Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/22/2025 9:05:29 PM
First name: Steven
Last name: Bogart
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Subject: Objection to Lost River Integrated Resource Project

Dear Forest Service Decision-Maker,

I am writing to formally object to the Lost River Integrated Resource Project as currently proposed. This plan would result in 1,093 acres of commercial logging, including over 200 acres of clear-cutting - most of which lies within two Inventoried Roadless Areas. These are some of the last truly wild, intact forests in the White Mountain National Forest, and they deserve protection, not industrial logging.

1. Logging in Roadless Areas Threatens Critical Ecosystem Services
Inventoried Roadless Areas are essential for clean water, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat, and the long-term ecological health of the region. Logging in these areas fragments habitat for interior forest species, increases erosion risk, and diminishes the resilience of watersheds that are already facing greater stress due to climate change. These areas should be permanently protected from commercial logging.

2. Harm to Endangered Northern Long-Eared Bats
The Forest Service itself acknowledges the project is "Likely to Adversely Affect" the Northern Long-Eared Bat, an endangered species. With a known hibernaculum only 0.15 miles from the project area, further habitat destruction could worsen the species' decline. Public lands should serve as refuges for imperiled wildlife, not sites for avoidable habitat loss.

3. Climate Impacts Ignored or Underestimated
The Forest Service's own Carbon Report estimates that this project would release over 72,000 metric tons of CO2-equivalent - comparable to emissions from nearly 17,000 gas-powered cars driven for a year. This is unacceptable in a time when urgent climate action is needed. The claim that logging will improve climate resilience contradicts modern science, which shows that intact, older forests store and sequester more carbon and are critical buffers against climate change.

4. Insufficient Environmental Review and Alternatives
The Environmental Assessment is brief, poorly substantiated, and fails to explore reasonable alternatives beyond "no action." Key issues like slope stability, cumulative impacts of multiple projects in the White Mountain National Forest, and increased extreme precipitation from climate change are not properly considered. The reasoning presented is often contradictory - for example, simultaneously claiming that forests will develop old-growth characteristics while also becoming "homogeneous and even-aged" without intervention.

For these reasons, I urge the Forest Service to withdraw or significantly revise the Lost River project, prioritize protection of roadless areas, and conduct a thorough, science-based environmental review that fully accounts for climate, biodiversity, and watershed impacts.