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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

I am writing to oppose the Lost River logging project. This project will be extremely detrimental to one of NH's most invaluable resources: the beauty and serenity of the White Mountains. NH is defined by its rugged wilderness. When NH already has a thriving timber industry, why must we log on protected lands? These lands are protected to preserve not only critical habitat, but essential recreational areas for Granite Staters. This project will negatively impact Mount Moosilauke and Franconia Ridge, highlights of the Whites! Seriously, these lands are priceless! You cannot steal this protected land from NH to line the pockets of private business.

More than 91% of all proposed logging in the Lost River IRP is within two Inventoried Roadless Areas: one on the slopes of majestic Mt Moosilauke, and one surrounding beautiful Elbow Pond. Logging in roadless areas threatens water quality and floodwater retention, as well as habitat for interior forest species. No logging should ever occur in Inventoried Roadless Areas, period. These are among the wildest few places left in New England and should be permanently protected.

The US Forest Service admits that the project is "Likely to Adversely Affect" the endangered Northern Long-eared Bat. This endangered bat can't afford to lose any more of its habitat, especially on public lands where logging is easily avoided.

The Lost River IRP fails to account for negative impacts on carbon and the climate, but claims that logging will benefit both climate mitigation and climate resilience. The Forest Service should revise its assessment to do an accurate analysis of climate and carbon impacts as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

I am begging you, as a lifelong resident of NH and avid White Mountains hiker to please protect these forests. Once they are gone, the White Mountains will never be the same. The beauty of these mountains are unparalleled. These standing trees are worth far more alive than as timber. These forests are here to nourish our souls and our planet.

Please don't log here.

Sincerely,

Ashley Makela