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Comments: I am objecting to the Draft Decision Notice for the Lost River Integrated Resource Project. This plan poses serious risks to New Hampshire's forests, wildlife, water, and climate.

1. Save Roadless Areas
Over 91% of the proposed logging would occur in two Inventoried Roadless Areas-on Mt. Moosilauke's slopes and around Elbow Pond. These are some of the wildest lands left in New England. Logging here threatens clean water, flood protection, and wildlife habitat. Roadless areas should never be logged and must remain protected.

2. Endangered Bats
The Forest Service admits this project is "Likely to Adversely Affect" the endangered Northern Long-eared Bat. A known hibernaculum is only 0.15 miles from the project area. Cutting forest where bats roost and forage will push this species closer to extinction.

3. Climate Impacts
The Forest Service's own Carbon Report estimates the project will release 72,123 metric tons of CO2-equal to nearly 17,000 cars driven for a year. Yet the assessment downplays climate harm and even claims logging will improve resilience. This ignores modern science and fails NEPA's requirement for honest analysis.

4. Weak Environmental Review
The environmental assessment is short, unsupported, and contradictory. For example, it says no water impacts are expected without considering steep slopes or increased extreme rainfall. The only alternative considered besides logging is a half-page "no action" discussion that even contradicts itself about old forest development.

Respectfully,
Elyse Ruback