Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/6/2022 4:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Taylor
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear District Ranger Innes,:

I am writing regarding the Sandwich Vegetation Management project in the White Mountain National Forest.

I enjoy recreating on USFS lands and believe it is important for the public to be able to have access to our lands. I support keeping forests healthy through proper resource treatments and to manage USFS lands for multiple-use. Closure is not an acceptable management strategy.

There has been an increase in devastating wildfires that have destroyed our public lands. Unproductive litigation encouraged by a lackluster legal defense by the USFS is destroying the lands both litigants claim to protect. The USFS needs to be able to manage the land through proper resource treatments to minimize these fires, protect and expand recreation opportunities, enhance habitat and wildlife, and preserve our watersheds.

Fires result in temporary closures of existing roads, which is understandable. However, those temporary closures have a tendency to lead to permanent closures. That is not an acceptable management strategy

I am encouraged to see the USFS acknowledge the important role that forest roads play in fire treatments and fire prevention. Wherever new control lines are constructed, the USFS should conduct analyses to evaluate keeping them open for wildfire control, commodity use and multiple-use recreation.

Public land use and recreation has grown tremendously the past few years and will continue to do so as our population grows. The USFS has an obligation to the public to keep the land healthy through adequate resource treatments and proper management to ensure public access will continue.

I also support the objectives for economic contributions through high quality timber harvest. Not only will this help with forest health but also provide economic opportunities for local communities. As use on public lands grow, the Forest Service should facilitate every opportunity to enhance economic growth whether it be from timber harvest or recreation opportunities.