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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I object to this plan.

The US Forest Service uses euphemisms like "forest restoration," "habitat improvement," and "even-age management" to excuse outdated commercial logging practices that degrade forest health, jeopardize water quality, and endanger biodiversity. Logging, road construction, skid trails, and the likely use of herbicides all serve to degrade and fragment habitat for rare and imperiled species that prefer old and interior forests, and risk harming downstream communities. The Northern Long-eared Bat is a federally-endangered species that prefers older forests and is assumed to be within the project area. Yet the White Mountain National Forest does not intend to survey for the bats before logging, and is planning to log forests when bats would be most vulnerable (i.e. when they are not hibernating in caves during the winter). In addition to their impacts on habitat, logging threatens to introduce invasive species, worsen local water quality, and heighten the risk of flooding.