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First name: Jake
Last name: Brown
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am very disappointed to see the draft Environmental Assessment for the Lost River Project logging in the White Mountains National Forest. The analysis is cursory and incomplete including unsubstantiated claims and limited analysis. It does not consider the impact of carbon retention of mature forests and thus the contribution of logging to climate change. It does not factor in the slope steepness in the area and the negative impacts of logging in this terrain including on water quality and floodwater retention; this is quite important especially given the increasing variability and intensity of rains that have so impacted Vermont and these areas recently. It threatens endangered species such as the Northern Long-eared Bat. And simply, no logging should ever occur in Inventoried Roadless Areas which make up 91% of this area and are so important for interior forest species.

This is a beautiful, quiet section of land where mature forests give homes to myriad species, store carbon, absorb floodwaters, and improve water quality. At the minimum a much more rigorous Environmental Assessment must be conducted with more public town-hall meetings and avenues for feedback. These are beautiful lands that should be protected and clear-cutting, patch-cutting and road building through these hillsides and hill-bottoms should never be pursued.