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## Title:

Comments: I strongly encourage the USFS to at minimum postpone their cutting of the Sandwich Range of the White Mountain National Forest until a full and complete environmental impact assessment, among other considerations, has been considered. At present, there are several almost laughable voids in the assessment, as well as the utter and purposeful ignoring of the recent Executive Order 14072, which calls for the CONSERVATION --- not mere investigation of --- federally managed mature forests, which the Sandwich Range is primarily composed of. Among the "Issues Not Considered for Detailed Analysis" include "effects to fire potential, fuels, and air quality" and "socioeconomic effects including contributions to local and regional economies." How on earth these elements would not be fully considered is beyond me. Take, for example, the fact that regions of Canada directly above us spent the entire summer burning, not only destroying their forests but making our air quality at times so filthy as to be harmful to general populations. To not consider fire potential and air quality during a time of increasingly hot and dry summers due to climate change is absurdly irresponsible. Again due to climate change, winters are expected to be warmer and wetter (more rain, less snow). This is continually threatening winter industry (i.e. snow sports like skiing), a huge portion of NH's economic income, and will likely threaten other ecotourism in general which is responsible for bringing in the majority of NH income (i.e. hiking). It is entirely inequitable that 6 million board feet worth of timber will be used for commercial profit while actively hindering the income of the communities who supplied said timber without receiving any of the monetary benefit. Moreover, there is no feasible way that 6 million board feet worth of timber could be harvested from infected beech trees alone, implying the cutting of perfectly healthy forest that provides a multitude of ecosystem services for the region far more valuable than their cut worth. Also, to say that the project would not have significant impacts on quality of life or recreation experiences is all but a straight lie: the cut is going to affect at least six hiking trails and far more skiing trails in the Sandwich Range, with only a 33-66 foot buffer space between the cut and trails. How would a cut 33 feet away from a hiking trail NOT affect the quality of experience and attractiveness of trails for recreational use? And these are NOT short-time frame changes---it can take 30 to 40 years at a minimum under ideal conditions for a sugar maple to reach maturity---and ideal conditions haven't been experienced by NH forests for decades. These complaints and considerations---among others I have not even included---all but demand the postponing of USFS action until complete and total considerations have been included and assessed, especially regarding environmental impacts under increasing threat of climate change and the volatility of our rapidly changing region.