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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly urge the White Mountain National Forest to reject any Waterville Valley Resort expansion that would destroy old-growth forest, old forest habitat, or other ecologically sensitive areas on Green Peak.

These rare forests are part of our public lands and provide irreplaceable habitat for wildlife, including American marten and the endangered Northern long-eared bat. They also protect clean water, store carbon, and make the White Mountains the extraordinary place they are. Once an old forest is cut for ski trails, glades, lift lines, roads, or other infrastructure, its ecological value cannot simply be recreated.

Please identify and protect all old-growth forest and old forest habitat as required by the White Mountain National Forest Plan. The Forest Service should also fully evaluate alternatives that keep new ski terrain within the resort's existing footprint and address transportation needs through options such as expanded shuttle service rather than sacrificing undeveloped forest.

I also urge the Forest Service to evaluate the cumulative impacts of Waterville Valley Resort's larger Master Development Plan and the long-term viability of expanding ski infrastructure as New England winters become warmer and less reliable. Permanent destruction of rare public forests should not be approved for a commercial expansion whose future viability is increasingly uncertain.

The White Mountain National Forest belongs to the public. Please choose an alternative that allows recreation to continue without sacrificing irreplaceable old forests and wildlife habitat for resort expansion.

Thank you for protecting these extraordinary public lands for future generations.