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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 1) I do not have an issue with the establishment of an overlook at Lost River. Lost River is already a tourist area. The proposed overlook is on the main route to Lost River, so it will impose the least amount of impact on wildlife, forest, and resources. The view is truly breathtaking, a beauty that deserves to be admired by all. I was born and raised on the other side of the mountain, in Woodsville. I moved to North Woodstock in 1983. To this day, when I go over to shop or visit, I almost always stop at the top, on my way home, or at least slow down, to admire the view, and give thanks for such beauty. It is a great view to behold and one to share, without detriment.

2) I am also a proponent for forest management/caretaking and wildlife habitat improvement, to encourage the populating of our deer and moose herds. Between human encroachment and disease, the herds are diminishing. It is also a project that fully aligns with the knowledge, education, and mission of our valuable resources offered by the forest service.

3) I have an emotional bond of 40 years with Elbow Pond. My late husband and I chose to camp there for our honeymoon in 1987, after getting married on the forehead of the Old Man of the Mountain in Franconia. We raised our son and daughter to appreciate and respect all that Elbow Pond has to offer: having a weekend wedding for a couple, 30 years ago, on Second Pond, years of cross-country skiing, camping, fishing, canoeing, snowmobiling, and exploring. Never, not once, did we ever ask, or expect, the State or forest service to set up a campsite for us. Never! We also never expected them to clean up after us either. That is a waste of the forest rangers' expertise, time, and resources.

So, I have not witnessed the benefits of having twelve established campsites. People chose to make their own site, including parking a camper and campfire in the middle of the boat landing, or another one about ten feet from the pond, and another one where someone cut down a live tree to make seating. These sites block the use of the pond by boaters, canoers, kayakers, and fishermen.

This situation is both infuriating and heartbreaking at the same time, for people that have lived nearby most of their lives.

Only now, it has been determined, by the forest service, that the existing campsites are impacting and causing detriment to the conditions of the pond, wildlife habitat, and the whole ecological package. Patrolling/monitoring of the existing campsites have been minimal, at best, therefore, enforcement of posted rules, by the bridge, are enforced in the same frequency.

So, while I am not an absolute proponent of the proposed project at Elbow Pond, I have to be rational and realize that the project will remove all campsites from the vicinity of the pond, and reestablish them in one area away from precious resources, which will return the pond and area to be enjoyed by all.

I am very concerned with the availability, frequency, and compatibility of patrolling and monitoring. I am also very concerned with campers' ignorance, arrogance, and total disregard that will literally "spark a fire" in one of our last pristine natural treasures.

Campers like Elbow Pond, because its free, its out of the way, and not regularly patrolled or monitored. They treat it like another Tripoli Road (overflow camping at Russel Pond).

I would consider being more supportive of this project, if they were to add some plans of defined heavier patrolling/monitoring; enforcing high fines for any camping in undesignated areas (such as, \$500 or \$750 for each adult); and having some sort of registration for each campsite (which would support accountability of campers, and a way to follow-up for any infractions/damage).

The tourists take over any spot made for them, but they do not show respect for them. They trash the place, then leave their trash behind.

Another issue/safety concern is that there is no cellphone service available. So, I would certainly hesitate to establish more campsites. I just think that reestablishing the twelve existing sites, away from the pond, is a reasonable way to correct the damage caused by establishing or allowing them (lack of enforcement) in their current locations. But only high fines, accountability, and more patrolling/monitoring will redefine the mindset of

visitors/campers.
Always,

Sherry Hoover