

August 27, 2005

Senator Judd Gregg
Senator John E. Sununu
Congressman Charles F. Bass
Congressman Jeb Bradley

Gentlemen:

We are writing to you to express our enthusiastic support for additional wilderness designated in our state's White Mountain National Forest and to encourage you to work together with your colleagues in Congress to pass quickly the important legislation required to make this a reality.

As owners of land near the White Mountain National Forest, we are affected by the ongoing management of the Forest. We are concerned about the value of our property. Federal wilderness adjacent to our property enhances that value by making the land more desirable, both esthetically and financially.

As neighbors of the White Mountain National Forest, we have had the privilege of establishing a relationship with the land that is frequently denied to those who only visit occasionally. The presence of the forest, literally in some cases in our backyards, has played a sustaining role in our lives and those of our children and grandchildren. The best way to ensure that both we and future generations can share our joy in the land is to protect it as Federally designated wilderness.

As landowners in the state of New Hampshire, we see firsthand the numerous pressures on private land use, including new real estate developments and subdivisions. One of the few places still relatively removed from these pressures, the White Mountains are truly rare and special. The National Forest provides what most private land cannot promise: an opportunity for wild places to be permanently protected.

For the reasons described above, we offer our full support for the proposal of the Friends of Sandwich Range to expand the existing Sandwich Range Wilderness approximately two-fold around the existing core Wilderness, established so wisely by Congress in 1984. The Friends' proposed extensions include almost exclusively areas that have already been designated by the Forest Service as Roadless. These extensions, therefore, still retain the wilderness character which we believe must be protected without delay for future generations to explore and enjoy.

Please consider our concerns and our support for additional Wilderness in your work on our behalf to preserve the White Mountains for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you,

Dana Steele
Roger F. Borker
Margaret (Peggy) Johnson

Susan Roper
Lew & Josh
Roger Karp

Anthony J. Smith
Susan M. Bagquist
Letitia D. Miller
Nancy S. Boettiger
James R. Cooke
Marta W. Chandler

Jan M. Cooke A
~~David M. Mark~~
Doris Miller
Ellen Hamlin
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Smau Worden
Arion Benton

Robert J. Dowley

Sandwich Natch and Plymouth, N.H.

Lucy Crowley