

June 30, 1985

We thank those who responded with their comments on the management of the Sandwich Range Wilderness Area . Following is the report from the WODC Forest Plan Committee:

The WODC Forest Plan Committee met five times during the Fall and Winter of 1984-1985. A draft response to the Forest Plan was completed on February 1st and mailed to other environmental groups to inform them of our concerns. Later in the month a final response was sent to the Forest Supervisor. Members of the Committee were: Dana Steele, Fred Steele, Gretchen Behr, Chloe Johnson, Dee and Osler Peterson, Sylvia Newsom, Sally and George Zink. Twenty eight major recommendations were made. Among the most significant were:

Recommendations were made to reduce the annual timber harvest and restrict the miles of Forest Roads. WODC recommended the proposed annual cut be reduced from 78 million board feet to 37MBF. The past few years 37MBF has been the average. Under our recommendations only temporary roads would be built for timber harvesting, and to a minimum standard.

Proposed in the Plan is a Scenic Area designation for the major portion of Mt. Chocorua. WODC has been advocating this for many years. However, in the Forest Service proposal timber cutting would be allowed in portions of the Scenic Area. Your Forest Plan Committee recommended that all commercial timber activity be prohibited in the Chocorua Scenic Area.

Another issue about which several recommendations were made concerns wildlife management. Specifically, we urge that major emphasis be placed upon habitat management for species which require mature forest and a large range, rather than those species which utilize the small temporary openings provided by clear cutting.

Many recommendations were made of immediate interest to our members: enlargement of the Bowl Research Natural Area; access to Flat Mountain Pond, Guinea Pond, and Kiah Pond by foot only; consideration be given to retention of some shelters and toilets in Wilderness Areas; cooperators maintenance of trails and facilities in Wilderness.

Over 2000 organizations and individuals responded to the Forest Service Draft Forest Plan; many responses were lengthy, detailed, and critical. As a result of the overwhelming response, the Supervisor of WMNF has stated that the Final Plan will not be completed prior to Jan. 1, 1986. We anticipate numerous and major changes in the Plan as a result of the public comments.

George Zink, Chairman
WODC Forest Plan Committee

Trails' Chairman, Dana Steele, reports the Square Ledge Trail needs an adopter. Anyone who can help may call Dana at 323-7287.

Belatedly, congratulations to Phyllida Willis, who completed the 2100 miles of the Appalachian Trail a few years ago. She is a long time member of WODC.

The executive committee met on May 26, 1985 to plan summer programs, meetings, and hiking events. The following page contains a schedule of WODC activities.

