

December 3, 2001

Judith Reardon
Friends of the Sandwich Range
P.O. Box 350
Chocorua, NH 03227

Re: Sandwich Range Wilderness Protection

Dear Ms. Reardon:

I and several other New Hampshire Sierra Club members have hiked the area of the Sandwich Range proposed for wilderness designation. We found the area incredibly diverse and beautiful, and completely worthy of wilderness designation.

The mission of the Sierra Club is to preserve, protect and enhance the nation's wild places. The Sandwich Range area is certainly one of those special wild places. Designation of this area as wilderness would add protection to very sensitive areas at the boundaries of the Sandwich Range, preserving the area necessary for the biological integrity of the entire area. This protection would secure a much needed wildlife corridor in the area between the Kancamagus Highway and the Tripoli Road to provide improved access to other wilderness areas in this region.

During our trek we discovered a number of fascinating and historically significant cellar holes and remains of other buildings and stone walls denoting past land use patterns in this area. This wilderness designation includes a Special Use designation along Sandwich Notch Road that will help to protect these historically significant artifacts and sites for future study and enjoyment.

We all know that wilderness designation can be a slow and arduous process. We urge you to begin that process now, so that we can continue the New Hampshire tradition of protecting our special places for future generations.

Sincerely,



Richard J. de Seve
Conservation Chair
New Hampshire Chapter, Sierra
Club

Cc: A. Lotter, Chair, New Hampshire Sierra Club