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Comments: This is written as a dissent to the WODC positions on the proposed National Forest logging at Wonalcet. I hope these are taken as constructive comments, as I have a very high regard for my Wonalcet neighbors who are heavily involved in the WODC.

I believe in utilizing renewable energy as opposed to fossil fuels. I believe trees are the best solar collectors and the best form of renewable energy. Trees as solar collectors are far more efficient than photovoltaics. Trees have a built-in energy storage system far better than the best lithium batteries. I believe in heating with firewood (or wood pellets) instead of heating oil. I believe in constructing with lumber instead of steel and concrete. I believe in generating electricity with wood chips instead of coal, natural gas, or oil.

Thus, I believe in logging, especially when done with good silviculture. It appears to me the proposed logging plan involves a diversity of summer and winter logging and a diversity of patch cuts and thinning. It appears to be proposed to a very high level of professionalism by the foresters. Thus, I support the proposed logging and consider it a very positive project.

When doing something wrong, it is a good idea to keep it out of sight. Since the proposed logging is a positive thing, it should be visible. I suggest there not be any buffers from the trails. We should see good forest stewardship. I suggest that each trail should have an adjacent logging operation and an educational sign stating what and why the logging is taking place. This was done a few decades ago when the patch cuts were done on Mt Mexico adjacent to the Cabin Trail. With the educational sign in place, everyone understood, and no one complained about the patch cuts. We have an xc ski trail right through the middle of a patch cut on the Behr property. No one complains. The State has done some great thinning operations at Hemenway and a current one at White Lake. No one complains.

Do not bother trying to make any accommodations for xc skiing and snowshoeing on the Spring Brook Road during winter logging. We moved the TOC grooming to Ferncroft, knowing full well the National Forest would be logging on occasional winters. There are no reasonable alternatives for you to do. We can just move the TOC grooming to an expanded area at Mt Katherine and/or Roger's trails for the duration of your winter logging.

The Ferncroft parking lot is full of tired hikers, children, dogs, etc. I do not believe it would be safe to utilize the parking lot while logging trucks pass through. There is no alternative place to park. Thus, the parking lot should be closed when logging. I understand the logging will only take place on weekdays. During the duration of the logging, I suggest you install a large sign up at the beginning of Ferncroft Road stating the parking lot is closed on weekdays, there is no parking on the sides of any of the local roads, and hikers should simply find another place to hike.

The recreational impact of your logging will be insignificant. There are almost an infinite number of places to hike or xc ski. We will have plenty of options during the duration of the logging. Maybe we will discover some great places we have never explored before.

The economic impact of the proposed limited recreation will also be insignificant. There are almost no economic benefits from hikers and xc skiers in any situation. Hikers and xc skiers don't spend money. Chamber of commerce types always say about hikers, backpackers, xc skiers, etc. is "they come with a second pair of underwear and a 20 dollar bill, and then never change either".

I wish you the best of luck with your project and hope it turns out as good of a project as it appears it will be.

