the aesthetics argument in the context of land and forest management projects. Personally, I will continue to ski and hike the trails of Whiteface, Chocorua, Passaconaway, Sandwich Dome, and all the other mountains nearby, prior, during, and after the operations are completed.

I appreciate the opportunity to have my comments heard and I support this project.

Sincerely,

Neil R. Postlewaite