

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2023 8:06:12 PM

First name: Beth

Last name: Fox

Organization:

Title:

Comments: 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.

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. Already the Ferncroft parking lot is often overflowing with cars. 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.